

# NEWS RELEASE

## USDA Forest Service -- Northern Region



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Tarkio Fire Shelter Deployment Findings Released**

Missoula, MT – The USDA Forest Service board of review findings on the fire fighter shelter deployments by three firefighters on August’s Tarkio fire have been released.

“The review indicates the three firefighters exercised good judgment in determining an adequate safety zone,” said Gail Kimbell, Regional Forester of the northern region. “I recognize the thoughtful and deliberate decisions these firefighters made during a very stressful period of fire behavior.”

The review board determined that the three firefighters; a dozer operator and two dozer bosses, were qualified for their assignments, acted properly, and that their actions mitigated the consequences of erratic fire behavior. The deployment occurred on the evening of August 10, 2005 on the Tarkio Fire, one of the I-90 Complex of fires on the Lolo National Forest.

“Learning from a situation like this deployment is one of the most significant outcomes we can hope for,” added Larry Dawson, the northern region’s Director of Fire, Aviation and Air. He went on to recognize the appropriate actions taken by the fires’ Incident Management Team as contributing to the safe outcome.

The board of review was initiated by Kimbell and was led by Kathy McAllister, Deputy Regional Forester. They reviewed factual information compiled by the deployment investigation team assembled immediately after the incident. That team was led by Bruce Fox, a Director in the northern regional office.

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**Note:** The factual report will be posted to the web soon at: [http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire\\_r1/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire_r1/)

Other fire shelter information is available at: [http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/safety/shelter/shelter\\_index.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/safety/shelter/shelter_index.html)