



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
Office

14th and Independence Ave. SW.
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File code: 6730

Date: 07/24/2003

Route to:

Subject: Preliminary (24-Hour) Briefing

To: Thomas J. Mills, Designated Safety and Health Official

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AN SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Location: North Fork Ranger District, Salmon Challis National Forest

Date of occurrence: 7/22/03

Time of occurrence: 1600 hrs. mdt

Team leader: Linda Donoghue

Mission: Extended Attack

Activity: Wildland Fire Suppression

Number injured: 0

Number of fatalities: 2

Property damage (such as to vessels, equipment, and structures): NA

Narrative: The Cramer Fire was first detected on Sunday afternoon, July 20, 2003. On Tuesday, July 22 at approximately 1600 hrs two wildland fire helicopter rappellers, Jeff Allen, 24, and Shane Heath, 22, were burned over and suffered fatal injuries. Mr. Allen and Mr. Heath were preparing a heli-spot uphill from the fire in dry flashy fuels at the time of the incident.

Terrain at the fatality site consisted of 60 to 70% slopes with a south facing aspect. Temperatures in the Salmon - Lemhi area were near 100 F, relative humidity was less than 20%, and observed winds were out of the northwest at 14 mph with gusts to 21 mph.

cc:

Safety Manager (at the level authorizing the investigation)



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