

United States  
Department  
of Agriculture

Forest Service



## **FIRE SHELTER DEPLOYMENT- 8/26/01**

(From Missoula Technology Development Laboratory)

- Since fire shelters were first provided in 1974, there have been approximately 1050 deployments.
- Of the 1050 deployments, about 50% were deployed to escape unhealthy smoke conditions or escape non-life threatening heat as a precaution.
- Of the remaining 50% of deployments, half of the deployments prevented serious burns to the firefighter, and half resulted in burns but saved the life of the occupant.
- Of the 1050 deployments, 24 people have died. In those situations:
  - Some never had the time to get their shelters completely out of the case
  - Some got their shelters out but only got half way into them or just barely underneath them before being overtaken
  - Some deployed fully but got out of their shelter too soon
  - In some cases, the conditions were too severe for the shelter according to its specifications.