



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
Office

14th and Independence Svs SW
P.O. Box 96090
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File Code: 6730

Date: May 15, 2004

Route To:

Subject: Preliminary (24-Hour) Briefing

To: Regional Forester

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Location: Mailbox Wildland Fire, Osceola Ranger District, Florida National Forests

Date/Time of occurrence: May 13, 2004, 1700 Hours (Approximately)

Team leader: William Damon, Forest Supervisor, George Washington and Jefferson National Forest

Mission: Wildland fire suppression

Activity: Initial attack

Number injured: None

Number of fatalities: One

Property damage: None

Narrative: At approximately 1200 hours on May 13, 2004, U. S. Forest Service and Florida Division of Forestry firefighters responded to a wildland fire on the Osceola Ranger District near Lake City, Florida. A U. S. Forest Service firefighter died while working on the fireline. The deceased firefighter was assigned as a Safety Officer on the incident.

The fire was contained later in the day at 95 acres in size.

The investigation is ongoing. At this point in the investigation it does not appear that the death of the firefighter was the result of an entrapment or burnover. The investigation team is awaiting results of an autopsy and continuing with investigation of other aspects of the incident.

cc:

Southern Region Safety Manager

Official case file

