



Forest  
Service

Modoc  
National  
Forest

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File Code: 5100

Date: August, 1 2015

Route To:

Subject: Firefighter Fatality Frog Incident; Preliminary Briefing

To: Randy Moore, Regional Forester, Pacific Southwest Region

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Location: Frog Incident, Big Valley Ranger District, Modoc National Forest

Date/Time of Occurrence: July 30th, 2015 approximately 1930 hrs

Mission: Initial Attack

Number Injured: none

Number of fatalities: 1

Property Damage: None

Narrative: David Ruhl died while engaged in Initial Attack activities on the Frog Incident on the Modoc National Forest. Mr. Ruhl was a USFS Engine Captain from the Mystic Ranger District, Black Hills National Forest. He was on assignment as a detailed Assistant District Fire Management Officer to the Modoc National Forest.

Contact was lost with Mr. Ruhl during initial attack when the suspected lightning-ignited fire exhibited aggressive fire behavior due to the influence of near-by thunderstorms. A search and rescue effort was immediately put into action, but was hampered by darkness and continued fire spread.

At approximately 0915 on July 31st the body of Mr. Ruhl was located.

A U.S. Forest Service review team is en-route to the incident.

Amanda G. McAdams  
Forest Supervisor

cc: Jeanne Wade Evans  
Shawna Legarza  
Paige Boyer  
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Steve Schlientz  
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