



Forest
Service

Washington
Office

1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

File Code: 6730

Date: June 13, 2013

Route To:

Subject: 72 Hour Preliminary Report, Saddle Back Fire Firefighter Fatality, Modoc NF

To: J. Lenise Lago, DASHO

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Location: Warner Mountain District, Modoc NF

Date and time of occurrence: Approximately 1655, June 10, 2013

Team Leader: John Phipps

Mission: Initial Attack

Number of fatalities: One

Narrative: Redding Smokejumper Luke Sheehy was struck by a falling portion of a tree while constructing a fire line on the Saddle Back Fire in the Modoc National Forest, South Warner Wilderness. The jumper aircraft returned to the scene and delivered five additional jumpers and trauma equipment. Sheehy was treated by fellow smokejumpers at the scene and flown by AirMed 3 to a hospital in Alturas, California, but all efforts to revive him failed.

A Forest Service Chief's level safety investigation team is in place conducting a review to learn from the events leading up to this accident.

/S/ JOHN PHIPPS

JOHN PHIPPS

Team Leader

cc: Steve Schlientz

