

# Statement

## USDA Forest Service Intermountain Region

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Statement by  
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Release of the OSHA Notices of Hazards on the Cramer Fire Accident  
April 1, 2004

"The Cramer Fire near Salmon, Idaho forever changed the lives of friends, families, and colleagues of the two USDA Forest Service firefighters – Jeff Allen and Shane Heath – who lost their lives July 22, 2003. The report released in January by the Forest Service pointed to significant safety lapses as suppression activities were carried out.

"We received the results of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) investigation into this tragedy. Their investigation reached many of the same conclusions as our own review.

"Since the Cramer tragedy, the Forest Service has begun taking actions agency-wide to further reduce the risks of fighting fires. These actions are part of a national accident prevention plan based on the recommendations of an agency Board of Review. Now that OSHA has issued five notices of violation associated with that fire, we will develop a separate Hazard Abatement Plan to address the hazards and violations listed in the citations.

"Safety is absolutely our highest priority, and I want every firefighter to understand that and to act on it. We need to get to the point where safety principles pervade every aspect of firefighting. We owe it to Jeff and Shane, their families and friends."

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