



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Washington Office

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File Code: 6730

Date: July 26, 2007

Route To:

Subject: Expanded Briefing, Norcross Incident: Helicopter (N205BR) Accident, Elk Complex, Klamath NF, July 23, 2007

To: Hank Kashdan, DASHO

**THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO  
CHANGE**

Preliminary factual findings:

On July 23, 2007, at approximately 1020; a Bell Model 205A-1 owned by Idaho Helicopters, Inc. of Boise, ID, on a call-when-needed contract to the federal government, crashed on the Klamath National Forest 12 miles South/Southeast of Happy Camp, California. The pilot was fatally injured, with no passengers on-board. No other injuries or damage was reported.

Narrative:

The pilot was killed when his Bell 205 Helicopter crashed near the Elk Fire. He was providing logistical support to crews when the accident occurred. The helicopter crashed in the Bear Creek Watershed near Marble Mtn. Wilderness. A small ground fire resulted when the helicopter impacted the terrain. Crews, assisted by water dropping helicopters, suppressed this fire. Much of the helicopter was consumed in the post-crash fire. Weather conditions were light winds with clear visibility. The cause of the crash is still under investigation by an U. S. Forest Service National Serious Accident investigation Team under the jurisdiction of NTSB.

*Jim Sedell*

Serious Accident Investigation Team leader

cc:

Gary W. Helmer

