



January 24, 2003

To: NWCG Members

From: NWCG-Safety and Health Working Team

Subject: 2002 SAFETY GRAM

The 2002 SAFETY GRAM is attached. It summarizes wildland and prescribed fire fatalities, entrapments and vehicle accidents for all wildland fire management organizations throughout the United States in 2002. New for the 2002 SAFETY GRAM is inclusion of serious accidents which occurred without a fatality.

The fatalities occurred in many of our fire fighting activities. We experienced three fatalities while employees were taking the Work Capacity Test. Eleven fire fighters were fatality injured in five driving accidents. Five pilots died when their two retardant aircraft crashed, and one helicopter pilot died in Colorado while fighting fires.

Fire fighter safety will be enhanced when our firefighters learn about the accidents, entrapments and fatalities occurring yearly. Knowing of past accidents aids in taking corrective actions to reduce the risks associated with fire fighting activities.

Please provide wide distribution of the 2002 SAFETY GRAM to your respective agencies.