THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

**Location:** Panther Fire, Happy Camp RD, Klamath NF, California

**Date of occurrence:** July 26, 2008

**Time of occurrence:** Approximately 1515 Hours

**Team leader:** Jim Reaves

**Mission:** Fire Suppression

**Activity:** Scouting fire to merge Panther into the Siskiyou Complex, the following day

**Number injured:** None

**Number of fatalities:** One

**Narrative:** The Panther fire was initially identified on July 23, 2008. The Type 4 incident command organization transitioned to a Type 3 due to the increased complexity of the fire.

On July 26, the Type 3 Incident Commander requested that the fire Incident command organization be elevated due to the continued increase in complexity. Two firefighters who assigned by the Siskiyou Complex, arrived to conduct a routine scouting mission prior to this transition.

The two firefighters involved in this accident were Division Group Supervisors (DIVS). They were briefed by the Type 3 Incident Commander on scene and upon arrival at the fire. Following this briefing the DIVS conducted a survey of the fire-line that had been constructed in prior operational periods.
While conducting this survey their escape route was compromised by fire. One of the DIVS escaped the advancing fire by running down a steep north slope covered with extremely heavy brush. The second DIV remained in place and successfully deployed his shelter, but was later found deceased within the fire shelter. The deceased firefighter was recovered on 27 July 2008.

/s/ Jimmy L. Reaves
JIMMY L. REAVES
Station Director and Team Leader, Panther Fire Incident

cc: Ralph Dorn
Hank Kashdan