



Safety and Health Working Team

National Wildland-Fire Coordinating Group



SAFETY GRAM

ACCIDENT/INCIDENT SUMMARY: FATALITIES AND ENTRAPMENTS 97-01

The following data indicate the 1996 major accidents and entrapments * associated with wildland fire suppression. There were 12 fatalities and 200 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 Deployed	Shelter Not Deployed	Fatalities	Injuries
02/10/96	Marlette, OK	Heart Attack	Volunteer	n/a			1	
02/23/96	Castle, OK	Heart Attack	Volunteer	n/a			1	
03/13/96	Golden City, MO	Heart Attack	Volunteer	n/a			1	
03/15/96	Velma, AR	Burnover	Volunteer	1				Burns
04/19/96	Wayne, OK	Crushed	Volunteer	n/a			1	
04/26/96	Dome Fire, AZ	Burnover	Federal	48	48	0		Minor Burns
06/04/96	Millers Reach, AK	Burnover	State	13	13	0		None
06/10/96	Globe, AZ	Heat Exhaustion	Federal	n/a			1	
06/21/96	Hochdorfer Fire, AZ	Burnover	Federal	21	21	0		Serious Burns
06/23/96	Autumn Hills Fire, NV	Burnover	Private/Federal	2	0	2		Minor Burns
06/24/96	Dillon, SC	Motor Vehicle	Volunteer	n/a			1	
06/24/96	Sierra Fire, CA	Burnover	Federal	2	0	2		Minor
07/06/96	Sunnyside Fire, NV	Burnover	Federal	3	3	0		None
07/24/96	Strawberry Flat, WA	Burnover	Volunteer	2	0	2		Minor Burns
08/08/96	Fruitland, UT	Heart Attack	Volunteer	n/a			1	
08/14/96	Coyote Fire, MT	Burnover	Federal/Volunteer	4	3	1		
08/20/96	Dano Fire, WY	Burnover	Federal	3	3	0		None
08/25/96	Reservoir Fire, CA	Burnover	Federal	10	0	10		None
08/26/96	Cold Creek, WA	Burnover	Volunteer	3	0	3		None

Date	Location	Type of Accident	Organization	Entrapped	Deployed	Not Deployed	Fatalities	Injuries
08/26/96	Bryce Canyon, UT	Vehicle	Federal	n/a			1	
08/26/96	Summit Fire, OR	Burnover	Federal	53		53		Smoke Inhalation
08/26/96	Highway 49 Fire, CA	Suicide	Federal	n/a			1	
08/28/96	Ambrose Complex, CA	Burnover	Federal/Private	6	3	3		Minor Burns
08/31/96	Dutch Flat, NV	Burnover	Federal	1	0	0		Serious Burns
09/01/96	Colstrip, MT	Burnover	Private	2		0	2	
09/04/96	Shepherd Fire, MT	Burnover	Federal	14	13	1		Minor
10/22/96	Calabasas, CA	Burnover	Local Govt.	12	12	0		Burns
10/24/96	Landrum, SC	Motor Vehicle	Volunteer	<u>n/a</u>			<u>1</u>	
TOTALS				200			12	

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, 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 Investigation Reports from agencies that experienced the above or other entrapments/ major accidents in 1996. Please forward to:

National Interagency Fire Center
 NWCG/SHWT - Stan Palmer
 3833 So. Development Ave.
 Boise, ID 83705
 spalmer@nifc.blm.gov

*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."