



**File Code:** 6730

**Date:** July 31, 2008

**Route To:**

**Subject:** 72 hour Expanded Report, Dutch Creek Incident; Iron Complex; Shasta-Trinity NF, Region 5, July 25, 2008

**To:** Hank Kashdan, Deputy Chief of Business Operations  
Randy Moore, R5 Regional Forester  
Karen Gustin, Olympic National Park Superintendent

The Following Information is Preliminary and Subject to Change

Location: Eagle Fire, Iron Complex, Trinity River Management Unit, Shasta-Trinity NF, California

Date of occurrence: July 25, 2008

Time of occurrence: Approximately 1350 hours

Mission: Mitigating Hazard trees during mop-up.

Activity: Felling a tree to secure the line.

Number injured: None

Number of fatalities: 1

Property damage: None

**Narrative:** On July 22, 2008, an Engine from Olympic National Park received a resource order to report to the Iron Complex on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest near Weaverville, CA. Upon arrival to the Incident Command Post (ICP) on July 23, the crew reported mechanical problems with the engine that required the engine captain to drive the vehicle into Redding, CA for service. The remainder of the engine module stayed at ICP and on July 24, were given a logistical assignment in camp. On July 25, while the engine captain was attempting to obtain a replacement engine from Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, the three crew members were assigned as a Class B falling team to Bravo Division on the Eagle Fire. Their assignment was to support hand and engine crews during mop-up operations mitigating hazard trees ahead of them along the fireline. At approximately 1350 hours, the crew called for medical assistance for a severely injured firefighter/swamper on their crew. Emergency medical personnel responded and treated the injured firefighter Andrew J. Palmer. Due to heavy smoke conditions requiring IFR capability, primary helicopter resources were unable to respond to the injured firefighter's location. Personnel carried Palmer, by litter, to a location where he was hoisted into a U.S. Coast Guard rescue helicopter at approximately 1630 hours. En route to the Redding Municipal Airport, to meet the ambulance, Palmer went into cardiac arrest and was pronounced dead on arrival at approximately 1706 hours at the Redding Municipal Airport. A Chief level Accident Investigation is ongoing.

/s/Tina J. Terrell

/s/ Scott Wanek

Team Leader, U.S.F.S.

Team Leader, National Park Service



cc: Gene Smalley, Regional Safety Manager  
Ralph Dorn, WO Safety  
Ed Hollenshead, Regional Fire Director  
Peter Tolosano, Regional Fire Safety Manager  
Jim Pena, Deputy Regional Forester  
Jon Jarvis, NPS PWR Regional Director  
Sue Husari, NPS PWR FMO  
Larry Nolen, NPS PWR Regional Safety Manager  
Karen Gustin, Olympic National Park Superintendent  
Scott Wanek, Team Leader  
Michelle Reugebrink, Chief Investigator  
Gary Helmer, WO Safety  
Sharon Heywood, Forest Supervisor, Shasta-Trinity N.F.  
Mike Cobbold, Shasta-Trinity Safety Manager  
Paul Broyles, NPS National Fire Operations Program Leader  
Cicely Muldoon, NPS PWR Deputy Regional Director  
Richard Powell, NPS Risk Management Program Manager  
Karen Taylor-Goodrich, NPS Associate Director, VRP  
Tina Terrell, Team Leader