



# SAFETY GRAM

## Fatalities, Entrapments and Serious Accident Summary for 2004

The following data indicate the fatalities and major accidents in calendar year 2004. It includes serious vehicle accidents, fatalities, burn-over/entrapments and injuries associated with wildland and prescribed fire operations. 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 | Number of People | Shelter Available | # Shelters Deployed | Fatalities | Injuries                                       |
|------|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------|--|
| 2/18 | Chipley, Florida                                | Firefighting, Prescribed Fire     | Volunteer, Nature Conservancy         | 1                |                   |                     |            | 1 <sup>st</sup> degree burns                   |
| 2/22 | Gloster, Mississippi                            | Driving, Accident                 | Volunteer                             | 1                |                   |                     | 1          |  |
| 2/24 | Sebastian, Florida                              | Burnover, Prescribed Fire         | State Park                            | 3                |                   |                     |            | 2 <sup>nd</sup> degree burns                   |
| 2/25 | Rosewood, Florida                               | Driving, Rollover                 | State                                 | 1                |                   |                     | 1          |  |
| 3/16 | Safford, Arizona                                | Aviation, Training, SEAT Aircraft | Contractor                            | 1                |                   |                     | 1          |  |
| 3/21 | Alabaster, Alabama                              | Firefighting, Heart Attack        | Volunteer                             | 1                |                   |                     | 1          |  |
| 3/21 | Bayou Cumbest Incident, Pascagoula, Mississippi | Driving, Rollover                 | Volunteer                             | 1                |                   |                     | 1          |  |
| 3/22 | Arapaho National Forest, Fort Collins, Colorado | Prescribed Fire, Burns            | Federal / USFS                        | 1                |                   |                     |            | 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> degree burns |

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Jurisdiction, Location</b>                                 | <b>Activity and Type of Accident</b> | <b>Agency / Entity of Personnel Involved</b> | <b>Number of People</b> | <b>Shelter Available</b> | <b># Shelters Deployed</b> | <b>Fatalities</b> | <b>Injuries</b>              |
|-------------|---|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| 3/28        | Eaton Rapids, Michigan  | Firefighting, Heart Attack           | Volunteer                                    | 1                       |                          |                            | 1                 |                              |
| 3/28        | Crossett, Arkansas  | Firefighting, Heart Attack           | Volunteer                                    | 1                       |                          |                            | 1                 |                              |
| 4/24        | West Memphis, Arkansas  | Pedestrian Accident, Crew In Transit | Federal / USFS                               | 2                       |                          |                            | 1                 | Severe injuries              |
| 5/13        | Mailbox Incident, Osceola National Forest, Lake City, Florida | Firefighting, Heart Attack           | Federal / USFS                               | 1                       |                          |                            | 1                 |                              |
| 6/5         | The Dalles, Oregon  | Work Capacity Test, Heart Attack     | State  | 1                       |                          |                            | 1                 |                              |
| 6/8         | Bridger, Montana  | Work Capacity Test, Heart Attack     | Volunteer                                    | 1                       |                          |                            | 1                 |                              |
| 6/17        | Dammeron Incident, St. George, Utah                           | Aviation, firefighting SEAT Aircraft | Contractor                                   | 1                       |                          |                            | 1                 |                              |
| 6/24        | Noon Complex, Coronado National Forest, Safford, Arizona      | Firefighting, Lightning Strike       | Federal / USFS                               | 4                       |                          |                            |                   | 1 <sup>st</sup> degree burns |
| 6/28        | Glenwood, Iowa  | Firefighting, Burnover               | Volunteer                                    | 2                       | No                       |                            |                   | 1 <sup>st</sup> degree burns |
| 6/30        | Magdalena, New Mexico   | Driving, Crew Carrier Accident       | Federal / USFS                               | 7                       |                          |                            |                   | Severe injuries              |
| 7/1         | Contra Costa County, Concord, California                      | Driving, Rollover                    | County                                       | 2                       |                          |                            |                   | Minor injuries               |
| 7/2         | Nuttal Incident, Coronado National Forest, Safford, Arizona   | Firefighting, Shelter Deployment     | Federal / USFS                               | 12                      | 12                       | 11                         |                   | No injuries                  |

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Jurisdiction, Location</b>                                       | <b>Activity and Type of Accident</b>         | <b>Agency / Entity of Personnel Involved</b> | <b>Number of People</b> | <b>Shelter Available</b> | <b># Shelters Deployed</b> | <b>Fatalities</b> | <b>Injuries</b>                         |
|-------------|---|--|--|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|---|
| 7/13        | Pine Incident,<br>Angeles National Forest,<br>Lancaster, California | Driving,<br>Returning from<br>Incident       | County                                       | 1                       |                          |                            | 1                 |   |
| 7/13        | Colville Indian Reservation,<br>Coeville, Washington                | Walking to fire,<br>Heart Attack             | Contractor                                   | 1                       |                          |                            | 1                 |   |
| 7/14        | Waterfall Incident<br>Carson City, Nevada                           | Firefighting,<br>Burnover,<br>Equipment Loss | Federal / USFS,<br>Municipal, and<br>Private | 21                      | Not for all<br>personnel | 1                          |                   |   |
| 7/22        | Boundary Incident,<br>Fairbanks, Alaska                             | Driving,<br>Tracked Transport<br>Vehicle     | State  | 7                       |                          |                            |                   | Minor injuries                          |
| 7/31        | Hebron, North Dakota  | Firefighting,<br>Heart Attack                | Volunteer                                    | 1                       |                          |                            | 1                 |   |
| 8/10        | Wickcliffe, Kentucky  | Driving,<br>Apparatus Crash                  | Volunteer                                    | 1                       |                          |                            | 1                 |   |
| 8/11        | Wenatchee National Forest,<br>Leavenworth, Washington               | Aviation,<br>Long line Operation             | Contractor                                   | 1                       |                          |                            | 1                 |   |
| 8/12        | Middle Ridge Incident,<br>St. George, Utah                          | Firefighting,<br>Vehicle Burnover            | Federal / BLM                                | 0                       |                          |                            |                   |   |
| 8/26        | Taylor Complex,<br>Gardiner Creek Incident,<br>Northway, Alaska     | Firefighting,<br>Withdrawing to Safe<br>Area | Federal / BLM-USFS                           | 2                       |                          |                            |                   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> degree<br>burns on feet |
| 9/5         | Powerhouse Fire,<br>California                                      | Firefighting,<br>Tree Limb Fell              | Federal / USFS                               | 1                       |                          |                            |                   | Back / neck injuries                    |

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|-------|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------|---|
| 9/12  | Tuolumne Incident, Stanislaus National Forest, Buck Meadows, California | Firefighting, Entrapment             | State                                 | 7                        | Yes               |                     | 1             | Six injuries, smoke inhalation & 1 <sup>st</sup> degree burns |
| 10/02 | Kings Canyon National Park, California                                  | Prescribed Fire Hit by Snag          | Federal / NPS                         | 1                        |                   |                     | 1             |   |
| 11/06 | Mayking, Kentucky   | Responding to Incident, Heart Attack | Volunteer                             | 1                        |                   |                     | 1             |   |
|       |   | <b>December 31, 2004</b>             |                                       | <b>December 31, 2004</b> |                   |                     | <b>- 20 -</b> |   |

The following is a brief summary of the type of accidents experienced in 2004.

- Driving:** 8 accidents involving 21 personnel with 5 fatalities
- Heart Attacks:** 9 fatal heart attacks, 2 associated with the Work Capacity Test (WCT) and 7 related to firefighting.
- Prescribed Fire:** 4 accidents occurred on prescribed fires involving 6 firefighters with 1 fatality.
- Aviation:** 3 aviation accidents occurred; 2 single engine air tankers (SEAT) and 1 helicopter for a total of 3 fatalities.
- Wildland:** Wildland firefighting experienced 6 burnovers/ entrapments with 12 shelters deployed involving 44 personnel with 1 fatality.

Timely reporting of burnovers/entrapments and 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 completed Investigation Reports from agencies that experienced the above or other burnovers/entrapments and fatalities in 2004. Please mail reports to the following address or email them to: [stan\\_palmer@nifc.blm.gov](mailto:stan_palmer@nifc.blm.gov).

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