



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Klamath  
National Forest

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**File Code:** 6700  
**Route To:**

**Date:** July 27, 2008

**Subject:** Preliminary 24-hour Briefing of Panther Fire Fatality

**To:** Regional Forester

**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 for Type I team take-over the following day

**Number injured:** None

**Number of fatalities:** One

**Narrative:** The Panther fire was a Type III, 250 acre event. It was being scouted by personnel from the Type I team that was slated to take it over at 0600 the following day. At approximately 1515 hours, two individuals assigned from the Type I team were overrun by the fire front. One fatality resulted, the other individual was not injured. Accident occurred in 1987 burn scar with brush under hardwood/conifer overstory.

A serious accident investigation team has been ordered to for this incident.

/s/ Patricia A. Grantham  
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Forest Supervisor

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