



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Cleveland National Forest
SO

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File Code: 6730

Date: April 8, 2008

Route To:

Subject: Preliminary (24-hour Briefing)

To: Randy Moore, Regional Forester

**THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO
CHANGE:**

Location: Trabuco Ranger District, Cleveland National Forest, Region 5

Team leader: Ronald Ashdale

Date of occurrence: April 7, 2008

Time of occurrence: Reported at 12:40 pm

Mission: Pleasants Peak Brush Crushing Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project

Activity: Crushing brush with D-6 bulldozer using crushing ball

Number injured: None

Number of fatalities: One (1)

Property damage: D-6 Dozer (Contract)

Narrative:

On the morning of April 7, 2008, a contract dozer operator (Barler Equipment, Inc.) was performing hazardous fuels reduction brush crushing activities work, as part of the Pleasants Peak brush crushing project, contracted with the USDA Forest Service. The dozer operator was performing work in steep terrain when his D-6 dozer rolled over and he appears to have been ejected. The dozer operator and scattered pieces of the dozer were found by a Forest Service special use permit holder who was performing work on a nearby project. The permit holder contacted Cleveland National Forest Emergency Communication Center to report the incident. The Forest Service response consisted of both Fire and Law Enforcement personnel.



Other responding agencies included Orange County Fire Authority, Orange County Sheriff-Coroner Department, Cal-OSHA and a representative from Barler Equipment, Inc. The dozer operator was pronounced dead on the scene by the Coroner.

A Fact Finding Investigation is underway to determine the cause of the accident.

/s/William Metz
WILLIAM METZ
Forest Supervisor

Cc: Jim Pena, Deputy Regional Forester; Chris Iverson, Acting Deputy Regional Forester; Gene Smalley, Regional Safety Manager; Peter Tolosano, Regional Fire Safety Officer