



Safety and Health Working Team

National Wildland-Fire Coordinating Group



SAFETY GRAM

ACCIDENT/INCIDENT SUMMARY: FATALITIES AND ENTRAPMENTS 96-01

The following data indicate the 1995 major accidents and entrapments * associated with wildland fire suppression. There were 15 fatalities and 9 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	Organization	Entrapped	Shelter Available	Shelter Deployed	Fatalities	Injuries
01/26/95	E. Providence, AL	Heart attack	Volunteer	no	n/a		1	
01/31/95	Claude, TX	Vehicle/Train	Volunteer	no	n/a		2	
02/02/95	Willard, NM (R)	Vehicle	Volunteer	no	n/a		1	
02/08/95	Era, TX	Heart Attack	Volunteer	no	n/a		1	
03/27/95	Malo, WA (R)	Heart Attack	Volunteer	no	n/a		1	
03/29/95	So. China, ME	Heart Attack	Volunteer	no	n/a		1	
04/02/95	Gallupville, NY	Heart Attack	Volunteer	no	n/a		1	
04/04/95	Columbus Co., NC	Burnover	NCSF	1	no	no	0	burns
04/09/95	Monticello, AK	Aircraft	ARSF	n/a	n/a		0	broken bones
04/10/95	Cleburne Co., AL	Burnover	FS	2	no	no	0	none
04/15/95	Greenbrier, TN	Heart Attack	TSF	no	n/a		1	
04/23/95	Princess Anne, MD	Heart Attack	Volunteer	no	n/a		1	
06/21/95	Ramona, CA	Aircraft	FS/Contractr	n/a	n/a		3	
07/28/95	Kuna, ID	Burnover	Volunteer	2	no	no	2	
08/23/96	Rocky Point, NY	Burnover	Volunteer	4	no	no	0	burns
TOTALS				9			15	

In addition to the above fatalities and entrapments, the fire community to the north, Canada, experienced four fatalities during the active 1995 season. The four fatalities were associated with helicopter operations: a crash and an emergency retrieval.

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 1995. Please forward to:

National Interagency Fire Center
NWCG/SHWT - Stan Palmer
- 3833 So. Development Ave.
Boise, ID 83705

*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."

(R) = Prescribed Fire