

# FIRELINE SAFETY GRAM



90-01

PREPARED AND DISTRIBUTED ON BEHALF OF THE NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP  
Post Office Box 96090, Room 1004 RPE, Washington, D.C. 20090-6090

## ACCIDENT/INCIDENT SUMMARY: 12 FATALITIES AND 54 ENTRAPMENTS

A review of the 1989 major accidents and "near misses" based on data gathered by the NWCWG Fireline Safety Committee reveals that 12 fatalities and 54 entrapments associated with forest and wildland fire suppression were reported by federal and state agencies, and municipalities.

Federal agency and State fatalities resulted from an entrapment, a falling tree, and lightning. In addition, one firefighter drowned while swimming off duty, and another firefighter died of a heart attack while in camp.

### 1989 Fatalities

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Cause</u>	<u>Organization</u>
3/27/89	Ohio	Entrapment	State
7/9/89	California	Tree Fell	CDF
7/10/89	Tonto NF	Lightning	BIA
7/10/89	Payette NF	Drowning	FS
9/17/89	Wenatchee NF	Heart Attack	FS

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) reported that municipal and volunteer fire services suffered seven bush and timber fire related fatalities.

The 54 reported entrapments compare favorably with the 1988 season, when 74 were reported.

### 1989 Entrapments

<u>Date</u>	<u>Fire</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Persons</u>	<u>Shelters Deployed</u>	<u>Injury</u>
3/27/89	Buckhorn	Ohio	5 (ST)	No	1 fatal 1 burn
5/31/89	Gentile	Florida	1 (ST)	Yes	burns
6/16/89	Bonita S.	Florida	1 (ST)	Yes	burns
6/24/89	Shelley	Gila NF	41 (FS)	Yes	1 smoke
7/8/89	Eagle	California	5 (CDF)	Yes (3)	4 burns
12/25/89	Titus	Texas	1 (ST)	No	burns

Forty-eight shelters were deployed in the 54 entrapment situations, ten firefighters sustained some degree of burn injury.

The chain of fire related events began on March 27 in Ohio and concluded on December 25, 1989, in Titus, Texas.

These figures are based on reported incidents. The Committee would appreciate notification from agencies that experienced other entrapments or major accidents in 1989. Individuals involved in incidents/accidents would not be identified. If other incidents did occur, please forward information to:

Chairman, NWCWG Fireline Safety Committee  
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Washington, D.C. 20090-6090