



# Safety and Health Working Team

January 15, 2008

## MEMORANDUM

To: Chair, National Wildfire Coordinating Group  
From: Chair, Safety and Health Working Team  
Subject: 2007 SAFETY GRAM

The 2007 SAFETY GRAM is attached. It summarizes reported wildland fire fatalities, burnovers/entrapments and other serious accidents for all wildland fire management organizations throughout the United States in 2007.

Nine fatalities occurred in 2007 when employees were performing wildland fire management activities. This is a substantial decrease from the 24 fatalities that were reported in 2006. Also noteworthy is the absence of any entrapment or burnover related fatalities. The 2007 fatalities are listed by category below:

- Aviation – 1:** Fatality occurred when helicopter was performing logistical support.
- Driving – 3:** Fatalities occurred when firefighters were returning from a prescribed fire (1) and training (2).
- Hazard Tree/Snag – 1:** Fatality occurred when a tree fell on a firefighter during chain saw training.
- Heart Attacks – 2:** Fatalities occurred following the Work Capacity Test (pack test) and firefighting.
- Other – 2:** Fatalities occurred when a dozer rolled over while constructing fire line (1) and by electrocution (1).

Accident prevention is enhanced when firefighters and fire managers are made aware of serious accidents that have occurred over the year and can identify where our future safety emphasis areas should be. Please provide wide distribution of the 2007 SAFETY GRAM to your respective agencies and organizations. In addition, SHWT will distribute via NWCG Safety Alert System.

Please feel free to contact me at (208) 387-5175 or [michelle\\_ryerson@nifc.blm.gov](mailto:michelle_ryerson@nifc.blm.gov) if you have any questions or need additional information.

Attachment

cc: Master SHWT File