

TO:

FROM: National Wildfire Coordinating Group

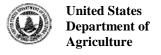
REPLY TO: NWCG@nifc.gov

DATE: 07/29/2008

SUBJECT: SAFETY BULLETIN: Panther Fire - 24 Hour Report

Attached is the 24 hour report regarding a firefigher fatality on the Panther Fire in California. 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/Home.aspx).





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File Code: 6700 Date: July 27, 2008

Route To:

Subject: Preliminary 24-hour Briefing of Panther Fire Fatality

To: Regional Forester

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Location: Panther Fire, Happy Camp RD, Klamath NF, California

Date of occurrence: July 26, 2008

Time of occurrence: Approximately 1515 Hours

Team leader: Jim Reaves

Mission: Fire Suppression

Activity: Scouting fire for Type I team take-over the following day

Number injured: None

Number of fatalities: One

Narrative: The Panther fire was a Type III, 250 acre event. It was being scouted by personnel from the Type I team that was slated to take it over at 0600 the following day. At approximately 1515 hours, two individuals assigned from the Type I team were overrun by the fire front. One fatality resulted, the other individual was not injured. Accident occurred in 1987 burn scar with brush under hardwood/conifer overstory.

A serious accident investigation team has been ordered to for this incident.

/s/ Patricia A. Grantham PATRICIA A. GRANTHAM Forest Supervisor

Cc: Jim Pena
Ed Hollenshead
Gene Smalley
Peter Tolosano
Michelle Reugebrink
Joe Millar



