



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Six Rivers
National Forest

1330 Bayshore Way
Eureka, CA 95501-3834
(707) 442-1721 Text (TTY)
(707) 442-1721 Voice

File Code: 6700/5100

Date: July 21, 2009

Route To:

Subject: Preliminary 24-hour Briefing of Firefighter Fatality

To: Regional Forester – Randy Moore

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Location: Adjacent to the Willow Creek Helibase – Trinity River – Approximately one half mile north from the town of Willow Creek, Ca.

Date of occurrence: July 21, 2009

Time of occurrence: Approximately 1010 PDT

Report By: Tom Hudson

Activity: Rappel Proficiency

Mission: Training

Number of fatalities: One

Narrative: The helicopter and crew were assigned to the Backbone incident and were engaging in a proficiency rappel when a rappeller fell while descending from the aircraft. An Accident Investigation Team is being mobilized at this time. The individual was provided medical attention immediately at the scene. The Base medical staff, the Humboldt County Coroner's Office, and the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office were dispatched and involved in the initial response.

/s/ Tyrone Kelley
TYRONE KELLEY
Forest Supervisor

cc: Tom Wagner, Paul Brewster, Gary Morgan, Jami Anzalone, Dennis Hogenson, Gary Brown, Lori Clark, Vince Welbaum, Sharon Heywood, Patty Grantham, Scott Armentrout, Kerri Greene,



Michelle Reugebrink, Arlen Cravens, Nancy J Gibson, Kent Swartzlander, Kenneth R Paul,
Peter Tolosano,