



Safety and Health Working Team

National Wildland-Fire Coordinating Group



SAFETY GRAM

ACCIDENT/INCIDENT SUMMARY: FATALITIES AND ENTRAPMENTS 95-01

The following data indicates the 1994 major accidents and entrapments * associated with wildland fire suppression. There were 34 fatalities and 117 firefighters entrapped. The information was collected by the NWCG Safety & Health Working Team, with confirmation from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

DATE	LOCATION	TYPE OF ACCIDENT	ORG.	ENTRAPPED	SHELTER DEPL.	NOT DEPL.	FATALITIES	INJURIES
02/29/94	Tuskegee, Al.	Heart attack	USFS	no			1	
03/22/94	Alva, Ok.	Engine overturn	Volunteer	no			1	
03/22/94	Trendon, Missouri	Heart attack	Volunteer	no			1	
04/01/94	Wichita Mt. Refuge, Ok.	Burn over	F & W	1	1		0	
04/02/94	Vantmallo, Al.	Water tender acc.	Volunteer	no			1	
04/03/94	Augusta, Wi.	Burnover	Volunteer	1		1	1	
04/07/94	Lewellen, Ne.	Water tender acc.	Volunteer	no			1	
06/01/94	Mackenzie Fire, Az.	Burn over	USFS	3	3		0	
06/02/94	Sawmill Fire, Az.	Burn over	USFS	1	1		0	
06/14/94	Coffee Pot, N.M.	Burn over	USFS	5			0	
06/25/94	Scout Fire, Ca.	Burnover	USFS	4			0	
06/29/94	Bailey Fire, Ca.	Burn over	USFS	7	6	1	0	
07/02/94	Ft. Collins, Co.	Burn over	USFS	5			0	
07/03/94	San Bernardino N.F., Ca.	Burn over	CDF	3		3	0	
07/06/94	Glenwood Springs, Co.	Burn over	BLM/USFS	49	10	39	14	burns
07/12/94	Gila N.F., N. M.	Helicopter crash	USFS	no			3	
07/22/94	ILL Fire, Nv.	Burn over	BLM	8	0	0	0	smoke inhalation
07/30/94	Missoula, Mt.	Air tanker crash	Contractor/USFS	no			2	
08/05/94	Livermoore, Mt.	Burn over	BIA	22	22		0	
08/03/94	Wenatchee N.F., Wa.	Heart attack	Contractor/USFS	no			1	
08/13/94	Angeles N.F., Ca.	Air tanker crash	Contractor/USFS	no		4	3	
08/13/94	Challis N.F., Id.	Burn over	USFS	1	1		0	Blister, eye
08/19/94	Plumas N.F., Ca.	Water tender acc.	Contractor/USFS	no			1	
08/25/94	Medford, Or.	Burn over-dozer	Contractor/State	yes			1	
09/02/94	Baby Dean, Mt.	Burn over	BIA	4	4		0	

DATE	LOCATION	TYPE OF ACCIDENT	ORG.	ENTRAPPED	SHELTER DEPL.	NOT DEPL.	FATALITIES	INJURIES
09/14/94	Boise N.F., Id.	Motor vehicle acc.	EFF, BLM	no			1	
09/23/94	Payette N.F., Id.	Helicopter crash	Military/USFS	no			1	
11/20/94	Cedar fire, Ga.	Burn over	USFS	<u>3</u>	2		1	
TOTALS				117			34	

*Entrapment: A situation where personnel are unexpectedly caught in a fire behavior-related, life-threatening position where planned escape routes or safety zones are absent, inadequate, or have been compromised. An entrapment may or may not include deployment of a fire shelter for its intended purpose. These situations may or may not result in injury. They include "near misses".

In addition to the above fatalities and entrapments, six snag accidents (5 injuries on fires, one fatal on a recreational project) were reported.

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 fully established and understood, then they can anticipate a safer assignment.

Timely reporting of entrapments or fatalities is necessary for the rapid dissemination of accurate information to the fire community. It also allows fire safety and equipment specialists to quickly respond to these events as appropriate. Completion of the Wildland Fire Entrapment/Fatality Initial Report (NFES 0869) accomplishes this need. This initial report is self explanatory and does not replace agency reporting or investigative responsibilities, policies or procedures.

The NWCG Safety & Health Working Team would appreciate notification from agencies that experienced other entrapments or major accidents in 1994. Please forward to:

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