



SAFETY GRAM

Fatalities, Entrapments and Serious Accident Summary for 2005

The following data indicate the fatalities, entrapments and burnovers and other serious accidents associated with wildfire, wildland fire use and prescribed fire operations in calendar year 2005. The information was collected by the NWCG Safety & Health Working Team, with confirmation of the fatalities from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

| Date | Jurisdiction, Location | Activity and Type of Accident | Agency / Entity of Personnel Involved | Type of Accident | Number of People | # Shelters Deployed | Fatalities | Injuries |
|------|---|-------------------------------|--|----------------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------|--|
| 1/26 | Haskell County, Eufaula, Oklahoma | Firefighting | Volunteer | Heart Attack | 1 | 0 | 1 | |
| 2/21 | Jacksonville District, Jacksonville, Florida | Firefighting | State / Florida Division of Forestry | Heart Attack | 1 | 0 | 1 | |
| 2/21 | Flagler County, Florida | Prescribed Fire | Federal (USFS) Florida Division of Florida | Entrapment | 1 | 0 | | None reported |
| 3/10 | Sabine National Forest, Shelbyville, Texas | Prescribed Fire | Contractor Federal (USFS) | Aviation, Helicopter Crash | 3 | 0 | 3 | |
| 4/8 | Wilton County, Wilton, North Dakota | Firefighting | Volunteer | Burnover | 3 | 0 | | 2 nd degree burns & broken leg |
| 5/5 | Chippewa National Forest, Deer River, Minnesota | Prescribed Fire | Federal (USFS) | Entrapment | 1 | 0 | | 1 st & 2 nd degree burns |
| 6/10 | Hardtner, Kansas | Firefighting | Volunteer | Electrocution | 1 | 0 | 1 | |
| 7/14 | Knightdale, North Carolina | Firefighting | Volunteer | Hit by falling branch | 1 | 0 | 1 | |

| Date | Jurisdiction, Location | Activity and Type of Accident | Agency / Entity of Personnel Involved | Type of Accident | Number of People | # Shelters Deployed | Fatalities | Injuries |
|-------|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------|---|
| 7/16 | Orovada, Nevada | Firefighting | Federal (BLM) | Burnover, Equipment | 3 | 0 | | Smoke inhalation |
| 7/23 | Slaughter Gulch Fire, Silt, Colorado | Firefighting | Fire Protection District, Volunteers | Burnover, Equipment | 2 | 0 | | None |
| 8/6 | Riverside County | Driving, Engine | CDF | Rollover | 5 | 0 | 1 | |
| 8/10 | Tarkio Fire, I-90 Complex Tarkio, Montana | Firefighting, Dozer | Federal (USFS) and Contractor | Shelter deployment | 3 | 3 | | None |
| 9/21 | Hutchinson, Kansas | Driving, Fire Truck | Volunteer, Reno County Fire, Kansas | Vehicle Accident | 4 | 0 | 1 | |
| 10/25 | Beaumont, Mississippi | Firefighting | Volunteer, Arlington VFD | Heart Attack | 1 | 0 | 1 | |
| 11/12 | Marvin Fire, Buchanan County, Virginia | Firefighting | Volunteer, Oakland VFD | Burnover, Firefighter | 1 | 0 | 1 | |
| 11/22 | Hamilton, Texas | Driving, Tractor / Trailer | Volunteer, Carlton VFD | Rollover | 1 | 0 | 1 | |
| 11/30 | Cameron Garden, Texas | Firefighting | Volunteer | Burnover, Firefighter | 1 | 0 | | 2 nd & 3 rd degree burns over 25% of body |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | 12 | |

Outline: The following is a short summary of the type of accidents experienced in 2005.

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Driving: | 3 accidents involving 10 personnel with 3 fatalities |
| Heart Attacks: | 3 fatal heart attacks related to firefighting. |
| Prescribed Fire: | 2 accidents involving 2 firefighters, no fatalities. |
| Aviation: | 1 helicopter accident with 3 fatalities, (prescribed fire) |
| Wildland: | 8 accidents occurred while fighting fires, 15 personnel involved, 3 fatalities; 5 burnovers/entrapments, 1 falling tree branch, 1 electrocution and 3 fire shelters were deployed. |

Timely reporting of entrapments or fatalities is necessary. Completion of the Wildland Fire Entrapment/Fatality Initial Report (NFES 0869) accomplishes this need. This initial report is self explanatory and does not replace agency reporting or investigative responsibilities, policies or procedures.

The NWCG Safety & Health Working Team would like to request any Investigation Reports from agencies that experienced the above or other entrapments/major accidents in 2005. Safety Gram reporting criteria can be found at http://www.nwcg.gov/teams/shwt/safetygram_criteria.pdf. Please mail reports to the following address or email them to: stan_palmer@nifc.blm.gov.

NWCG/SHWT – Stan Palmer
National Interagency Fire Center
3833 S. Development Avenue
Boise, ID 83705