

BLUE SHEET

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

Preliminary Summary Report of Serious CAL FIRE Injuries, Illnesses, Accidents and Near-Miss Incidents



Inmate Firefighter Fatality Cuesta Camp San Luis Obispo Unit

January 4, 2012

12-CA-SLU-000127

12-CSR-000008

California Southern Region

This Preliminary Summary Report is intended as an aid in accident prevention, and to provide factual information from the first 24 hours of the accident review. To that end it is published and distributed within a short time frame. Information contained within may be subject to revision as further investigation is conducted, and other reports and documents are received.

Lookout

Communications

Escape Routes

Safety Zones

SYNOPSIS

On January 4, 2012, at approximately 3:45 p.m., near the conclusion of a crew training hike, a Fire Crew Captain leading the Cuesta Firefighter Training Crew contacted the San Luis Obispo ECC to request a medical response. First Responders and Ambulance were dispatched to the scene. An Inmate Firefighter was transported to a local hospital in San Luis Obispo where he was later pronounced dead.

NARRATIVE

At approximately 3:23 p.m., a training crew of 17 Inmate Firefighters supervised by a Fire Crew Captain, began a 20 minute, .66 mile training hike. During the hike, one of the Inmate Firefighters collapsed. CPR was initiated and the Inmate Firefighter was transported to a local hospital where resuscitation efforts continued unsuccessfully. The patient was pronounced dead at 4:42 p.m.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

While no causal factors can be established until the cause of death has been medically determined, the following factors should always be considered prior to, and at anytime during, arduous physical activity:

- Physical conditioning
- Hydration
- Physical health
- Weather
- Nutrition