

# USA Firefighter Fatality Notification

**The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) has received notice of the following firefighter fatalities:**

Name: James Shelifoe, Jr.  
Rank: Firefighter  
Age: 23  
Gender: Male  
Status: Wildland  
Years of Service: Pending

Name: Alan Swartz  
Rank: Firefighter  
Age: 25  
Gender: Male  
Status: Wildland  
Years of Service: Pending

Date of Incident: 08/27/2016  
Time of Incident: 1500hrs  
Date of Death: 08/27/2016

Fire Department: Beartown Fire Department - Keweenaw Bay Indian Community  
Address: 16429 Bear Town Road, Baraga, MI 49908  
Fire Department Chief: CEO Larry J. Denomie III

Incident Description: Firefighters Alan Swartz and James Shelifoe, Jr. were killed when the fire apparatus (crew vehicle) they were riding in on Interstate 35W near Blaine, Minnesota, crashed into the median barrier and rolled a number of times. Several other firefighters riding in the truck were seriously injured and transported to the hospital. The firefighters, members of the Beartown Fire Department's Type 2 wildland handcrew, were on their way to work the Box Canyon Fire in Utah when the crash occurred. The fatal incident remains under investigation by authorities.

Incident Location: Southbound Interstate 35W & 95th Avenue, Blaine, MN

Tribute is being paid to Firefighter Alan Swartz and Firefighter James Shelifoe, Jr. at <http://apps.usfa.fema.gov/firefighter-fatalities/>