

2002

ACCIDENTS – INJURIES – BURNOVERS – DEPLOYMENTS – FATALITIES

March 28 – Back Forty Fire – Cherokee NF, TN – USFS and FWS employees, scouting line in a bowl on an over-slung old logging road – Deployment/Entrapment (2)

May ?? – Two North Dakota grass fires – two separate fatalities on two separate fires

June 17 – Bluecut Fire – San Bernardino NF, CA – while an Engine Strike Team was attempting a firing operation in direct support of structure protection to residences ahead of the fire, Burnover/Entrapment, Minor Burns of three firefighters and damage to Engine

June 21 – Hayman Fire, CO – Grayback Forestry Contract Crew enroute to fire – vehicle carrying 11 firefighters involved in one-vehicle rollover after driver evidently fell asleep, crossed median, and over-corrected – 5 fatalities, 3 serious injuries, 3 minor injuries

June 30 – Price Canyon Fire - BLM Price, UT – smokejumpers completing firing operation on plateau when several columns combined influencing each other, and ultimately column collapsed and radically influenced fire behavior – Deployment (2)

July 2 – Missionary Ridge Fire, CO – firefighter/faller struck from behind by a fire-weakened aspen tree after a windstorm blew threw the area - fatality.

July 13 - Pumphouse Fire – Yakama IR – dozer and dozer boss constructing indirect fireline ahead of main fire – fire never reached them - Shelter Deployment (2)

July 14 - Marble Fire – Ute Mountain IR, UT – two separate fires in rugged terrain staffed by helicopter with two IA squads just before dark to same helispot; very strong thunderstorm passed through the area radically influencing both fires late at night - Shelter Deployment (2)

July 15 – Eyerley Fire - Deschutes NF and Warm Spring IR – IHC crewmember – escaping from a slop-over on the fireline, firefighter received serious burns on both hands (not wearing gloves)

June 17 – Walker, CA - USFS-contracted Lockheed C-130A airtanker broke apart in flight – 3 fatalities

July 18 – Big Elk Fire - Roosevelt NF, CO - USFS-contracted P4Y-2 airtanker broke apart in flight – 2 fatalities

July 24 – Pepper Fire – Rock Springs BLM, WY – unattended semi tractor and two water trailers near fire edge burned when unexpected wind late at night re-ignited unstaffed fire edge - BLM vehicles destroyed (3)

July 24 – Toolbox Fire – Fremont NF/Lakeview BLM, OR – Type II Contract Crew - firing/holding operation - Shelter Deployment (20), minor burns (“I ordered the deployment to calm the [crew’s] fears and give protection against the heat.”)

July 28 - Stanza Fire – Klamath NF, CA – Engine rollover when driver’s rear tire went over the road edge during night shift – 3 fatalities, 2 injured, vehicle totaled

July 30 – Big Elk Fire – Roosevelt NF, CO – Llama helicopter engine failure while supporting two crews in a firing operation; pilot narrowly and heroically avoided crewmembers on the fireline – pilot fatality.

August 1 – Klink Knob Fire – PVT Meade County, SD – while performing a mobile running attack, firefighter pitched out of a slip-on unit Engine - serious burn injuries (1) later resulting in death

August 12 – TX – firefighter fell from brush truck and run over - fatality

August 17 – Tiller Complex, Halfway Helibase, Umpqua NF, OR – while taking a “break to swim in the South Umpqua River ... the employee was swinging from a rope tied from a tree along the riverbank when she lost her grip and fell to the ground.” – critical injuries

September 1 – Curve Fire - Angeles NF, CA – three USFS Engines, providing structure protection, were cut off on a dead end road with fire established below in a canyon, when wind switched 180 degrees and fire made a run up-canyon toward them. All three Engines stayed together and positioned themselves near a structure with a circular driveway and fire burned over them – all individuals stayed inside their Engines - Shelter Use (2) inside one Engine as heat shields – one Engine crew used SCBA because of excessive smoke in cab - no injuries – minor damage to one Engine.

September 3 – Leona Fire - Angeles NF, CA – during structure protection, fire made downhill run toward structures and two LA County Engines – firefighters from one Engine retreated to cab for protection – Engine(s) burned over – Shelter Use (2) to cover windows while inside one Engine – Flame Impingement/minor damage to one Engine