



U.S. Fire Administration
Working for a fire-safe America

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

Pilot Nicholas Dale

Helicopter Express

Chamblee, Georgia

Pilot Nicholas Dale was killed while conducting firefighting operations on the Gold Mountain Fire when his helicopter crashed in the Silver Jack Reservoir located in southwestern Gunnison County, Colorado. Investigation into the incident continues.

Age: 56

Classification: Wildland Contract

Years of service: 31

Date of incident: July 12, 2026

Date of death: July 12, 2026