



TO :

FROM : National Wildfire Coordinating Group

REPLY TO : NWCG@nifc.gov

DATE : 01/31/2007

SUBJECT : SAFETY ADVISORY : 2006 Safety Gram

Attached is the 2006 Safety Gram for your review.



Safety Gram CY06_FINAL.pdf



2006 Safety Gram Cover Letter.pdf



SAFETY GRAM

Fatalities, Entrapments and Serious Accident Summary for 2006

The following data indicate the fatalities, entrapments and burnovers and other serious accidents associated with wildfire, wildland fire use and prescribed fire operations in calendar year 2006. The information was collected by the NWCG Safety & Health Working Team, with confirmation of the fatalities from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

Date	Fire Location Jurisdiction	Activity and Type of Accident	Agency / Entity of Personnel Involved	Type of Accident	Number of People	# Shelters Deployed	Fatalities	Injuries
2/9	Hildreth Pool Road Fire Montague, Texas Texas Forest Service	Firefighting	Federal / USFS	Dozer Accident	1			Neck & pelvis injuries
2/18	Chisholm Fire Clinch County, Georgia	Firefighting	State/GA	Entrapment	1	1		1 st & 2 nd degree burns
3/1	Stephens County Duncan, Oklahoma	Firefighting	Volunteer	Burnover	2	0	1	1 st & 2 nd degree burns
3/2	Carroll County Sylvatus, Virginia	Firefighting	Volunteer	Burnover	3	0		1 st degree burns, smoke inhalation and heat exhaustion
3/2	Yuma County Eckley, Colorado	Firefighting	Volunteer	Burnover	4	Unknown		2 nd & 3 rd degree burns, minor injuries
3/5	Waynesville, North Carolina	Firefighting	Volunteer	Heart Attack	1		1	
3/12	Gray County Groom, Texas	Firefighting	Volunteer	Engine Rollover	3		1	Broken back, neck, leg and burns
3/12	Shamrock, Texas	Firefighting	Volunteer	Burnover	1	0		

Date	Fire Location Jurisdiction	Activity and Type of Accident	Agency / Entity of Personnel Involved	Type of Accident	Number of People	# Shelters Deployed	Fatalities	Injuries
3/19	Moundville Fire Montello, Wisconsin Wisconsin DNR	Firefighting, Tractor Plow Curtain Deployment	State / WI	Entrapment	1	0		None
3/21	Camden Fire Mark Twain NF Salem, Missouri	Firefighting	Federal / USFS	Entrapment	1	0		2 nd degree facial burn
4/7	Yancey Fire Medina County Yancy, Texas	Firefighting	Volunteers	Burnover	2	0		2 nd & 3 rd degree burns
4/8	Brookings County Elkton, South Dakota	Firefighting	Volunteer	Vehicle Accident (Towing)	1		1	
4/12	New Holland RX Fire New Holland, South Dakota Lake Andes N.W.R.C.	Prescribed Fire, Firefighting	Federal / FWS	Entrapment	2	0		Minor burns
4/13	Bolivar, Tennessee	Prescribed Fire, Line Construction	State	Snag	1		1	
4/17	Compartment 71/72 Milam, Texas Sabine NF	Prescribed Fire, Firefighting	Federal / BLM	Entrapment	1	1		1 st & 2 nd degree burns
4/19	Run Away Fire Gila Bend, Arizona	Firefighting	Volunteer	Heart Attack	1		1	
4/21	Ponca City, Oklahoma	Prescribed Fire, Firefighting	Volunteer	Vehicle Accident, (Run Over)	1		1	
6/14	Maxwell, New Mexico	Driving	Contractor	Vehicle Rollover	1		1	
6/18	Rivera Mesa Fire Las Vegas, New Mexico NM State Forestry	Firefighting	Federal / USFS	Entrapment	1	0		

Date	Fire Location Jurisdiction	Activity and Type of Accident	Agency / Entity of Personnel Involved	Type of Accident	Number of People	# Shelters Deployed	Fatalities	Injuries
6/27	Balls Canyon Fire Humboldt-Toiyabe NF Sierra County, California	Firefighting	State / CA	Entrapment	5	3		
6/30	Scorpio Fire Box Elder County, Utah BLM	Firefighting	Federal / BLM	Entrapment	2	1		2 nd degree burn
7/2	Big Draw Fire Mountain Home, Idaho BLM	Firefighting	Federal / BLM	Engine (Run Over)	1			Broken right leg & fractured left foot
7/6	Clubhouse Fire Eagle Butte, South Dakota Cheyenne River Agency	Firefighting	Federal / BIA	Entrapment	4	0		1 firefighter – 2 nd degree burns to ears, nose, face
7/11	Sawtooth Complex Pioneertown, California	Firefighting	Federal / BLM State / CA	Entrapment	9	0		Minor burns and smoke inhalation
7/18	Little Venus Fire Shoshone NF Cody ,Wyoming	Wildland Fire Use (WFU)	Federal BLM / USFS	Entrapment	10	10		None
7/21	Inskip Fire Winnemucca, Nevada BLM	Firefighting	Federal / BLM	Heavy Engine, Rollover	3			Minor
7/25	New York Peak Fire Denio, Nevada BLM	Firefighting	Federal / USFS	Burnover	6	0		2 nd and 3 rd degree burns
7/27	Tallahassee District Tallahassee, Florida Florida DOF	Firefighting	State / FL	Burnover	1	0		1 st degree burns
8/4	Raft River Fire Burley, Idaho BLM	Firefighting	Federal / BLM	Engine (Run Over)	1			Back injury

Date	Fire Location Jurisdiction	Activity and Type of Accident	Agency / Entity of Personnel Involved	Type of Accident	Number of People	# Shelters Deployed	Fatalities	Injuries
8/4	Titus Fire Klamath NF	Firefighting	Contractor	Aviation, CH54 Helicopter	2		2	
8/7	Umpqua NF	Driving, Demobilizing	Federal / USFS	Crew Carrier, Rollover	4			Minor injuries
8/13	Payette NF	Aviation, Ferrying Personnel	Federal / USFS & Contractor	A-Star Helicopter Crash	4		4	
8/14	Balanced Rock Fire Twin Falls District, Idaho BLM	Driving, Demobilizing	Federal / BLM	Heavy Engine, Rollover	3			Non-life threatening injuries
8/14	Gilmer Fire Elko Field Office, Nevada BLM	Driving, Mobilizing	Federal / BLM	Heavy Engine, Rollover	5			Minor injuries
8/16	Orleans Fire Six Rivers NF	Driving, On Incident	Federal / USFS	Crew Carrier, Rollover	6			2 injured
8/17	Devil's Den Fire Oak City, Utah Fishlake NF	Firefighting	Federal / BLM	Entrapment	1	1	1	
8/23	Mudd Fire Elko, Nevada Nevada DOF	Firefighting	Federal / BLM	Entrapment	2	2		1 st & 2 nd degree burns
8/23	Sailor Cap Fire Castleford, Idaho BLM	Firefighting	Federal / BLM	Engine Accident, (Run Over)	1			Foot bruise
8/23	Sailor Cap Fire Castleford, Idaho BLM	Firefighting	Contractor	Burnover	1	0		1 st & 2 nd degree burns
8/28	Plymouth Fire Plymouth, California	Firefighting	State / CA	Bulldozer Rollover	1			Minor injuries
9/6	Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest Spingville, California	Aviation, Lead Plane	State / CA	OV-10 Crash	2		2	

Date	Fire Location Jurisdiction	Activity and Type of Accident	Agency / Entity of Personnel Involved	Type of Accident	Number of People	# Shelters Deployed	Fatalities	Injuries
9/20	Brewster, Kansas	Driving, Demobilizing	Federal / USFS	Vehicle Rollover	1			None
9/20	Pinnacles Fire San Bernadino NF	Driving, Demobilizing	Federal / BLM	Water tender Rollover	2			Minor injuries
9/22	Kern River Canyon Bakersfield, California	Driving, Demobilizing	Federal / BLM	Engine Rollover	1			Minor injuries
10/4	Day Fire Los Padres NF	Driving, Rehabilitation Work	Contractor	Water tender Rollover	1			Minor injuries
10/26	Esperanza Fire Riverside County, Cabazon, California CDF	Firefighting	Federal / USFS	Entrapment	5	0	5	
10/26	Miami Mountain Lookout Sierra NF Nipinnawassee, California	Fire Prevention	Federal / USFS	Fall	1		1	
11/3	Boise NF Valley County, Idaho	Driving to a Prescribed Burn	Federal / USFS	Engine Rollover	3			None
11/26	Millerton, New York	Firefighting	Volunteer	Heart Attack	1		1	
12/3	Moorpark, California	Firefighting	State / CA	Engine Rollover	3			Minor injuries

For calendar year 2006 there were 24 fatalities. This is a substantial increase from the 12 fatalities that occurred in 2005. The 2006 fatalities are separated by category and listed below:

- Aviation – 8:** Eight fatalities occurred with two helicopter accidents and one lead plane accident.
- Entrapments/Burnover – 7:** Seven fatalities occurred with entrapments and burnovers while firefighting.
- Driving /Motor Vehicle – 4:** Driving related accidents accounted for four fatalities.
- Heart Attacks – 3:** Three individuals suffered heart attacks while firefighting.
- Hazard Tree/Felling – 1:** One fatality occurred on a prescribed fire when a snag fell.
- Other (Fall) – 1:** One fatality occurred when a volunteer fell from the stairs at a lookout tower.

The NWCG Safety & Health Working Team would like to request any Investigation Reports from agencies that experienced the above or other fatalities, entrapments, and major accidents in 2006 or previous years. Safety Gram reporting criteria can be found at http://www.nwcg.gov/teams/shwt/saftygram_criteria.pdf.

Please mail reports to the following address or email them to: stan_palmer@nifc.blm.gov.

NWCG/SHWT – Stan Palmer
National Interagency Fire Center
3833 S. Development Avenue
Boise, ID 83705



January 30, 2007

MEMORANDUM

To: Chair, National Wildfire Coordinating Group

From: Chair, Safety and Health Working Team

Subject: 2006 SAFETY GRAM

The 2006 SAFETY GRAM is attached. It summarizes reported wildland and prescribed fire fatalities, burnovers/entrapments and other serious accidents for all wildland fire management organizations throughout the United States in 2006.

Twenty four fatalities occurred in 2006, when employees were performing actions associated with wildland fire management. This is a substantial increase from the 12 fatalities that occurred in 2005. The 2006 fatalities are separated by category and listed below:

Aviation – 8: Eight fatalities occurred with two helicopter accidents and one lead plane accident.
Entrapments/Burnover – 7: Seven fatalities occurred with entrapments and burnovers while firefighting.
Driving /Motor Vehicle – 4: Driving related accidents accounted for four fatalities.
Heart Attacks – 3: Three individuals suffered heart attacks while firefighting.
Hazard Tree/Felling – 1: One fatality occurred on a prescribed fire when a snag fell.
Other (Fall) – 1: One fatality occurred when volunteer fell from the stairs at a lookout tower.

Accident prevention is enhanced when our fire fighters and fire managers are made aware of serious accidents that have occurred. Learning about these accidents can identify where our future safety emphasis areas should be.

Please provide wide distribution of this 2006 SAFETY GRAM to your respective agencies and organizations.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information at (208) 387-5175 or michelle_ryerson@nifc.blm.gov.

/s/ Michelle G. Ryerson

Attachment

cc: Master SHWT File