

Incident Summary Page for the Hotshot Crew Line of Duty Death

Name of Hotshots LODD: Kathi Julie Beck, age 24 Scott A. Blecha, age 27 Douglas Michael Dunbar, age 22 Bonnie Jean Holtby, age 21 Jon Roy Kelso, age 27	Tamera Jean Bickett, age 25 Levi Brinkley, age 22 Terri Ann Hagen, age 28 Robert Alan Johnson, age 26	Incident Name: South Canyon Fire
		Incident Date & Time: 07/06/1994
Hotshot Crew: Prineville	Incident Location: Grand Junction District, Bureau of Land Management, Colorado	
Personal Information		
This website link provides some personal background for each of the firefighters: https://www.southcanyonfire.com/		
Brief description		
Twelve firefighters including nine members of the Prineville Hotshot Crew were killed on July 6 at the South Canyon Fire near Grand Junction, Colorado. The fire started on July 2 from a lightning storm that had passed through the area and was burning in difficult terrain above the I-70 / Colorado River corridor. The fire resisted initial control efforts of local initial attack and Smokejumpers.		
Additional resources were ordered and the Prineville Hotshots were helicoptered into the fire mid-day on July 6. The fire behavior increased later that afternoon with the passage of a dry cold front and the fire blew up. Nine Prineville Hotshots and fourteen Smokejumpers were building hand line downhill and were caught and overrun by the fire front while retreating up to the ridge line.		
Smokejumpers Don MacKey, Roger Roth, Jim Thrash also lost their lives, as did Helitack crewmen Robert Browning, Jr. and Richard Tyler. Smokejumpers Kevin Erickson and Eric Hipke were burned and nine other Smokejumpers survived in fire shelters.		
Links to more information on this incident:		
This fire has been identified as one of the 100 fires every firefighter should know about. Please go to the 100 Fires Project website and find the South Canyon Fire on the timeline for more extensive information and references: https://wffoundation.org/100fires		

