THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Location: Willaby Campground, Quinault Compound, Pacific District, Olympic National Forest

Date of Incident: March 12, 2018

Time of Incident: Mid to late afternoon, exact time unknown

Activity: Hazard Tree Mitigation

Number of Employees Involved: Three

Number Injured: None

Number of Fatalities: One

Property Damage: None

Narrative: A three-person crew from the Olympic National Forest had been working to mitigate hazard trees on a local campground. One employee had climbed a tree and had removed several limbs over the span of the afternoon. The employee began to complain of dizziness and descended the tree under his own power. The crew was in the process of packing their gear for the day when the employee began to complain about dizziness again. The employee collapsed, began to convulse, and became unconscious. The two other members of the crew notified emergency response personnel (9-1-1) and initiated CPR. The employee was transported to Grays Harbor Community Hospital in Aberdeen, WA where he was pronounced deceased later that evening.

Additional inquiry is on-going.

RETA LAFORD
Forest Supervisor
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    John Giller, Director, Fire and Aviation Management
    Buddy Byrd, R6 Regional Safety and Health Manager
    Yewah Lau, District Ranger, Hood Canal Ranger District
    Doug Parrish, Olympic Forest Safety Manager
    John Petty, Acting SORO Fire Operations Safety Manager (BLM)