



February 6, 2006

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Chair, National Wildfire Coordinating Group

From: Chair, Safety and Health Working Team

Subject: 2005 SAFETY GRAM

The 2005 SAFETY GRAM is attached. It summarizes reported wildland and prescribed fire fatalities, burnovers/entrapments and other serious accidents for all wildland fire management organizations throughout the United States in 2005.

Twelve fatalities occurred in 2005, when employees were performing actions associated with a wildland fire. In summary, three heart attacks associated with fire-fighting were reported; driving accidents accounted for three fatalities; and three fatalities occurred when a helicopter crashed on prescribed fire. Three fatalities occurred while firefighting: one by electrocution, one by a falling tree branch and one from a burnover. Three fire shelters were deployed.

Accident prevention is enhanced when our fire fighters and fire managers are made aware of serious accidents that have occurred. Learning about these accidents can identify where our future safety emphasis areas should be.

Please provide wide distribution of this 2005 SAFETY GRAM to your respective agencies and organizations.

Please feel free to contact me at (850) 414-9958 or [maddeng@doacs.state.fl.us](mailto:maddeng@doacs.state.fl.us) with any questions.

Attachment – 2pp



# SAFETY GRAM

## Fatalities, Entrapments and Serious Accident Summary for 2005

The following data indicate the fatalities, entrapments and burnovers and other serious accidents associated with wildfire, wildland fire use and prescribed fire operations in calendar year 2005. The information was collected by the NWCG Safety & Health Working Team, with confirmation of the fatalities from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

Date	Jurisdiction, Location	Activity and Type of Accident	Agency / Entity of Personnel Involved	Type of Accident	Number of People	# Shelters Deployed	Fatalities	Injuries
1/26	Haskell County, Eufaula, Oklahoma	Firefighting	Volunteer	Heart Attack	1	0	1	
2/21	Jacksonville District, Jacksonville, Florida	Firefighting	State / Florida Division of Forestry	Heart Attack	1	0	1	
2/21	Flagler County, Florida	Prescribed Fire	Federal (USFS) Florida Division of Florida	Entrapment	1	0		None reported
3/10	Sabine National Forest, Shelbyville, Texas	Prescribed Fire	Contractor Federal (USFS)	Aviation, Helicopter Crash	3	0	3	
4/8	Wilton County, Wilton, North Dakota	Firefighting	Volunteer	Burnover	3	0		2 <sup>nd</sup> degree burns & broken leg
5/5	Chippewa National Forest, Deer River, Minnesota	Prescribed Fire	Federal (USFS)	Entrapment	1	0		1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> degree burns
6/10	Hardtner, Kansas	Firefighting	Volunteer	Electrocution	1	0	1	
7/14	Knightdale, North Carolina	Firefighting	Volunteer	Hit by falling branch	1	0	1	

Date	Jurisdiction, Location	Activity and Type of Accident	Agency / Entity of Personnel Involved	Type of Accident	Number of People	# Shelters Deployed	Fatalities	Injuries
7/16	Orovada, Nevada	Firefighting	Federal (BLM)	Burnover, Equipment	3	0		Smoke inhalation
7/23	Slaughter Gulch Fire, Silt, Colorado	Firefighting	Fire Protection District, Volunteers	Burnover, Equipment	2	0		None
8/6	Riverside County	Driving, Engine	CDF	Rollover	5	0	1	
8/10	Tarkio Fire, I-90 Complex Tarkio, Montana	Firefighting, Dozer	Federal (USFS) and Contractor	Shelter deployment	3	3		None
9/21	Hutchinson, Kansas	Driving, Fire Truck	Volunteer, Reno County Fire, Kansas	Vehicle Accident	4	0	1	
10/25	Beaumont, Mississippi	Firefighting	Volunteer, Arlington VFD	Heart Attack	1	0	1	
11/12	Marvin Fire, Buchanan County, Virginia	Firefighting	Volunteer, Oakland VFD	Burnover, Firefighter	1	0	1	
11/22	Hamilton, Texas	Driving, Tractor / Trailer	Volunteer, Carlton VFD	Rollover	1	0	1	
11/30	Cameron Garden, Texas	Firefighting	Volunteer	Burnover, Firefighter	1	0		2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> degree burns over 25% of body
							<b>12</b>	

**Outline:** The following is a short summary of the type of accidents experienced in 2005.

<b>Driving:</b>	3 accidents involving 10 personnel with 3 fatalities
<b>Heart Attacks:</b>	3 fatal heart attacks related to firefighting.
<b>Prescribed Fire:</b>	2 accidents involving 2 firefighters, no fatalities.
<b>Aviation:</b>	1 helicopter accident with 3 fatalities, (prescribed fire)
<b>Wildland:</b>	8 accidents occurred while fighting fires, 15 personnel involved, 3 fatalities; 5 burnovers/entrapments, 1 falling tree branch, 1 electrocution and 3 fire shelters were deployed.

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 would like to request any Investigation Reports from agencies that experienced the above or other entrapments/major accidents in 2005. Safety Gram reporting criteria can be found at [http://www.nwcg.gov/teams/shwt/safetygram\\_criteria.pdf](http://www.nwcg.gov/teams/shwt/safetygram_criteria.pdf). Please mail reports to the following address or email them to: [stan\\_palmer@nifc.blm.gov](mailto:stan_palmer@nifc.blm.gov).

NWCG/SHWT – Stan Palmer  
National Interagency Fire Center  
3833 S. Development Avenue  
Boise, ID 83705