



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
Office

14th and Independence Svs SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 6730

Date: August 14, 2004

Route To: 5720

Subject: Expanded (72-Hour) Briefing, Bell 205A-1
Leavenworth District, Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forest
August 11, 2004

To: Region 6 Regional Forester, Linda Goodman

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Name of injured or deceased: Patrick M. Ward

Narrative: The helicopter was performing a longline mission delivering cargo to smokejumpers on an initial attack fire approximately 20 miles northwest of Leavenworth, WA. The helicopter crashed just after delivering its first load as it began to depart the drop zone. The pilot, the only person on board the aircraft received fatal injuries.

Preliminary factual findings: At approximately 1020 PDT, on the morning of August 11, 2004, the tail rotor of helicopter N205XP struck a snag while delivering cargo via longline to smokejumpers on Incident #698. After the tail rotor made contact with the tree, the helicopter came to rest on its left side. A post crash fire consumed approximately 75% of the aircraft including the cockpit and main cabin.

/s/ Jim Golden

cc: Dick King
Ralph Dorn
William Bulger
Ron Hanks
Official case file

