



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
UNITED STATES WILDLAND FIRE SERVICE

In Reply Refer to:

Date: September 21, 2026

To: Brian Fennessy, Chief, U. S. Wildland Fire Service  
Sarah Fisher, Deputy Chief for Fire and Aviation Management, U. S. Forest Service

From: John Goss, Deputy Chief, California Pacific Islands GA, U.S. Wildland Fire Service

Subject: 24-Hour Preliminary Report: Dome Fire

## THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

**Location:** Dome Fire, Yosemite National Park

**Date of Occurrence:** September 20, 2026

**Time of Occurrence:** Approximately 1400

**Activity:** Wildland Fire Suppression

**Number of Fatalities:** 2

**Narrative:** On Sunday, September 20, 2026, during aviation operations on the Dome Fire a helicopter working under contract to the US Forest Service was involved in an aviation mishap resulting in two fatalities. The NTSB has been notified and will be conducting an accident investigation.

cc:

Christopher Wilcox, United States Wildland Fire Service  
Erin Phelps, United States Forest Service  
Tyler McCowan, United States Wildland Fire Service  
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