



AIRWARD NEWS

In Recognition of Professional Performance during a Hazardous Aviation Event or Significant Contribution to Aviation Mishap Prevention

March 2002

Teamwork Saves Helicopter Pilot



On November 12th, a Bell 407 lost tail rotor authority while making water drops on the Great Gulf Fire in the Daniel Boone National Forest in Kentucky. The helicopter crashed in an open area surrounded by trees. The pilot received serious injuries and was unconscious. The quick response of another helicopter, several crew personnel, air attack and the dispatcher saved this helicopter pilot. The pilot was taken to a local hospital where he immediately began recuperating. Thanks to all of you for your quick response. We gave this entire group well deserved Airwards.

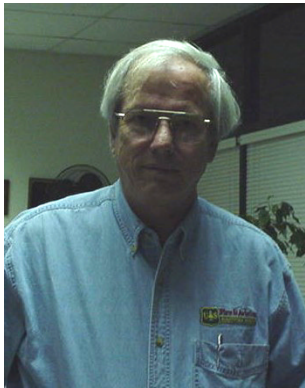
[USFS SafeCom 02-31](#)

Above picture: Back row from left: Robin Vinovich, Mike Flynn, Stephan Hiltbrunner and Linden McNeilus. Front row from left: Sean Cox, Jay Saunders and Lon Patterson.

Picture right: Danny Hill, Angela Taulbee and Michael Colgan.

Not pictured: Elliot Colter, Gene Madden, Sam Gibbons and Barry Huber.





The Snake Killer

George Martin, a retired Forest Supervisor from Georgia, assisted the Southern Area during the heat of the fall fire season. George was assigned to the Southern Area Coordination Center as a focal point/liaison for aircraft operations. George dealt with several demanding issues on a daily basis and became known as the “Snake Killer” for his excellent knowledge and ability to control problems before they became major issues. Thanks, George, for an outstanding job!
No SafeCom submitted

Eagle Eyes

The Crew of Tanker 26 made the day for leadplane pilot Dave Stumhofer. The aircraft were working on the Clark Creek Fire in Tennessee on a nice fall day in November. As the leadplane was exiting from the hills into the valley, Brian Bruns, the co-pilot, came on the radio and warned Dave of an airplane in his path. Although Dave had his TCAS on, the other aircraft had apparently turned off his transponder. Dave was forced to keep the leadplane low to avoid a mid-air. A tragic accident was prevented due to the quick thinking, outstanding situational awareness, and appropriate action of Dean Talley and Brian Bruns. Thanks guys, this Airwards for you.
[USFS SafeCom 02-32](#)



Brian Bruns and Dean Talley



High Fives for Joint Effort

Angelia Waring, Mel Booker, Mary Morris, and Kay Matthews of the Southern Region eliminated the use of BPAs for aviation services and established a Regional CWN Airplane Contract. Way to go team! No SafeCom submitted

Pictured from left: Angelia Waring, Mel Booker, Mary Morris, and Kay Matthews and Ron Coats.

Yee Ha!



Jeff Cardin, pilot, and Ken Hawkins, maintenance technician, grabbed the bull by the horns and safely landed a Region 3 BE-58P Baron. Complications escalated during the Maintenance Acceptance Flight Check Ride on January 2 in Boise, ID. Jeff observed flames coming from the left engine nacelle about 20 feet above ground during takeoff. Ken assisted Jeff in securing the engine during emergency procedures. Together they landed the Baron without further difficulty. Nice flying, fellas! [SafeCom 02-55](#)

Top left picture: Jeff Cardin, pilot

Bottom right picture: Ken Hawkins, maintenance technician



Time Out for Safety

Nancy Barker from the Washington State Department of Natural Resources in the Northeast Region may have prevented a serious accident. On September 19, 2001, one light, four medium, and two heavy helicopters were operating out of Foster Field in the Okanogan National Forest. Nancy was assigned the helibase manager for the Boundary Fire. The helicopters were having difficulty communicating with each other and the helibase. Nancy stopped operations so the pilots and managers could discuss the plans and procedures. This “time out” may have prevented a disastrous situation. Nice call, Nancy!

[USFS SafeCom 01-768](#)





Kathleen Kennedy and Dave Broadnax

Good Catch

Kathleen Kennedy made the winning catch of the game in mission planning. Following policy, she safely and cost effectively created a proactive situation. Good catch, Kathleen! No SafeCom submitted



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