Forest Service | Washington Office | 1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

File Code: 6730
Route To: (6730)

Date:

Subject: Accident Review Board Safety Action Plan - Dutch Creek Tree Felling Fatality

To: Fire Directors, USDA Forest Service and National Park Service; Station Director, Missoula Technology Development Center

An Accident Review Board (ARB) was convened on July 1, 2009, to review the safety investigation report of the Dutch Creek Tree Felling Fatality.

A co-lead Forest Service and National Park Service Safety Investigation Team conducted the investigation and presented the Factual Report and Management Evaluation Report to the ARB. The reports were reviewed and approved with some revision. A Safety Action Plan (SAP) was developed by the ARB with a focus on key items that, when implemented, could help prevent similar mishaps in the future. We approve the ARB's recommendations.

Please review the enclosed SAP and take appropriate steps to ensure completion of each respective action by the assigned date. The Forest Service's Office of Safety and Occupational Health should be notified as each item is completed.

For further information, please contact Dr. Gary W. Helmer, ghelmer@fs.fed.us or (703) 605-5139.

THOMAS L. TIDWELL
Chief

DANIEL N. WENK
Acting Director, National Park Service

Enclosures

cc: Ralph Dorn, Michael May

Forest Service | Washington Office | 1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

File Code: 6730
Route To: (6730)

Date: JUL 16 2009

Subject: Accident Review Board Letter of Transmittal - Dutch Creek Tree Felling Fatality

To: Chief, U.S. Forest Service and Director, National Park Service

On July 25, 2008, a firefighter, working the Iron Complex Fire, died as the result of a tree felling incident. A safety investigation team, co-lead by the Forest Service and National Park Service, was dispatched to investigate the accident. The team's Factual Report and Management Evaluation Report were presented to the Accident Review Board (ARB) and were accepted with some revision.

The Accident Review Board (ARB) has recommended corrective measures to help prevent similar accidents from recurring in the future. Please review and approve the enclosed Safety Action Plan (SAP) and letter.

CHARLES L. MYERS
Co-Chair, Accident Review Board

MICHAEL MAY
Co-Chair, Accident Review Board

Enclosure

cc: Michael May, Ralph Dorn

Recommendation 01 – Propose to the Fire Executive Council (FEC) to require the implementation of an incident-within-an-incident plan for Incident Management Teams (IMT) to include a risk assessment process.
Responsible Unit: Fire Executive Council
Lead Unit: Agency Fire Directors
Completion Date: October 1, 2009

Recommendation 02 – Propose to the FEC for the development of a planning protocol designed to integrate incident management operations into local/county/state/region emergency services systems.
Responsible Unit: Fire Executive Council
Lead Unit: Agency Fire Directors
Completion Date: October 1, 2009

Recommendation 03 – Propose to the FEC for the development of rescue operations training competencies, to include medical evacuation (air/ground), for incident management operations with a focus on the management of emergency response for incident personnel.
Responsible Unit: Fire Executive Council
Lead Unit: Agency Fire Directors
Completion Date: October 1, 2009

Recommendation 04 – Propose to the FEC to append the current medical plan section (Incident Command System Form ICS 206) that each incident action plan shall identify procedures for medical emergency, rescue and evacuation. This should include the addition of a risk assessment of resources (air/ground), emergency operations, identification of resources, location, capabilities and contact information.
Responsible Unit: Fire Executive Council
Lead Unit: Agency Fire Directors
Completion Date: October 1, 2009

Recommendation 05 – Propose to the FEC the affirmation of the use of trainees in staff/line fire assignments only when direct supervisory requirements are met. In the interim, the Forest Service and National Park Service shall issue direction that prohibits the assignment of trainees in staff/line fire assignments without the requisite supervisory oversight.
Responsible Unit: Fire Executive Council
Lead Unit: Agency Fire Directors
Completion Date: October 1, 2009

Recommendation 06 – Update the specification for General Services Administration Type IV First Aid Kit (item #6545-01-010-7754) to meet the requirements of Department of Labor Standard 29 CFR 1910.266 – Logging standards. The Forest Service and National

Park Service shall issue interim policy to have all existing kits supplemented with 2 sterile 8" x 10" gauze pads.
Responsible Unit: Missoula Technology and Development Center
Lead Unit: Forest Service, Office of Safety and Occupational Health
Completion Date: October 1, 2009

Recommendation 07 – Conduct a review and assessment of the quality assurance process for wildland fire engines from the point of assembly through delivery to receiving unit.
Responsible Unit: National Park Service
Lead Unit: National Park Service, Fleet Management
Completion Date: October 1, 2009

Recommendation 08 – Propose to the FEC a review and assessment, as necessary, for processes, competencies, and training for emergency terminology and organization for incident management communications centers. Additionally, standardized incident communications center protocols for emergency operations should be developed.
Responsible Unit: Fire Executive Council
Lead Unit: Agency Fire Directors
Completion Date: October 1, 2009

CHARLES MYERS
Co-Chair, Accident Review Board

MICHAEL MAY
Co-Chair, Accident Review Board

APPROVED CM / MKM DISAPPROVED_____/_____

DATE 7/16/09 / July 10, 2009

THOMAS TIDWELL
Chief, U.S. Forest Service

DANIEL N. WENK
Director, National Park Service