



SAFETY GRAM 2024

Fatalities, Entrapments and Accident Summary for 2024 (<http://www.nwcg.gov/committee/risk-management-committee>) The following data indicates the fatalities, [entrapments](#), burnovers and fire shelter deployments during calendar year 2024. The information was collected by the [Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center](#) and verified by the NWCG Risk Management Committee. This information is updated through 12/31/2024.

Fatalities

Date	Incident Name Jurisdiction Location	Activity	Agency/Entity of Personnel Involved	Type of Accident	Number of People	# Shelters Deployed	Fatalities	Injuries/Treatment
1/18/2024	Glendale Fire Department Fatality Glendale, SC	Initial Attack	Volunteer Fire Department	Medical	1	0	1	While at the scene of a brush fire, a firefighter suffered a medical emergency. He was immediately taken to the hospital where he passed away a short time later from an apparent heart attack.
3/30/2024	Virginia Division of Forestry Fatality Charlottesville, VA	Initial Attack	State	Medical	1	0	1	While at the scene of a wildfire, a firefighter collapsed and was

								transported to the hospital where he was pronounced deceased.
4/16/2024	Montana State DNRC Fatality Miles City, MT	Fitness Training	State	Medical	1	0	1	A firefighter suffered a medical emergency during a practice for the work capacity test. CPR was immediately performed, and they were transported to the hospital where they were pronounced deceased from an apparent heart attack.
6/11/2024	La Crosse VFD Fatality La Crosse, IN	Initial Attack	Volunteer Fire Department	Medical	1	0	1	Firefighter Caldwell responded to a field fire. Later, Members of his department went to his residence to check on him. They found him deceased inside the home.
6/21/2024	AT-802 SEAT Accident Capitan, NM	Aviation	Contractor	Aviation	1	0	1	SEAT crash during ferry flight between air bases.
7/9/2024	Fremont-Winema NF WCT Fatality Bly, OR	Fitness Testing	Federal USFS	Medical	1	0	1	A wildland firefighter collapsed after successfully completing a Work Capacity Test. Medical aid was rendered but firefighter was pronounced deceased at Sky Lakes Medical

								Center, in Klamath Falls, OR.
7/10/2024	Horse Gulch Fire Scooper Crash Helena, MT	Aviation	Contractor	Aviation	1	0	1	A single engine water scooper crashed on Hauser Reservoir near Spokane Bay.
7/25/2024	Falls Fire SEAT Crash Fatality Burns, OR	Aviation	Contractor	Aviation	1	0	1	SEAT went missing, aircraft and deceased pilot located next day.
10/22/2024	Hawthorne Fire UTV Accident Fatality Berlin CT	Initial Attack	Fire Department	UTV Accident	3	0	1	UTV rollover during initial attack.
11/09/2024	Sterling Forest Hit by Tee Fatality	Initial Attack	State	Hazard Tree	1	0	1	During initial attack a firefighter was struck by a falling tree.
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Fatality Summary

Vehicle 1	Burnover/Entrapment 0	Aviation 3
Medical 5	Hazard Tree 1	Other/Unknown 0

Non-fatal Incidents

Date	Incident Name Jurisdiction Location	Activity	Agency/Entity of Personnel Involved	Type of Accident	Number of People	# Shelters Deployed	Injuries/Treatment
1/31/2024	Buffalo Pasture Prescribed Fire Entrapment South Dakota	Prescribed Fire	State	Entrapment	2	0	After an ATV being used for prescribed fire ignitions tipped over during a period of increased fire behavior, the operator escaped to the black and the ATV was overtaken by fire.
2/29/2024	Pony Lake Fire Entrapment Nebraska	Initial Attack	Federal	Entrapment	2	0	An engine stopped to cut a fence when a wind shift occurred resulting in the engine being overtaken by fire. One firefighter sustained burn injuries.
3/20/2024	Compartment 22 Prescribed Fire Georgia	Prescribed Fire	Federal	Entrapment	1	0	A firefighter became entangled in vegetation, fire and heat impacted their location.
4/18/2024	Funston Road Fire Entrapment North Carolina	Initial Attack	State	Entrapment	4	0	A Tractor Plow got stuck. Attempts to free the tractor plow were not successful leading to the unit being burned over.
4/25/2024	Blankenship Hollow Fire Entrapment Kentucky	Initial Attack	State	Entrapment	1	1	Initial Attack – single firefighter entrapped and deployed shelter.
6/13/2024	South Beaver Prescribed Fire Scouting Utah	Prescribed Fire	Federal	Entrapment	2	0	Two firefighters scouting when fire behavior increases. One knows of a rock scree nearby and they use rock scree as safety zone.
7/05/2024	Balsam Root Fire Washington	Initial Attack	State	Entrapment	1	0	Digging handline, crew escapes flame front, one crewmember further away and narrowly escapes.

7/07/2021	Salt Creek Fire Dozer Oregon	Extended Attack	Contractor	Entrapment	1	0	Dozer operator realized SZ not big enough and improves it, reports being trapped by fire. Heavy helicopter and large airtankers used to cool area for egress.
7/13/2024	Trout Fire Entrapment California	Initial Attack	Federal	Entrapment	7	0	Jumpers in jump spot begin firing operation as main fire approaches, Air Attack sends helicopter for emergency extraction.
7/27/2024	Battle Mountain Complex Entrapment Oregon	Extended Attack	Contractor	Entrapment	20	0	While working a slop over, fire behavior increased. Crew reported being entrapped, burning out, and preparing to deploy shelters. No shelters were deployed, crew eventually hiked out of the area.
10/09/2024	Yellow Lake Vehicle Burnover Utah	Extended Attack	Federal	Vehicle Burnover	0	0	Crew Supt vehicle got stuck while scouting, Supt hiked out, vehicle eventually burned over.
10/01/2024	Jack Wells Fire Engine Burnover Washington	Initial Attack	State	Entrapment	5	0	Two Type-6 Engines were overrun by fire during initial attack. Crewmembers took refuge behind engines as flame front passed. No injuries.
Serious Accident Totals					46 People Involved	1 Shelter Deployed	

The Risk Management Committee would like to request any Fire Agency/Organization that experiences a fatality(s), or entrapment(s) to follow the guidance provided on this form: [PMS 405-1 Fire Entrapment / Fatality Initial Report](#). In the event that a wildland fire entrapment or fatality occurs, it should be reported immediately to the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC). A Wildland Fire Entrapment/Fatality Initial Report should be completed and mailed to NICC electronically or by fax machine within twenty-four (24) hours.

Definition of Entrapment:

“A situation where personnel are unexpectedly caught in a fire behavior-related, life-threatening position where planned escape routes or safety zones are absent, inadequate, or compromised. An entrapment may or may not include deployment of a fire shelter for its intended purpose. These situations may or may not result in injury. They include "near misses."

– [NWCG Glossary](#)

Annual Incident Review Summaries from the Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center can be found at:

[Annual Incident Review Summaries | Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center \(wildfire.gov\)](#)

Many specific accident investigation reports/reviews/analysis may be found at the Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center repository at: [Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center's Incident Review Database \(IRDB\) \(wildfire.gov\)](#). For corrections to the above information [please click here](#).