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**File Code:** 6730

**Date:** July 29, 2007

**Route To:**

**Subject:** Expanded (72-hour) Briefing –  
Angora Wildland Fire Entrapment and Shelter Deployment  
Tahoe National Forest

**To:** Chief of the Forest Service

**THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE:**

Preliminary Critical Information:

At approximately 1500 on Tuesday June 26, 2007, two Forest Service Employees were entrapped by a wildland fire and deployed their fire shelters. The firefighters remained in their new generation shelters approximately 30 to 40 minutes while the fire burned around them. Neither firefighter was injured.

Narrative:

On Sunday July 24<sup>th</sup> 2007 the human caused Angora Wildland Fire was discovered near Fallen Leave Lake south of South Lake Tahoe. Aggressive suppression actions were implemented immediately but under conditions of high winds and critically low fuel moistures the fire spread to approximately 2500 acres and overtook numerous homes and other structures. A type 2 Incident management team, Swartzlander took command of the fire on Monday June 25<sup>th</sup>. A type 1 Incident Management team, (Hawkins) took command of the fire at 0600 hours on Tuesday June 26<sup>th</sup>.

During the afternoon of June 26<sup>th</sup>, the two Forest Service firefighters involved in the deployment were assigned to a Shasta Trinity National Forest type 3 engine. Their engine was assigned to a strike team of engines working with other strike teams to patrol a road that would be used as a containment line that day. Early in the afternoon, winds caused spot fires near the location of the Shasta Trinity Engine. Two members of the engine crew worked to suppress the spot fires as additional spot fires were developing. The two firefighters were approximately 800 feet from their engine when conditions deteriorated significantly with increased winds, spotting and extreme fire behavior. The firefighters tried to escape back to their engine but were cut off by emerging spot fires. The firefighters retreated to a grassy clearing where they deployed their shelters.

On June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2007, An Accident Prevention Analysis (Peer Review) Team was formed and is currently conducting a comprehensive review of the incident.

/s/ Ray A. Haupt  
Accident Prevention Analysis Team Leader

cc: Allison Good  
Gary Helmer