



**TO :**

**FROM :** National Wildfire Coordinating Group

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

**DATE :** 08/02/2006

**SUBJECT :** SAFETY ADVISORY : NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS LEVEL 5 SAFETY CONCERNS AND MITIGATIONS

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## **SAFETY ADVISORY: NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS LEVEL 5 SAFETY CONCERNS AND MITIGATIONS**

As we enter National Preparedness Level 5, the Federal Fire and Aviation Safety Team (FFAST), in coordination with the National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC), would like to emphasize the following key safety points:

- A high number of entrapments and burnovers have occurred this fire season. One common denominator in these incidents has been RAPID CHANGES IN FIRE BEHAVIOR. Review NWCG Safety Advisory: Extreme Fire Behavior (issued 7/20/06: <http://safenet.nifc.gov/notice.nsf> -- study it with your firefighting colleagues. In addition, the following are concerns for firefighter and public safety:
  - Expect reburn potential
  - Winds have highly variable direction and speed
  - Anticipate extreme rates of spread and extraordinary fire behavior
  - Fire whirls developing from terrain, dry atmospheric condition and strong surface instability.
- Driving still remains one of the highest risks during wildland fire operations.
  - Recent accident investigations have discovered personnel are not wearing seat belts. Seat belts are required to be worn at all times during vehicle operations - NO EXCEPTIONS! Local fire units and incident management teams are encouraged to conduct spot checks to ensure compliance.
  - To help manage driver fatigue, whenever possible, mobilization should not occur prior to 0500; and during demobilization resources should be able to return to home units or reassignments no later than 2200 hours
- Resource shortages are already occurring. Recognizing this, it is important that the fatigue of firefighters and support personnel be closely monitored, and that proactive countermeasures to mitigate fatigue be identified and implemented. Remember work/rest guidelines are the minimum and supplementary time off to reduce fatigue should be given as deemed necessary.
- The Draft 2006 NWCG Safety Gram is attached for review and can be utilized for briefing purposes.



Safety Gram CY06.doc

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# SAFETY GRAM SAFETY GRAM

DRAFT – ALL DATA IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

## Fatalities, Entrapments and Serious Accident Summary for 2006

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 2006. 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
2/9	Hildreth Pool Road Fire, Montague, Texas	Firefighting	Federal / USFS	Dozer Accident	1	0		Neck & pelvis injuries
2/18	Chisholm Fire, Clinch County, Georgia	Firefighting	State	Entrapment	1	1		1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> degree burns
3/1	Stephens County, Duncan, Oklahoma	Firefighting	Volunteer	Burnover	2	0	1	1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> degree burns
3/2	Carroll County, Sylvatus, Virginia	Firefighting	Volunteer	Burnover	3	0		1 <sup>st</sup> degree burns, smoke inhalation and heat exhaustion
3/2	Yuma County, Eckley, Colorado	Firefighting			4	0		2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> degree burns, minor injuries

<b>Date</b>	<b>Jurisdiction, Location</b>	<b>Activity and Type of Accident</b>	<b>Agency / Entity of Personnel Involved</b>	<b>Type of Accident</b>	<b>Number of People</b>	<b># Shelters Deployed</b>	<b>Fatalities</b>	<b>Injuries</b>
3/5	Waynesville, North Carolina	Firefighting	Volunteer	Heart Attack	1	0	1	
3/12	Gray County, Groom, Texas	Firefighting	Volunteer	Engine Rollover	3	0	1	Broken back, neck, leg and burns
3/12	Shamrock, Texas	Firefighting	Volunteer	Burnover	1	0		
3/19	Moundville Fire, Montello, Wisconsin	Firefighting, Curtain Deployment	State	Entrapment	1			
3/21	Camden Fire, Mark Twain N.F., Salem, Missouri	Firefighting	Federal / USFS	Entrapment	1	0		2 <sup>nd</sup> degree facial burn
4/7	Yancey Fire, Medina County, Yancy, Texas	Firefighting	Volunteers	Burnover	2			2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> degree burns
4/8	Brookings County, Elkton, South Dakota	Firefighting	Volunteer	Vehicle Accident (Towing)	1		1	
4/12	Lake Andes N.W.R.C. New Holland, South Dakota	Prescribed Fire, Firefighting	Federal / F&W	Entrapment	2			Minor burns
4/13	Bolivar, Tennessee	Prescribed Fire, Line Construction	State	Snag	1		1	
4/17	Sabine National Forest, Milam, Texas	Prescribed Fire, Firefighting	Federal / BLM	Entrapment	1	1		1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> degree burns
4/19	Run Away Fire, Gila Bend, Arizona	Firefighting	Volunteer	Smoke Inhalation	1		1	
4/21	Ponca City, Oklahoma	Prescribed Fire, Firefighting	Volunteer	Vehicle Accident (Run Over)	1		1	
6/14	Maxwell, New Mexico	Driving	Contractor	Vehicle Rollover	1		1	

Date	Jurisdiction, Location	Activity and Type of Accident	Agency / Entity of Personnel Involved	Type of Accident	Number of People	# Shelters Deployed	Fatalities	Injuries
6/18	Rivera Mesa Fire Las Vegas, NM	Firefighting	Federal / FS	Entrapment	1			
6/30	Scorpio Fire, Box Elder County, Utah	Firefighting	Federal / BLM	Entrapment	2	1		2 <sup>nd</sup> degree burn
7/2	Big Draw Fire, Mountain Home, Idaho	Firefighting	Federal / BLM	Engine Accident (Run Over)	1			Broken right leg & fractured left foot
7/6	Cheyenne River Agency, Eagle Butte, South Dakota	Firefighting	Federal/BIA	Entrapment	4	0	0	1 firefighter – 2 <sup>nd</sup> degree burns to ears, nose, face
7/11	Sawtooth Complex, Pioneertown, Ca.	Firefighting	Federal/ State	Entrapment	9	0		Minor burns and smoke inhalation
7/18	Little Venus Fire, Cody ,Wyo	Multi-Use Fire	Federal BLM/FS	Entrapment	10	10		none
7/21	Winnemucca, Nevada	Firefighting	Federal- BLM	Engine Rollover	3			none
7/25	New York Peak Fire Denio, Nevada	Firefighting	Federal- FS	Entrapment	6	0		2th and 3th degree burns
7/26	Florida	Firefighting	State	Burnover	1			1th degree burns
	<b>-Draft-</b>	<b>-8/01/06-</b>	<b>-Draft-</b>				<b>-8-</b>	<b>-08/01/06-</b>

**Outline:** The following is a short summary of the type of accidents experienced in 2006.

**Driving:**

**Heart Attacks:**

**Prescribed Fire:**

**Aviation:**

**Wildland:**

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 2006. Safety Gram reporting criteria can be found at [http://www.nwcg.gov/teams/shwt/safetygram\\_criteria.pdf](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](mailto:stan_palmer@nifc.blm.gov).

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