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United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:
Y14(9560)

November 2, 2009

Memorandum

To: Regional Directors

From: Associate Director, Visitor and Resource Protection /s/ **Karen Taylor-Goodrich**

Subject: Accident Investigation: Factual Report and Accident Review Board Safety Action Plan-Dutch Creek Tree Felling Fatality

The factual report and safety action plan for the Dutch Creek Incident has been released.

Firefighter Andrew “Andy” Palmer died of blood loss due to blunt force trauma on July 25, 2008 after being struck by a portion of a falling tree. The accident occurred on the Eagle Fire of the Iron Complex located on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. Andy was an engine crew member stationed in Olympic National Park.

An interagency Serious Accident Investigation Team (SAIT) was convened immediately after the accident occurred. The SAIT was co-led by the National Park Service and United States Forest Service. Subsequently, the two agencies convened a joint Board of Review (BOR) and Accident Review Board (ARB) to evaluate the Accident Investigation: Factual Report submitted by the SAIT. The BOR/ARB reviewed the findings and developed eight recommendations in a Safety Action Plan. Copies of this information, along with additional material, are available at <http://www.nps.gov/fire>.

The purpose of Serious Accident Investigations is to help prevent similar incidents in the future. I encourage you and your staff to review the report. If you have questions or need additional information please contact Tom Nichols, Chief, Division of Fire and Aviation at 208-387-5216, William Kaage, Chief, Branch of Wildland Fire at 208-387-5225, or Superintendent Karen Gustin at 360-565-3004.

cc: Associate Regional Directors, Operations
Regional Fire Management Officers