

1987's GRIM RECORD: 12 FATALITIES AND 144 FIRE SHELTER DEPLOYMENTS

One of the most disastrous years in the history of forest and wildland fire suppression activities was closed out with the end of 1987. National Interagency Fire Coordination Center figures indicate that some 71,300 wildfires burned 2.5 million acres. On National Forest lands, it was the worst fire year since 1929. More than 22,000 firefighters were mobilized during last summer's intense siege of wildfires in California and Oregon—the greatest marshaling of forces, in the briefest period of time, on record.

FATALITIES

DATE	INCIDENT
June 28	A contractor on a Shasta-Trinity National Forest fire was killed when dozer he was operating rolled over him.
July 17	A contractor on an Okanogan National Forest fire was killed when tree he was felling struck him.
September 1	A U.S. Forest Service employee on a Klamath National Forest fire was killed when struck by motorcycle.
September 5	A California Conservation Corpsman on a Six Rivers National Forest fire was killed when a tree fell across his crew vehicle.
September 6	A California National Guardsman on a Klamath National Forest fire was killed when the vehicle he was driving ran off the road.
September 11	A U.S. Forest Service employee on a Stanislaus National Forest fire was killed when a snag fell on him.
September 16	Three private contractors for the U.S. Department of Interior on a Shasta-Trinity National Forest fire were killed when their C-119 air tanker broke apart in flight on a retardant run.
September 29	A California Department of Forestry Helitack Crewman on a fire in Lake County was killed when he was trapped by onrushing flames.
October 1	A Bureau of Indian Affairs Crewman on a Klamath National Forest fire suffered a fatal heart attack.
October 7	A pilot on a California Department of Forestry fire was killed when his S-2 air tanker crashed.

FIRE SHELTER DEPLOYMENTS

DATE	INCIDENT	DEPLOYMENTS
June 20	Haystack Fire	41 Deployments
July 21	Battle Mountain Fire	17 Deployments
August 30	Grizzly Fire	18 Deployments
August 30	Crank Fire	25 Deployments
September 4	Paper Fire	6 Deployments
September 4	Hamm Fire	30 Deployments
September 29	Lauder Fire	5 Deployments
November 7	Red Top Mountain Fire	2 Deployments

These figures are based upon all incidents that have been reported. The NWCG Fireline Safety Committee would appreciate notification from agencies that experienced other deployment or major accidents in 1987, so that the information can be added to trend data and shared with other agencies. Individuals involved in deployment incidents/accidents would not be identified.



If other major fireline incidents did occur in 1987, please forward the information to:

Chairman, NWCG Fireline Safety Committee
P.O. Box 96090, Room 1004 RPE
Washington, D.C. 2090-6090

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| <p>I Fight fire aggressively but provide for safety first.</p> <p>I Initiate all action based on current and expected fire behavior.</p> <p>I Recognize current weather conditions and obtain forecasts.</p> <p>E Ensure instructions are given and understood.</p> | <p>O Obtain current information on fire status.</p> <p>R Remain in communication with crew members, your supervisor, and adjoining for</p> <p>D Determine safety zones and escape routes.</p> <p>E Establish lookouts in potentially hazardous situations.</p> <p>R Retain control at all times.</p> <p>S Stay alert, keep calm, think clearly, act decisively.</p> |
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