

The International Association of Wildland Fire (IAWF) has received notice of the following wildland firefighter fatality.

Our condolences go out to the families and co-workers.

Name: Gregory Mack Simmons

Rank: Firefighter

Age: 50

Gender: Male

Status: Volunteer

Years of Service: 20+ years, including eleven years with the local Fire Department

Date of Incident: 15 April 2011

Time of Incident: 1300 hours

Date of Death: 15 April 2011

Fire Department: Eastland Volunteer Fire Department

Fire Department Address: 414 S. Seaman Street, Eastland, TX 76448

Fire Department Chief: David Hunsinger Sr.

Incident Description: Firefighter Simmons died while fighting a 3000 acre brush fire. While seeking safety from an area being overrun by flames during wildland firefighting operations, Firefighter Simmons passed away from "blunt force trauma consistent with being struck by a vehicle" based on information from the Tarrant County medical examiner.

Reports indicate that while he and other firefighters were trying to escape the fire and exit the pasture where they had been battling the fire, their truck was blocked at a gate by other fire apparatus. Firefighter Simmons exited his truck and went toward County Road 323. It is possible that he ran into or near the smoke obscured roadway and was struck by an unknown vehicle.

Investigation into the incident continues as a pedestrian crash by the Texas highway Patrol. Originally the media and others had reported the fatality as an entrapment incident.

Incident Location: County Road 323, Carbon/Eastland, TX