

# **PRELIMINARY (24-hour) SUMMARY REPORT**



## **Wildland Firefighter Fatality**

**November 17, 2005**

**MARVIN FIRE**

*This Preliminary Summary Report is intended to provide factual information from the first 24 hours of the accident review. It is published and distributed within a short time frame. The information contained within this report may be subject to revision as further investigation is conducted, and other reports and documents are received.*

## **Synopsis**

During fire fighting operations on the Marvin Fire in Buchanan County, Virginia, a single firefighter, was overrun by fire during the early afternoon of November 12, 2005. The fatality occurred during the initial attack phase of what would become a 350 acre incident.

## **Narrative**

During the early afternoon of November 12, 2005 the Oakwood Volunteer Fire Department was dispatched to a reported wildland fire caused by an equipment malfunction (lawnmower caught on fire). The Department's Chief, who lived near the fire department, was the first resource to dispatch to the incident. The immediate priority was the protection of a residence, and specifically a propane tank located near the woods. Prior to any other resources arriving on scene, the Chief began constructing a handline to protect the propane tank and residence nearby. Initial information gathered indicates that strong winds and very low humidity caused the fire to cross the handline below the Chief and then to advance very quickly up-slope, ultimately overrunning him during his retreat. The Chief died at the scene.