

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

**J. Hank Hester**

Southwest Area Incident Management Team 3

Grand Canyon, Arizona

---

On the afternoon of September 8, 2025, Firefighter/Equipment Operator J. Hank Hester collapsed while performing suppression repair at the Dragon Bravo Fire near the Grand Canyon North Rim in Arizona. Line paramedics performed CPR at the scene, but Firefighter/Equipment Operator Hester could not be resuscitated. The suspected cause of death is a cardiovascular emergency.

**Age:** 70

**Sex:** Male

**Classification:** Wildland Contract

**Date of incident:** September 8, 2025

**Date of death:** September 8, 2025