



# **Safety & Health Working Team**

## **24-Hour Report Serious Accident Investigation Team Team Lead – Jim Loach**

**Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks  
October 3, 2004**

Wildland firefighter Daniel Holmes, age 26, of Bellingham, Washington was killed yesterday when he was hit by a falling top of a dead tree on the Grant West Prescribed Fire in Kings Canyon National Park. He was a member of the Arrowhead Interagency Hotshot Crew. Daniel's family has been notified.

The accident occurred shortly after operations began at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 2. With a four-acre test burn ignited, the top of a white fir tree unexpectedly fell where firefighters were working, striking Holmes. Approximately 20 firefighters witnessed the accident and provided immediate medical assistance. Holmes was carried to a waiting ambulance by his fellow crewmembers, but died while being transported to a Lifeflight helicopter landing zone in the park. Daniel never regained consciousness after the accident and was pronounced dead by the Lifeflight medical crew out of Fresno, California.

A National Interagency Serious Accident Investigation Team is assembling in the park.

/s/ Jim Loach  
10/03/04  
1730 hrs.