



**TO :**

**FROM :** National Wildfire Coordinating Group

**REPLY TO :** NWCG@nifc.gov

**DATE :** 07/27/2007

**SUBJECT :** SAFETY BULLETIN : Shultz Fire - Tender Rollover - 24 Hour Report

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**Attached is the 24 hour report regarding a Water Tender rollover accident on the Shultz Fire. Please see that it receives wide distribution within your agency. When available, other investigation documents, specifically the 72 Hour Report and the final Factual Report, will be posted on the Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center database for reviews and investigations ( <http://www.wildfirelessons.net/Reviews.aspx>).**



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United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

FLAGSTAFF CENTER  
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Ranger Districts

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File Code: 6700

Date: July 10, 2007

**Subject:** Preliminary 24-hour Briefing, 420 Incident, Water Tender Accident

**To:** Nora B. Rasure, Forest Supervisor, Coconino National Forest  
Bruce Greco, Fire Staff Officer, Coconino National Forest

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Location: 3 Miles North of Road 420 (Shultz Pass Road)

Date of occurrence: 9 July 2007

Time: 1630 p.m.

Mission: Support the Shultz Fire

Activity: Shuttling water from Cheshire to the Schultz Fire

Number of injured: 0

Number of fatalities: 0

Property damage: Cab of WT was totaled; mechanical damage, pump, foam system and tank are not fully determined.

Narrative: At approximately 1615 hours, the operator of water tender 5 (WCF Unit 7501) was returning to the Shultz fire after filling with 3000 gallons of water in Cheshire. At approximately 1630, while traveling north on FR 420, the water tender operator moved the water tender to the right side of the road to allow several vehicles to pass. After the vehicles passed, the water tender entered a curve in the road and remained on the right side of the road. As the right wheels traveled on the shoulder of the road, the shoulder gave way. As the right front tire began to slide down a ten foot embankment, the operator was able to get the tire back on the road. The rear tires, which support the load, caused the shoulder to give way even more. The momentum of the water in the tank shifting caused the water tender to slide down the embankment and roll to the right. The water tender came to rest on its cab. The operator and passenger were wearing seatbelts. They were also wearing hardhats and were not injured.

Sincerely,

/s/Alvin R. Brown, for  
GENE WALDRIP  
District Ranger

cc Bequi Livingston, Region 3 Fire Operations Health and Safety Specialist  
Alex Perez, Region 3 Safety Advisor

