

Wildland Firefighter Deaths While Operating on Wildland Fires 2003-2012

This summary does NOT include members of career or volunteer fire departments. It also does not include the deaths of firefighters while responding to or returning from wildland fires, or while at base camps during wildland fires.

From 2003 through 2012, 40 wildland firefighters were killed while operating on wildland fires. They included:

- 14 employees of federal land management agencies
- 11 contractors to federal land management agencies
- 9 employees of state land management agencies
- 4 members of the military
- 1 contractor to a state land management agency
- 1 supervisor of an inmate firefighting crew

The causes of death included:

- 19 killed in crashes (18 killed in 12 aircraft crashes and 1 killed when a bulldozer overturned)
- 12 killed by rapid fire progress (10 were fatally burned and 2 died of smoke inhalation)
- 4 suffered sudden cardiac death
- 3 were struck by falling trees or snags
- 1 died of heat stroke in extremely hot weather
- 1 fell from a waterfall or cliff

In addition, two employees of federal land management agencies died while working on controlled burns. One was overrun by fire and died of burns and the other was struck by a snag.