



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington Office

14th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 6730

Date: August 17, 2006

Route To:

Subject: Expanded Briefing
Krassel Helicopter Accident
August 13, 2006

To: Hank Kashdan, DASHO

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

Name of injured or deceased:

Quin R. Stone, Evergreen Helicopters, Inc. Contract Pilot
Michael Gene Lewis, Krassel Helicopter Manager
Monica Lee Zajanc, Helitack Crewmember
Lillian M. Patten, Fire Lookout

Preliminary factual findings:

On August 13, 2006, at approximately 1730, helicopter N355EV, a Eurocopter AS 350 B3 under contract to the Forest Service by Evergreen Helicopters, Inc., crashed on the Payette National Forest 18 miles west of Yellowpine, ID. The pilot and three Forest Service employees on board were fatally injured.

Narrative:

The helicopter was returning from Williams Peak Lookout tower to Krassel Helibase. Weather conditions were light winds with relatively clear visibility. The helicopter crashed on US Forest Road 48 near the confluence of the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River and the South Fork of the Salmon River. There was a post-crash fire and much of the helicopter was consumed. The cause of the crash is still under investigation under the jurisdiction of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). A Forest Service National Serious Accident Investigation Team is working with the NTSB.

/s/ JANETTE S. KAISER

Serious Accident Investigation Team leader

cc:

Dick King



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