



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

News Release

Idaho State Office, Idaho

September 23, 2020

Contact: Ken Frederick, 208-373-4031

Pilot perishes in airtanker accident near Emmett

BOISE, Idaho—On Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2020, at approximately 7 p.m. MDT, a Single Engine Air Tanker with one pilot on board was involved in a fatal accident during initial attack operations on the Schill Fire, located approximately 2 miles southeast of Emmett.

The pilot, Ricky Fulton, perished. The aircraft, T-857, was owned by Aero S.E.A.T. Incorporated and was on an on-call contract with BLM Fire and Aviation at the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho.

Firefighters on the scene rendered medical aid to the pilot and called for Life Flight, but the pilot did not survive his injuries.

“We offer our sincere condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of the pilot lost in this tragic accident,” said acting Boise District Manager Tanya Thrift. “This reminds us of the inherent risks involved in wildland firefighting and the gratitude we owe to the courageous and committed men and women who serve willingly to protect lives, property, and natural resources.”

The DOI Office of Aviation Services, in conjunction with the National Transportation Safety Board, will conduct an investigation into the accident.

The 37-acre Schill Fire started at approximately 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 22 in grass and brush in steep terrain. It was contained at approximately 10 p.m. on Tuesday. Firefighters are working to have the fire controlled at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 23.

The cause of the Schill Fire is under investigation.

-BLM-

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land located primarily in the 11 Western states and Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. In fiscal year 2018, the diverse activities authorized on BLM-managed lands generated \$105 billion in economic output across the country. This economic activity supported 471,000 jobs and contributed substantial revenue to the U.S. Treasury and state governments, mostly through royalties on minerals.