

# USA Firefighter Fatality Notification

**The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) has received notice of the following firefighter fatalities:**

Name: Richard Wheeler  
Rank: Firefighter  
Age: 31  
Gender: Male  
Status: Wildland  
Years of Service: Pending

Name: Andrew Zajac  
Rank: Firefighter  
Age: 26  
Gender: Male  
Status: Wildland  
Years of Service: Pending

Name: Tom Zbyszewski  
Rank: Firefighter  
Age: 20  
Gender: Male  
Status: Wildland  
Years of Service: Pending

Date of Incident: 08/19/2015  
Time of Incident: Pending  
Date of Death: 08/19/2015

Fire Department: Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest  
Address: 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee, WA 98801  
Fire Department Chief: Forest Supervisor Mike Williams

Incident Description: Firefighter Wheeler, Firefighter Zajac, and Firefighter Zbyszewski were killed and one additional firefighter was injured when the Twisp wildfire trapped them in their apparatus on state forest land. The firefighters, members of an engine crew from the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, were involved in initial attack operations on the fire near Woods Canyon and Twisp River Roads in Washington State when their vehicle crashed and fire overtook it after winds suddenly shifted. The injured firefighter remains in the hospital in critical condition. Several other firefighters with dozer crews were also reported to have been injured. Investigation into the fatal incident continues.

Incident Location: Woods Canyon RD and Twisp River RD, Washington