



**TO :**

**FROM :** National Wildfire Coordinating Group

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

**DATE :** 08/15/2011

**SUBJECT :** SAFETY BULLETIN : Coal Canyon Fire Expanded 72-Hour Report

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Attached is the 72-Hour Report for the Coal Canyon accident/investigation which occurred. Please see that it receives wide distribution within your agency. When available, the final Factual Report, will be posted on the Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center database for incident reports and lessons learned analyses (<http://iirdb.wildfirelessons.net/main/Reviews.aspx>)



Coal Canyon Fire Expanded 72-Hour Report.pdf

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**File** 6730  
**Code:**

**Date:** August 14, 2011

**Subject:** Expanded 72-hour Report  
Coal Canyon Fire; August 11, 2011

**To:** Designated Agency Safety and Health Official (DASHO)

**THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

Location: Coal Canyon Fire; Black Hills National Forest, (Approximately nine miles north of Edgemont, South Dakota).

Date of Occurrence: August 11, 2011

Time of Occurrence: Approximately 1510 Hours

Activity: Initial attack fire suppression

Number of Fatalities: One - State of South Dakota Firefighter

Number of Injured: Four  
Two State of South Dakota Firefighters  
One USFS - Black Hills National Forest Firefighter  
One USFS - Nebraska National Forest & Grasslands Firefighter

Property Damage: State Engine 561 burned

**Summary:**

At approximately 1330, on August, 11, 2011; Forest Service, State and Volunteer Fire Department crews responded to a fire in Coal Canyon. After working the fire for a short amount of time, rapidly spreading fire overtook the egress route out of the fire area, entrapping firefighters. One firefighter died and four others were injured.

**Narrative:**

After assessing the fire, on scene firefighters began formulating a plan and digging line around the flank of the fire. As additional resources arrived, the type four (T4) organization realized the increasing complexity and requested a type three (T3) organization through dispatch. Shortly after, the entrapment occurred.

One State firefighter was entrapped in the engine (fatality); one State firefighter was transported to the Greeley, Colorado Burn Center, and one State firefighter was admitted to Rapid City Regional Hospital. The two Forest Service firefighters were treated and released.



As of August 12, 2011, a Chief's Level Accident Investigation Team is on the Black Hills National Forest conducting a review.

*/s/ Charles L. Myers*

CHARLES L. MYERS  
Team Leader

cc:  
WO-Safety and Occupational Health Manager