



**File Code:** 6730  
**Route To:**

**Date:** August 24, 2015

**Subject:** Twisp River Fire Firefighter Fatalities and Injuries 72 Hour Report

**To:** Lenise Lago, Designated Agency Safety and Health Official

**LOCATION:** Approximately four miles northwest of Twisp, Washington.

**DATE OF OCCURRENCE:** August 19, 2015

**TIME OF OCCURRENCE:** Approximately 1500 – 1600 Hours

**ACTIVITY:** Initial Attack of Wildfire

**NUMBER OF INJURIES:** One US Forest Service Employee

**NUMBER OF FATALITIES:** Three US Forest Service Employees

**PROPERTY DAMAGE:** Engine destroyed

**NARRATIVE (NOTE THAT ALL TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE):**

On August 19, 2015, at 12:30 p.m., the Twisp River Fire was reported by the Okanogan County Sheriff's Office to the Northeast Washington Interagency Communications Center (NEWICC) in Colville, Washington. The fire was about two acres in size. NEWICC notified the Central Washington Interagency Communications Center (CWICC) in East Wenatchee, Washington. CWICC dispatched multiple resources, including Engine 642, from the Methow Valley Ranger District on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. Between 2:45 p.m. and 3:00 p.m., fire activity increased as winds and smoke shifted. At 3:00 p.m., dispatch was notified of an entrapment on the incident. At 4:00 p.m., incident personnel reported fatalities and injuries and requested Life Flight. U.S Forest Service firefighter Daniel Lyon, 25, was airlifted to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, Washington. Engine 642 was located on a hillside about 40 feet below Woods Canyon Road. The engine was upright and burned over with three deceased U.S. Forest Service firefighters inside. The deceased firefighters were Tom Zbyszewski, 20, Andrew Zajac, 26, and Richard Wheeler, 31.



A U.S. Forest Service Coordinated Response Protocol (CRP) Team in briefed with the Forest on Friday, August 21st. The team is conducting interviews with selected personnel to learn from this tragic event.

*/s/ John Phipps*

JOHN PHIPPS

Coordinated Response Protocol Response Leader

cc: Angela Coleman, Jim Pena, Tom Harbour, Steve Schlientz, Mike Williams