



# NEWS RELEASE

U.S. Forest Service • National Incident Management Organization – Atlanta

**Klamath National Forest**

1312 Fairlane Road, Yreka, CA 96097 • Voice (530) 842-6131 • Web: [www.fs.fed.us/r5/klamath](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/klamath)

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Fire Information: 530-629-2816

Email: [backbone.fire.info@gmail.com](mailto:backbone.fire.info@gmail.com)

[www.inciweb.org/incident/1716/](http://www.inciweb.org/incident/1716/)

## Fatal Accident During Routine Training At the Backbone Helibase Update

*WILLOW CREEK, Calif.* – Thomas Marovich, 20, of Hayward California incurred fatal injuries while performing routine rappel proficiency skill training, at the Backbone Helibase in Willow Creek.

Marovich was a second year apprentice with the Forest Service at the Modoc National Forest, and was working with the Chester Helitack Crew from the Lassen National Forest which was assigned to the Backbone Fire at the time of the accident.

At 10:10 this morning Marovich fell and incurred fatal injuries while performing the required training which is conducted at a minimum every 14 days to insure the crew's skill and proficiency.

Mr. Marovich was provided advance life support treatment immediately at the scene. The Base medical staff, the Humboldt County Coroner's Office, and the Humboldt County Sherriff's Office were also involved in the response.

The Forest Service has mobilized an accident investigation team and is working with the National Transportation Safety Board.

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