



January 30, 2007

MEMORANDUM

To: Chair, National Wildfire Coordinating Group

From: Chair, Safety and Health Working Team

Subject: 2006 SAFETY GRAM

The 2006 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 2006.

Twenty four fatalities occurred in 2006, when employees were performing actions associated with wildland fire management. This is a substantial increase from the 12 fatalities that occurred in 2005. The 2006 fatalities are separated by category and listed below:

Aviation – 8: Eight fatalities occurred with two helicopter accidents and one lead plane accident.
Entrapments/Burnover – 7: Seven fatalities occurred with entrapments and burnovers while firefighting.
Driving /Motor Vehicle – 4: Driving related accidents accounted for four fatalities.
Heart Attacks – 3: Three individuals suffered heart attacks while firefighting.
Hazard Tree/Felling – 1: One fatality occurred on a prescribed fire when a snag fell.
Other (Fall) – 1: One fatality occurred when volunteer fell from the stairs at a lookout tower.

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 2006 SAFETY GRAM to your respective agencies and organizations.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information at (208) 387-5175 or michelle_ryerson@nifc.blm.gov.

/s/ Michelle G. Ryerson

Attachment

cc: Master SHWT File