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FROM : National Wildfire Coordinating Group

REPLY TO : NWCG@nifc.gov

DATE : 04/29/2003

SUBJECT : SAFETY BULLETIN : Work Capacity Test Fatality

The North Carolina Division of Forest Resources suffered a fire fighter fatality Monday , April 28, 2003. The victim was a 41 year old male, who has been a full time employee of the North Carolina Division of Forest Resources for the past eleven years.

The incident occurred after the Work Capacity Test (Pack Test) had been completed. The individual was attempting the arduous level of the test, and had completed 2.5 miles when labored breathing prompted him to stop. He indicated that he had some upper chest congestion, and was coughing as a result. After a short rest the individual elected to continue walking the course without the weighted pack .

Approximately 15 minutes after completing the walk the subject collapsed . Medical assistance was initiated immediately, with subsequent transport to NC Memorial Hospital at Chapel Hill , where the subject was pronounced dead at approximately 1230.

A Critical Incident Stress debriefing will be conducted for those personnel on the scene .

The North Carolina Division of Forest Resources , along with NC Department's of Labor and Insurance, are in the process of conducting an investigation into the cause of the incident .

The Division will make any additional information available through the normal means of notification .
