



# Safety and Health Working Team

## National Wildland-Fire Coordinating Group

# SAFETY GRAM



Accident/incident Summary: Fatalities And Entrapments 00-01

The following data indicate the 1999 fatalities, entrapments\* and entrapment-related injuries associated with wildland and prescribed fire operations. There were 26 fatalities and 44 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	# of Shelters Deployed	Fatalities	Injuries
Jan 11	Ozark-St. Francis NF, AR	Heart Attack WCT	Federal	n/a			1	
Feb 9	North Platte, NE	Burnover-Tractor/Plow	Volunteer	1	no	n/a		2 <sup>nd</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup> * burns
Feb 15	Emmitsburg, MD	Heart Attack	Volunteer	n/a			1	
Feb 16	Vineland, NJ	Heart Attack	Volunteer	n/a			1	
March 14	Golden Gate, FL	Burnover	Volunteer	3	no	n/a		burns, injuries
March 16	Mullen Fire, NE	Heart Attack	Volunteer	n/a			1	
April 6	Inland Fork Fire, KY	Burnover	Volunteer	2	no	n/a	2	
April 8	Mountain Fire, MA	Heart Attack	Volunteer	n/a			1	
April 17	Miami, FL	Burnover	State	2	yes	0		minor burn
May 4	Big Bend, TX	Burnover (R)	Federal	2	yes	2		no injuries
June 11	Donnelly Flats Fire, AK	Burnover	Federal	7	no	n/a		1 minor burn
June 23	Lakeport Fire, CA	Electrocution	Volunteer	n/a			1	
July 2	Railroad Fire, UT	Burnover	Federal	2	yes	1		minor burns
July 7	Lebanon, PA	Heart Attack	Volunteer	n/a			1	
July 17	LA County, CA	150-foot Fall	County	n/a			1	
July 22	Wagon Box Fire, NV	Burnover	Federal	5	yes	0		minor burns
Aug 5	Cygnets, OH	Heart Attack	Volunteer	n/a			1	
Aug 5	Woodville, TX	Crushed by Engine	Volunteer	n/a			1	
Aug 9	Sadler Fire, NV	Burnover	Federal	6	yes	1		minor burns
Aug 9	Pompeys Pillar, MT	Burnover-Dozer	Volunteer	1	no	n/a		2 <sup>nd</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup> * burns
Aug 15	Winn Parish, LA	Burnover-Dozer	State	2	no	n/a		no injuries

Date	Location	Type of Accident	Organization	Entrapped	Shelter Available	# of Shelters Deployed	Fatalities	Injuries
Aug 24	Stringtown, OK	Burnover	State	2	yes	2		no injuries
Aug 24	Feather River Fire, CA	Burnover-Dozer	Contract	1	yes	0		minor burns
Aug 27	Camusa Fire, CA	Heat Exhaustion	City, EMT	n/a			1	
Sept 14	Alcorn County, MS	Burnover-Tractor/Plow	State	2	no	n/a		2 <sup>nd</sup> burns
Sept 15	Clark County, IN	Run over by Engine	Volunteer	n/a			1	
Sept 28	Big Bar Fire, CA	Heart Attack	Federal	n/a			1	
Oct 5	LaJolla Fire, CA	Head Injury-Rock	Federal	n/a			1	
Oct 4	West Plains, MO	Electrocution	Volunteer	n/a			1	
Oct 7	Wilmont, MN	Heat Attack	Volunteer	n/a			1	
Oct 16	Junction City, CA	Run Over by Engine	Volunteer	n/a			1	
Oct 19	Jewell Fire, CA	Burnover-Engine	State	4	yes	0		no injuries
Oct 28	LaPorte, IN	Engine Overturned	Volunteer	n/a			1	
Oct 29	Anderson, CA	Murder	Contractor, driver	n/a			1	
Oct 29	Cookville, TN	Drowning	State	n/a			1	
Nov 3	West Fork, AR	Electrocution	Volunteer	n/a			1	
Nov 20	Quapaw, OK	Heart Attack	Volunteer	n/a			1	
Nov 22	Bronson Fire, TX	Burnover	Federal	2	yes	0		minor burns
Nov 27	Cochranville, PA	Heart Attack	Volunteer	n/a			1	
Dec 15	Zwolle, LA	Tanker Truck Crash	Volunteer	n/a			1	
<b>TOTALS</b>				<b>44</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>26</b>	

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. 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 requests any Investigation Reports from agencies that experienced the above or other entrapments/ major accidents in 1999. Please forward to: National Interagency Fire Center; NWCG/SHWT - Stan Palmer; 3833 So. Development Ave.; Boise, ID 83705 spalmer@nifc.blm.gov.