
Rappell accident/fatality in Willow Creek, CA 07/21/2009

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Fatal Accident During Routine Training at The Backbone Helibase Update

Incident: Backbone Wildland Fire

Released: 5 hrs. ago(07/21/2009)

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NEWS RELEASE

U.S. Forest Service ý National Incident Management Organization - Atlanta

Klamath National Forest

1312 Fairlane Road, Yreka, CA 96097 ý Voice (530) 842-6131 ý Web: www.fs.fed.us/r5/klamath

Shasta-Trinity National Forest

3644 Avtech Parkway, Redding, CA 96002 ý Voice (530) 226-2500 ý Web: www.fs.fed.us/r5/shastatrinity

Six Rivers National Forest

1330 Bayshore Way, Eureka, CA 95501 ý Voice (707) 442-1721 ý Web: www.fs.fed.us/r5/sixrivers

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Release No. FS-07 21 09 (2) July 21, 2009

Fire Information: 530-629-2816

Email: backbone.fire.info@gmail.com www.inciweb.org/incident/1716/

Â Fatal Accident During Routine Training At the Backbone Helibase Update

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WILLOW CREEK, Calif.

- Thomas Marovich, 20, of Hayward California incurred fatal injuries

when falling while performing routine rappel proficiency skill training, at the Backbone Helibase in Willow Creek.

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Marovich

was a second year apprentice with the Forest Service at the Modoc National Forest, and was working with the Chester Helitack Crew from the Lassen National Forest which was assigned to the Backbone Fire at the time of the accident.

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At 10:10 this morning

Marovich fell and incurred fatal injuries while performing the required training which is conducted at a minimum every 14 days to insure the crew's safety and skill proficiency.

The individual was provided advance life support treatment immediately at the scene. The Base medical staff, the Humboldt County Coroner's Office, and the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office were involved in the response.

The Forest Service has mobilized an accident investigation team and is working with the National Transportation Safety Board.