



File code: 6730
Route to: **Temple Tait-Ochs**

Date: **August 22, 2002**

Subject: Expanded (72-Hour) Briefing
**Umpqua National Forest, Tiller Ranger District, Tiller Complex Halfway Helibase
August 17, 2002**

To: **Regional Forester**

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Name of injured or deceased (if the next of kin have been notified): **Carly C. Pearson**

Preliminary factual findings:

While working at the Halfway Helibase the employee took a break to swim in the South Umpqua River. The employee was swinging from a rope swing tied from a tree along the riverbank when she lost her grip and fell to the ground. She rolled and slid into the water. Coworkers assisted her, the on-site medic stabilized her and she was medivaced to Rogue Valley Medical Center in Medford, OR.

Narrative:

The incident occurred at 1330 hours on 8/17/02 while the helicopters were down due to an inversion. The river was immediately adjacent to the helibase. First aid and evacuation procedures went smoothly and the employee was delivered to the hospital in approximately 45 minutes from the time of injury. The employee incurred a severed spinal cord and crushed vertebrae. She is currently being treated in the Intensive Care Unit.

The Accident Analysis Team has not been able to speak to the injured employee due to her medical condition.

The Incident Management Team is currently evaluating and correcting hazards associated with the river.

/s/ Team leader

John Ouimet

cc:

Safety Manager: **Temple Tait-Ochs**

Official case file:

Exhibit 1-2

