



SAFETY GRAM 2026

Fatalities, Entrapments and Accident Summary for 2026 (<https://www.nwcg.gov/committee/risk-management-committee>) The following data indicates the fatalities, [entrapments](#), burnovers, and fire shelter deployments during calendar year 2026. The information was collected by the [Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center](#) and verified by the NWCG Risk Management Committee. This information is updated through 09/21/2026

Fatalities

Date	Incident Name Jurisdiction Location	Activity	Agency/Entity of Personnel Involved	Type of Accident	Number of People	# Shelters Deployed	Fatalities	Injuries/Treatment
02/27/2026	Tri-Lakes Fire Dept. Entrapment Fatality Texas	Initial Attack	Fire Department	Entrapment	1	0	1	While attempting to return to engine, firefighter was overrun by grass fire.
03/08/2026	Butler County Fire Protection Response Fatality Missouri	Response	Fire Department	Vehicle Accident	1	0	1	While responding to a brush fire, vehicle left roadway and overturned.
04/23/26	Hilliard Fire Department Medical Fatality Florida	Initial Attack	Fire Department	Medical	1	0	1	While fighting a brushfire, experienced a medical emergency.

06/27/2026	Knowles Fire Entrapment Fatalities Colorado	Initial Attack	Forest Service, Wildland Fire Service	Entrapment	5	unknown	4	While IA-ing two fires, were overrun by another fire. One firefighter survived.
07/07/2026	Slocum VFD Medical Emergency Fatality Texas	Initial Attack	Fire Department	Medical	1	0	1	Suffered a cardiovascular event during IA.
07/12/2026	Gold Mountain Aviation Mishap Fatality Colorado	Aviation Operations	Contract	Aviation Mishap	1	0	1	Aviation mishap during water dropping operations.
08/06/2026	Wrights Spring Fire Dozer Entrapment Fatality Oregon	Dozer Line Construction	Contract	Entrapment	1	Unknown	1	While engaged in line construction, contact was lost with the operator. Operator was found with fatal injuries.
08/07/2026	Widemouth 2 Fire Helicopter Fatalities Utah	Aviation Operations	Contract	Aviation Mishap	2	0	2	Mishap occurred during water dropping operations.
08/11/2026	Bear Trap Fire Medical Incident Fatality	Initial Attack	Tribal	Medical	1	0	1	Initially reported as shortness of breath and chest discomfort.
08/14/2026	Wellston Oklahoma Medical Emergency Fatality	Initial Attack	Fire Department	Medical	1	0	1	Collapsed after suffering a medical emergency at a brush fire.
08/23/2026	Frijoles Fire Medical Incident New Mexico	Extended Attack	Wildland Fire Service	Medical	1	0	1	Camp Crew member suffered a medical emergency
08/29/2026	Railroad South Fire Evacuation Entrapment Fatality Oklahoma	Evacuations	Wildland Fire Service	Other	1	0	1	Entrapped in a structure during evacuations.
09/09/2026	Austin Fire Hit by Tree Fatality Oregon	Tree Felling	Contract – Forest Service	Hit by Tree	1	0	1	Top broke out of tree while felling. Struck in the head and back.
09/20/2026	Dome Fire	Aviation Operations	Contract – Forest Service	Aviation Mishap	2	0	2	Helicopter performing water

								dropping operations, experienced a hard landing.
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Fatality Summary

Vehicle 1	Burnover/Entrapment 6	Aviation 5
Medical 5	Hazard Tree 1	Other/Unknown 1

Non-Fatal Incidents

Date	Incident Name Jurisdiction Location	Activity	Agency/Entity of Personnel Involved	Type of Accident	Number of People	# Shelters Deployed	Injuries/Treatment
03/17/2026	East Ute Plaza Fire Entrapment Utah	Initial Attack, Firing	Fire Department	Entrapment	1	0	2nd & 3rd degree burns on 7% of body.
03/23/2026	Cottonwood Fire Vehicles Burned Incident Nebraska	Extended Attack	Federal	Burnover (vehicles)	0	0	None

03/27/2026	Cedar Canyon Fire Entrapment Oklahoma	Initial Attack	Fire Department	Entrapment	2	0	2nd & 3rd degree burns
03/29/2026	Hwy 1498 Fire Entrapment Kentucky	Initial Attack	State	Entrapment	1	0	Severe burn injuries
03/31/2026	Louisa FD Entrapment Kentucky	Structure Protection	Fire Department	Entrapment	2	0	Minor burns
05/01/2026	Covelo South Prescribed Fire Burn Entrapment California	Prescribed Fire	CAL FIRE	Entrapment	4	0	Minor burns
05/04/2026	Tulelake National Wildlife Refuge Prescribed Fire ATV Burnover	Prescribed Fire	Wildland Fire Service	Burnover	1	0	No injuries. ATV a complete loss.
05/18/2026	Lyon County Brush Truck Burnover Kansas	Initial Attack	Fire Department	Burnover	Unknown	0	No injuries. Brush truck is total loss.
06/23/2026	Wagon Fire Vehicle Burnover Washington		Fire Department	Burnover	2	0	Minor burns
07/04/2026	Chelan Hills Vehicle Entrapment Washington	Initial Attack	Wildland Fire Service	Entrapment	3	0	Two separate incidents that happened at the same time on different parts of the fire. Minor burns and smoke inhalation for three.
07/04/2026	Chelan Hills Vehicle Entrapment Washington	Initial Attack	Wildland Fire Service	Entrapment	2	0	Two separate incidents that happened at the same time on different parts of the fire. Burns to face, neck, and ear. Smoke inhalation.
07/16/2026	Lyons Ferry Fire Entrapment Washington	Initial Attack	WA DNR	Entrapment	3	0	Minor burns. One shelter was removed from its outer casing.
07/16/2026	Kaiser Canyon Fire Dozer Entrapment Washington	Initial Attack	Wildland Fire Service	Entrapment	1	0	2 nd degree burns.

07/18/2026	Brook Fire Entrapment Burn Injuries California	Initial Attack	CAL FIRE	Entrapment	7	0	Six received minor burns, one was admitted to a burn unit.
07/25/2026	Coleman Creek Engine Compartment Fire and Entrapment Oregon	Extended Attack	Wildland Fire Service	Entrapment	4	0	One received burn injuries. All treated for smoke inhalation.
09/10/2026	Lucas Fire Engine Burn Damage California			Burn Over	Unknown	0	No injuries. Engine a complete loss.
Entrapment Totals					33 People Involved	0 Shelters 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 \(lessons.wildfire.gov\)](#)

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 \(IRDB\) \(lessons.wildfire.gov\)](#). For corrections to the above information [please click here](#).