



TO :

FROM : National Wildfire Coordinating Group

REPLY TO : safeteam@nifc.gov

DATE : 06/05/2001

SUBJECT : SAFETY BULLETIN : Work Capacity Test Medical Incident

Work Capacity Test Medical Incident

On May 1, 2001, a 53-year-old fuel management dozer operator on the Stanislaus NF suffered a heart attack while taking the "pack test". He was about 1/3 of the way through the test when he sat down because he wasn't feeling well. On-site personnel activated their test medical plan and provided treatment as his condition deteriorated. The employee was transported by air to an advanced medical facility where he underwent successful quadruple by-pass surgery the next morning. He is presently recovering at home.

The employee was taking the "pack test" to satisfy the fitness requirements for Division Supervisor, as he is an assigned member of a Type 1 Incident Management Team. The Region investigated the incident. All indications are the Stanislaus NF and test administrators followed the established protocols for taking and administering the WCT at the arduous level. The employee had filled out an HSQ and was given a medical examination by a doctor under a contract with the Forest. He had adequate time to condition for the test. There were no obvious indicators presaging an existing heart condition.
