



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
UNITED STATES WILDLAND FIRE SERVICE

In Reply Refer to:

Date: August 24, 2026

To: Brian Fennessy, Chief, U. S. Wildland Fire Service

From: Michael Spilde, Southwest Geographic Area Deputy Fire Chief, U.S. Wildland Fire Service

Subject: 24-Hour Preliminary Report: Frijoles Fire Medical Incident

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Location: Santa Fe, New Mexico

Date of Occurrence: August 23rd, 2026

Time of Occurrence: Approximately 1022

Activity: Incident Support Crew

Number of Fatalities: 1

Narrative: On August 23rd, 2026, at approximately 1022 hours (MDT), an Administratively Determined (AD) hire sponsored by the U.S. Wildland Fire Service suffered a medical emergency while assigned to the Frijoles Incident. Emergency medical care was administered, and the individual was transported by ALS ambulance to CHRISTUS St. Vincent Regional Medical Center in Santa Fe, NM where the employee was sadly pronounced deceased.

Initial details about the incident are being gathered, and formal notifications are underway. Support for affected personnel and the individual's family is being coordinated through a Serious Incident or Fatality (SIOF) response team.

cc:

Christopher Wilcox, United States Wildland Fire Service

Erin Phelps, United States Forest Service

Tyler McCowan, United States Wildland Fire Service

Persephone Whelan, United States Forest Service