



TO :
FROM : National Wildfire Coordinating Group
REPLY TO : NWCG@nifc.gov
DATE : 01/17/2008
SUBJECT : SAFETY ADVISORY : 2007 Safety Gram

Attached is the 2007 Safety Gram for your review.



2007 Safety Gram Cover Memo.pdf



2007 Final Safety Gram_12-31-07.pdf



Safety and Health Working Team

January 15, 2008

MEMORANDUM

To: Chair, National Wildfire Coordinating Group

From: Chair, Safety and Health Working Team

Subject: 2007 SAFETY GRAM

The 2007 SAFETY GRAM is attached. It summarizes reported wildland fire fatalities, burnovers/entrapments and other serious accidents for all wildland fire management organizations throughout the United States in 2007.

Nine fatalities occurred in 2007 when employees were performing wildland fire management activities. This is a substantial decrease from the 24 fatalities that were reported in 2006. Also noteworthy is the absence of any entrapment or burnover related fatalities. The 2007 fatalities are listed by category below:

- Aviation – 1:** Fatality occurred when helicopter was performing logistical support.
- Driving – 3:** Fatalities occurred when firefighters were returning from a prescribed fire (1) and training (2).
- Hazard Tree/Snag – 1:** Fatality occurred when a tree fell on a firefighter during chain saw training.
- Heart Attacks – 2:** Fatalities occurred following the Work Capacity Test (pack test) and firefighting.
- Other – 2:** Fatalities occurred when a dozer rolled over while constructing fire line (1) and by electrocution (1).

Accident prevention is enhanced when firefighters and fire managers are made aware of serious accidents that have occurred over the year and can identify where our future safety emphasis areas should be. Please provide wide distribution of the 2007 SAFETY GRAM to your respective agencies and organizations. In addition, SHWT will distribute via NWCG Safety Alert System.

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.

Attachment

cc: Master SHWT File



SAFETY GRAM

Fatalities, Entrapments and Serious Accident Summary for 2007

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 2007. The information was collected by the NWCG Safety & Health Working Team, with confirmation of the fatalities from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the United States Fire Administration (USFA).

Date	Fire Location Jurisdiction	Activity	Agency/Entity of Personnel Involved	Type of Accident	Number of People	# Shelters Deployed	Fatalities	Injuries
1/25	Witherbee Ranger District Frances Marion NF Huger, SC	Driving Returning from prescribed fire	Federal/FS	Engine collision with vehicle	1	N/A	1	One civilian fatality also
3/25	Hewitt Road/NC10 Catawba Fire Department Catawba, NC	Driving Returning to station from fire	Volunteer	Vehicle collision with vehicle	1	N/A		Paralyzed from neck down
4/27	Pack Creek Prescribed Fire Manti-LaSal NF Moab, UT	Terra torch preparation on prescribed fire	Federal/NPS	Finger in contact with moving part	1	N/A		Amputation of right ring finger
4/28	Gem County Fire Protection District #2 Sweet, ID	WCT Complications experienced following a Pack Test	Volunteer	Heart attack	1	N/A	1	
4/28	Race Track Fire Georgia Forestry Comm. Waynesville, GA	Firefighting Tractor/Plow operations	State/GA	Burnover	1	1		2 nd degree burns
5/23	Stag Road Fire NC Division of Forest Resources Pender County, NC	Firefighting Tractor/Plow operations	State/NC	Burnover	1	0		Minor burns to neck, ear, and eyebrow
5/24	Interstate 40 Knoxville, TN	Driving Returning from training	Federal/ FS	Vehicle rollover	2	N/A	1	Minor injuries on other occupant

Date	Fire Location Jurisdiction	Activity	Agency/Entity of Personnel Involved	Type of Accident	Number of People	# Shelters Deployed	Fatalities	Injuries
5/25	Bolli Fire Forest Road 35N18 Shasta - Trinity NF CA	Driving	Contractor/FS	Water tender rollover	1	N/A		Head lacerations, bruises, possible fractures
6/23	Road 26 and Ave 21 Madera County Chowchilla, CA	Driving Responding to fire	County	Water tender collision with vehicle	2	N/A		Injuries, transported to hospitals
6/25	Woodland Fire (WFU) Gila NF NM	Smoke jumping	Federal/FS	Parachute canopies collided	2	N/A		One with minor injuries; one with multiple injuries transported to trauma center
6/26	Angora Fire Tahoe Management Unit So. Lake Tahoe, CA	Firefighting Engine operations	Federal/FS	Entrapment	2	2		No injuries
6/27	Madison Arm Fire Gallatin NF MT	Firefighting	Federal/FS & Contractor	Entrapment	8 FS 1 Contractor	0		No injuries
6/27	Moon Lake Fire Ashley NF Mountain Home, UT	Driving Returning from fire	Federal/FS	Engine rollover	2	N/A		Major injuries, transported to hospital
7/7	Inyo Fire Complex CAL Fire Independence, CA	Firefighting Suppression	State/CA	Entrapment	9	9		Minor injuries, smoke inhalation
7/7	West Basin Fire BLM Elko District Jackpot, NV	Firefighting Line scouting	State/NV	Entrapment	1	0		Burns to face, arm, and leg
7/8	Alabaugh Fire Black Hills NF Hot Spring, SD	Firefighting Burnout operations	Federal/FS	Entrapment	2	1		1 st and 2 nd degree burns to hands and face; no airway impact
7/9	Schultz Fire FR 420, Coconino NF Flagstaff, AZ	Driving	Contractor	Water tender rollover	2	N/A		No injuries

Date	Fire Location Jurisdiction	Activity	Agency/Entity of Personnel Involved	Type of Accident	Number of People	# Shelters Deployed	Fatalities	Injuries
7/11	Chain of Craters BLM Albuquerque District Grants, NM	Prescribed fire operations	Federal/BLM	UTV Fire Polaris Ranger, 6X6	2	N/A		No injuries
7/18	Zaca Fire Figueroa Mountain Road Los Padres NF CA	Driving Support to ICP	Contractor	Sump truck left roadway	1	N/A		Multi-injuries, fracture to leg
7/18	Wood Creek Fire Boise NF ID	Firefighting Conducting burnout operations	Federal/BLM	ATV rollover	1	N/A		Injury, left pelvic area
7/23	Elk Fire Klamath NF CA	Aviation Logistical support	Contractor	Bell 205 helicopter crash	1	N/A	1	
7/24	Trapper Ridge (WFU) Boise NF ID	Firefighting Line construction	Federal/BLM	Struck by hazard tree(s)	2	N/A		Treated for minor injuries; released, returned to light duty
7/27	Interstate 40 NC Division of Forest Resources Morrisville, NC	Driving Returning from training	State/NC	Pickup collision with vehicle	1	N/A	1	
7/28	Ahorn Fire Lewis and Clark NF MT	Firefighting Lookout position	Federal/FS	Entrapment	1	1		No injuries
7/30	Highway 41/ Road 417 CAL Fire Coarsegold, CA	Driving Responding to fire	State/CA	Engine collision with vehicle	3	N/A		No injuries
7/31	Middle Fork Complex Forest Road 555 Boise NF ID	Driving Returning to ICP	Contractor	Pickup rollover	5	N/A		4 treated at hospital and released; 1 remained hospitalized
8/7	Poe Cabin Fire ID Dept. of Lands White Bird, ID	Firefighting Burnout operations	Federal/FS	Entrapment	3	0		3 individuals received radiant burns to their face, neck and arms

Date	Fire Location Jurisdiction	Activity	Agency/Entity of Personnel Involved	Type of Accident	Number of People	# Shelters Deployed	Fatalities	Injuries
8/12	Cascade Fire Complex Warm Lake Road Boise NF Cascade, ID	Driving Relocating dumpster	Contractor	Garbage truck rollover	2	N/A		Minor injuries
8/12	Cascade Fire Complex Warm Lake Road Boise NF Cascade, ID	Hiking to ICP following truck accident	Contractor	Entrapment	2	0		No injuries
8/14	Rombo Mountain Fire Bitterroot NF MT	Felling a green tree, hit a snag which hit the sawyer	Federal/FS	Struck by hazard tree	1	N/A		Minor injuries
8/20	Little Goose Fire Bighorn NF WY	Firefighting	Federal/FS	Entrapment	2	0		Entrapped in vehicle, no injuries
8/23	Italian Incident CAL Fire Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit CA	Driving En route to fire	State/CA	Utility truck collision with vehicle	1	N/A		Minor injuries
8/24	TN Div. of Forestry Nashville, TN	Firefighting Flagging control line	State	Heart attack	1	N/A	1	
9/12	Pine Fire Cleveland NF Pine Valley, CA	Firefighting Dozer operations	State/CA	Entrapment	1	0		1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd degree burns to hands and face
9/12	Woodview Fire VA Dept. of Forestry Shockoe, VA	Firefighting Tractor/Plow operations	State/VA/ Volunteer	Entrapment	2 State 1 Volunteer	0		Minor injuries
9/19	Lake Isabella Fire BLM Bakersfield District Bakersfield, CA	Driving Responding to fire	Federal/BLM	Engine rollover	2	N/A		Minor injuries
9/24	Sedgwick County Fire Fire District #1 Wichita, KS	Firefighting Suppression	County/ Volunteer	Electrocution	1	N/A	1	

Date	Fire Location Jurisdiction	Activity	Agency/Entity of Personnel Involved	Type of Accident	Number of People	# Shelters Deployed	Fatalities	Injuries
10/1	Hwy 18, Big Bear Dam area San Bernardino NF San Bernardino, CA	Driving En route to fire	Federal/FS	Crew carrier rollover	8	N/A		Minor injuries, shoulder injuries
10/8	Colorado Incident CAL Fire, Monterey Unit San Jose, CA	Firefighting Dozer operations	State/CA	Dozer rollover	1	N/A	1	
10/21	Harris Fire CAL Fire, San Diego County CA	Firefighting Engine operations	State/CA	Entrapment	4	0		Minor and serious burn injuries
10/22	Santiago Fire Orange County CA	Firefighting	County	Entrapment	12	12		No injuries
10/24	Avenue 50 Riverside County Coachella, CA	Driving	County	Water tender collision with vehicle	2	N/A		Minor injuries
11/12	Chi Chi Fire Gallatin NF MT	Firefighting Suppression	County	Burnover, engine and firefighter	2	0		Smoke inhalation Injuries
11/24	Corral Fire Los Angeles County CA	Firefighting Mop-up operation	State/CA	Burns	1	N/A		Facial burns treated at Grossman Burn Center
11/24	Haverford Fire San Diego - MVU Unit Ramona, CA	Firefighting Suppression	State/CA	Retardant drop struck engine and firefighters	4	N/A		Minor injuries, lacerations
11/27	Florida Volusia Fire Institute Daytona Beach, FL	Training Chain saw and tree falling course	County	Pine tree fell on firefighter	1	N/A	1	

For calendar year 2007 there were 9 fatalities. This is a substantial decrease from the 24 fatalities that occurred in 2006. The 2007 fatalities are broken out by category below:

- Driving – 3: Three fatalities occurred when the firefighters were returning from a prescribed fire (1) and training (2).**
- Entrapments/Burnovers – 0: No fatalities occurred from firefighters being entrapped/burned over.**
- Heart Attacks – 2: One fatality occurred following the Work Capacity Test (pack test); one fatality firefighting.**
- Hazard Tree/Snag – 1: One fatality occurred when a pine tree fell on a firefighter during chain saw training.**
- Aviation – 1: One fatality occurred when helicopter was performing logistical support on a fire.**
- Other – 2: One fatality occurred when a dozer rolled over while constructing fire line; one fatality occurred by electrocution.**

Some other national reports may report additional wildland firefighter fatalities in 2007. The criteria for the NWCG-SHWT Safety Gram doesn't take into account those fatalities that occurred when firefighter are "responding to station" for a fire.

The NWCG Safety & Health Working Team would like to request any Investigation Reports from agencies that experienced the above or other fatalities, entrapments, and major accidents in 2007 or previous years. 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.

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