



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
Office

14th and Independence Svs SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 6730

Date: May 17, 2004

Route To:

Subject: Expanded (72-Hour) Briefing
Mailbox Incident Fatality
Osceola Ranger District, National Forests in Florida
Date of Incident: May 13, 2004

To: Regional Forester

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Name of Deceased: Randy R. Henderson (Next of Kin Have Been Notified)

Randy Henderson was serving as a Safety Officer on the Mailbox Incident. Between 1540 hours and 1715 hours on May 13, 2004, Mr. Henderson apparently collapsed approximately 33 feet inside the fireline on an old fireline in an area of unburned fuels. Subsequent to Mr. Henderson's collapse a low-intensity backing fire moved through the area where Mr. Henderson collapsed. Mr. Henderson's body was found at approximately 1715 hours by the Incident Commander and one of the firefighters.

Preliminary analysis of fire weather and fire behavior indicate no unusual or extreme fire behavior on the incident. The wildland fire was first spotted at approximately 1200 hours and was declared contained by 1900 hours the same day and was 95 acres in size.

The location where Mr. Henderson's body was found was eleven yards from a wide bladed fireline which could have served as a safe area had any unusual fire activity occurred, and there was a clear, open path from the location of the body to the fireline.

A review of Mr. Henderson's Red Card Qualifications shows that Mr. Henderson was fully qualified for the position he was filling on the Incident and that he passed the arduous pack test on October 23, 2003. In addition, all other personnel on the incident were determined to be fully qualified for the positions that they filled on the incident.

At this point it does not appear that Mr. Henderson's death was the result of an entrapment or burnover.

The medical examiner's report on cause of death has not been completed. Investigation of the Mailbox Incident Fatality continues.

/s/Bill Damon
William E. Damon, Jr.
Team Leader

cc:
Southern Region Safety Manager
Official case file

