



MEMORANDUM

To: Chair, National Wildfire Coordinating Group

From: Chair, Risk Management Committee

Date: March 8, 2011

Subject: 2010 SAFETY GRAM

The 2010 SAFETY GRAM is attached. It summarizes reported wildland fire fatalities, burnovers, entrapments, and other serious or potentially serious accidents for wildland fire management organizations throughout the United States in 2010.

For calendar year 2010, there were eight fatalities; this is the lowest recorded fatalities since 1993. Another significant statistic – 2010 was the first year without a Federal fatality since 1982.

The 2010 fatalities are listed by category below:

Driving (2): One firefighter was driving a Snowcat, modified as fire apparatus, when it flipped over backward and rolled approximately 100 feet. One firefighter was driving a tractor-trailer when it rolled over.

Medical Emergencies (4): (2) Heart attacks (1) Heat related (1) Smoke inhalation

Other (2): One firefighter died when a pressurized water tank exploded and flying debris struck him. One firefighter died when a vehicle struck him as he was suppressing a fire in a highway median.

Accident prevention is enhanced when firefighters and fire managers are made aware of fatalities and other significant accidents that have occurred the previous year. Please provide wide distribution of the 2010 SAFETY GRAM to your respective agencies and organizations. The RMC will distribute the Safety Gram via NWCG Safety Alert System and post to the RMC website at <http://www.nwcg.gov/branches/pre/rmc/index.htm>.

Please feel free to contact me at (208) 387-5175 or michelle_ryerson@nifc.blm.gov if you have any questions or need additional information.

Michelle A. Ryerson

Attachment

cc: Preparedness Branch Coordinator
Master RMC File



SAFETY GRAM

Fatalities, Entrapments and Serious Accident Summary for 2010 (<http://www.nwcg.gov/branches/pre/rmc/>)

The following data indicate the fatalities, entrapments, burnovers, and other potential life-threatening accidents and injuries associated with wildland fire in calendar year 2010. Only fatalities are indicated in Safety Gram for aviation related accidents. The information was collected by the NWCG Risk Management Committee, with confirmation of the fatalities from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the United States Fire Administration (USFA).

Date	Incident Name Jurisdiction Location	Activity	Agency/Entity of Personnel Involved	Type of Accident	Number of People	# Shelters Deployed	Fatalities	Injuries/Treatment
2/18	Feather River RX Burn Plumas NF CA	Fuels Management Pile burning	Federal/FS	Medical (burns) Burns to right leg	1			FF suffered 2 nd degree burns to his right leg, 3% of body
3/1	Bay Road Nassau County FL	Driving Returning from incident	State/FL DOF	Vehicle (rollover) Transport/tractor- plow unit	1			Driver was treated at hospital for serious injuries
3/12	New River Gorge National River, NPS Oak Hill High School Oak Hill, WV	Work Capacity Test Arduous	Federal/NPS	Medical (heart attack)	1			FF collapsed, CPR provided, AED used, treated at hospital
4/7	Bradley Branch Fire Jackson County NC	Initial Attack	State/VFD	Burnover 1 engine and 1 crew transport destroyed 3 VFD FF injured	3			1 FF suffered smoke inhalation; 1 FF received minor burns; 1 FF complained of chest pain; all treated and released

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4/10	Nellie Fire Walhonding Valley Fire District OH	Line construction and mop-up	City/Coshocton City Fire Department	Hazard Tree Struck from behind when a burned out tree fell	1			FF treated at hospital for severe injuries
4/12	Road 22 Fire Peru, KS	Initial Attack	State/Peru Fire District #3	Medical (asphyxiation)	1		1	FF treated at hospital where he succumbed to injuries
4/19	Birthday Fire BIA Crow Agency South Central MT	Initial Attack	Fed/BIA	Hazard Tree Struck while retreating from fire area	1			FF transported by air ambulance to hospital with multiple trauma injuries
6/23	Wahluke Slope Area Adams County Fire District #5 Adams County WA	Initial Attack	State/Franklin County Fire District #4	Vehicle (rollover) FF was driving a modified Snowcat when it flipped	2		1	Second FF treated for minor injuries at hospital
7/18	Sand 2 Fire BLM, California Desert District CA	Line construction and mop-up	Fed/FS	Medical (burns) FF thought he had blisters, later determined to have burns to his feet	1			FF was initially treated at medical clinic and then burn center
7/19	Cowiche Mills Fire Yakima, WA	Structure protection	State/West Valley Fire and Rescue	Burnover Type 1 structure engine was destroyed	3			FFs treated at hospital for smoke inhalation, minor cuts, twisted ankle and minor burns
7/25	Constantia Fire BLM, Carson City District NV	Line construction and mop-up	Fed/BLM	Medical (burns) FF grasped limb, limb broke and he fell backward into hot ash	1			FF received 1 st degree burns to 50% of left hand, treated at burn center

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7/25	Trail Peak Fire Pine Valley District Dixie NF UT	Initial Attack	Fed/FS	Medical (heat) FF was incapacitated due to over exertion and electrolyte imbalance	1			FF experienced severe cramping of legs, vision problems, disorientation and treated at hospital
7/28	Indian River County Florida Div. of Forestry Okeechobee District FL	Initial Attack	State/Florida Division of Forestry	Burnover 2 dozer/plow units became stuck, fire burned over units; FF sheltered inside cab	2	1		No injuries reported
7/28	Wheat Stubble Fire Spink County Doland, SD	Initial Attack	State/Doland VFD	Burnover Type1 Structure Engine caught fire and 3 FFs retreated to black area of fire	3			1 FF received 1 st and 2 nd degree burns to left upper arm and treated at burn center
8/2	Highway 360, ½ mile east of Highway 29 Lafayette County AR	Driving Responding to incident	State/Arkansas Forestry Commission	Vehicle (rollover) Tractor-trailer unit	1		1	
8/6	Pat Creek Fire Stevens Village Area AK	Line construction and mop-up	Fed/BLM-EFF	Hazard Tree No felling operation in progress; FF hard hat absorbed much of impact	1			FF received injuries to upper back and head
8/9	Morton Fire FS road 1 N 12, off Highway 38 San Bernardino NF CA	Driving At incident	County/San Bernardino	Vehicle (rollover) Water tender	2			Both FFs sustained minor injuries, treated at hospital. FFs were using seat belts
8/9	Travertine Fire National Park Service Death Valley, CA	Initial Attack	Fed/BLM	Medical (heat/over- exertion)				FF hospitalized, diagnosed and treated for rhabdomyolysis

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8/10	Deer Park Fire Sawtooth NF ID	Line construction and mop-up	Fed/FS	Medical (fracture) left femur	1			FF was stabilized at scene and treated at hospital
8/12	Kimball Lane Fire Lynnfield Fire Department Jurisdiction MA	Initial Attack	State/Lynnfield/ VFD	Medical (heart attack)	1			CPR and AED applied, FF treated at hospital
8/14	Daven Place Fire Franklin County Fire District Kahlotus, WA	Initial Attack	Fed/FWS (5) and County/Franklin County (2)	Entrapment 2 FWS engines made it into the black; 1 County engine became stuck and FF took shelter inside engine until fire passed	7			2 County FFs treated for smoke inhalation; 1 FF treated for 2 nd degree burns to his hands
8/27	Bullards Fire CAL FIRE, Northern Region CA	Line construction and mop-up	State/CAL FIRE	Medical (fracture) FF's foot was fractured when caught between dozer's ripper bar and tool box	1			FF's foot was fractured
9/4	Pyramid Butte Fire Mt. Hood NF OR	Line construction and mop-up	FED/BIA	Medical (fracture) Large rock struck FF's back, rolled over his head and body	1			FF sustained multiple traumatic injuries, treated at hospital
9/7	Scotts Chapel Road Fire Kentucky Division of Forestry Smithland, KY	Line construction and mop-up	State/Kentucky Division of Forestry	Hazard Tree FF struck in head by burning snag that fell uphill from him and rolled	1			FF sustained multiple traumatic injuries and 2 nd degree burns on his calves, treated at hospital
9/24	Fourman Road Fire Laura, OH	Post suppression	State/Indiana, Lynn Volunteer Department	Medical (heart attack)	1		1	

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9/24	Londonderry Fire Liberty Township Ross County OH	Line construction and mop-up	State/Volunteer, McArthur Fire Department	Other FF was struck by flying debris when a pressurized water tank exploded	2		1	Second FF treated at hospital
9/24	New Church Fire Virginia's Eastern Shore VA	Line construction and mop-up	State/Atlantic Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company	Medical (heat) Heat related injuries	1		1	FF treated at hospital, cause of death unknown
9/25	Bodega Incident CAL FIRE, California Northern Region CA	Initial Attack	State/Bodega Volunteer Fire Company	Other Electrical shock from contact with downed power line	1			FF treated at scene and transported to local burn center
10/1	Work Capacity Test National Forests in North Carolina NC	Work Capacity Test Arduous	Fed/FS	Medical (heart attack) FF collapsed at mile 2.6 of WCT	1			AED not used at scene, FF treated at hospital
10/7	Woods Community Fire Newton County TX	Line construction and mop-up	State/Texas Forest Service	Burnover Tractor-plow became stuck, when FF was retreating to the black line he received burns	1			FF received 2 nd degree burns
11/13	Median Grass Fire Interstate 20, MM 81 Richland County SC	Initial Attack	State/Columbia- Richland Fire Department	Struck by vehicle FFs were in median of interstate highway	2		1	Second FF treated for serious multiple injuries at hospital
12/13	Highway 22A Fire Milledgeville, TN	Initial Attack	State/VFD/ Milledgeville Fire Department	Medical (heart attack)	1		1	
TOTAL					48		8	

For calendar year 2010 there were (8) fatalities lowest recorded fatalities since 1993. Other significant statistic – 2010 was the first year without a Federal fatality since 1982.

Driving: (2) One FF was driving a Snowcat, modified as fire apparatus, when it flipped over backward and rolled approximately 100 ft. One FF was driving a tractor-trailer when it rolled over.

Entrapment/Burn over: (0)

Medical Emergencies: (2) Heart attacks (1) Heat related (1) Smoke inhalation

Hazard Tree/Snag: (0)

Aviation: (0)

Other: (2) One FF died when a pressurized water tank exploded and flying debris struck him. One FF died when a vehicle struck him as he was suppressing a fire in a highway median.

Other noted non-fatal trends:

- (6) Burnover/entrapments
- (4) Hazard tree related injuries
- (3) Burn related injuries
- (3) Heart attacks
- (2) Motor vehicle
- (2) Heat related

The Risk Management Committee would like to request any Investigation/Review Reports from agencies that experienced the above or other fatalities, entrapments, and major accidents in 2010 or previous years that were not documented in Safety Gram. Safety Gram reporting criteria can be found at <http://www.nwcg.gov/branches/pre/rmc/safety-grams.htm>.

For additional individual accident investigation reports or reviews, visit repository on the Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center's website at: <http://iirdb.wildfirelessons.net/main/Reviews.aspx>.

Please mail reports to the following address or email them to: stan_palmer@nifc.blm.gov.

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