



NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP

Fireline Safety Committee

SAFETYGRAM

ACCIDENT/INCIDENT SUMMARY: 12 FATALITIES AND 30 ENTRAPMENTS

92-01

The following data indicates the 1991 major accidents and entrapments associated with forest and wildland fire suppression. There were 12 fatalities and 30 fire fighters were entrapped. The information is collected by the NWCG Fireline Safety Committee with assistance from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

1991 FATALITIES

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TYPE OF ACCIDENT</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>
3/26/91	Marysville, KS	Heart Attack	State (Vol)
5/31/91	Missoula, MT	Training	F.S.
6/21/91	Grants, NM	Aircraft	F.S.
7/11/91	New Buffalo, MI	Heart Attack	State (Vol)
7/26/91	Stanislaus, N.F. CA	Helicopter	Contractor
9/19/91	Routt, N.F.	Snag	F.S.
10/16/91	Missoula, MT	Aircraft	2 Contractor
10/21/91	Oakland, CA	Burned after being struck by power pole	City
10/29/91	Fleming Neon, KY	Burn	2 State (Vol)
11/29/91	Collinsville, AL	Electrocution	State (Vol)

1991 ENTRAPMENTS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>FIRE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>PERSONS</u>	<u>SHELTERS DEPLOYED</u>	<u>INJURIES</u>
2/21/91	Hopkins	Ocala N.F.	1 (FS)	No	Burn
8/21/91	Happy Fire	Winnemucca Dist, NV	3 (BLM)	No	Burn
10/29/91	Hogg Ridge	Fleming Neon, KY	4 (ST)	No	2 fatal 2 burns
10/31/91	Gauley MT.	George Washington NF	20 (ST) Vol	No	None
11/12/91	White Plains	DeSoto N.F.	2 (FS)	Yes	None

These accidents reinforce the need for being continually alert to the "Situations That Shout Watch Out" and ensuring that all of the "10 Standard Fire Fighting Orders" are followed before initiating tactical operations.

A simple concept to remember and share with crew members is: L.C.E.S. The acronym stands for Lookouts, Communication, Escape Routes, and Safety Zones. If a fire crew has these four areas established and understood, then they can look forward to a safer assignment.

The Committee would appreciate notification from agencies that experienced other entrapments or major accidents in 1991. Please forward to:

Chairman, NWCG Fireline Safety Committee

USDA Fire and Aviation Management

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