

CDF NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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Accident Claims Life of Firefighter, Injures Two Crew Members

SACRAMENTO - On Saturday, August 6, 2005 at approximately 3:01 p.m., Fire Engine 58 from the CDF/Riverside County Fire Department, traveling east on Interstate 10 east of Highway 60 in Beaumont, was involved in a single vehicle accident. The engine left the freeway and traveled down a steep embankment, struck several trees and came to rest on the roadway below. As a result of the accident CDF/Riverside County Firefighter Chris Kanton, 24, was fatally injured. Two other firefighters were injured. Firefighter Richard Bruning received minor injuries. He was treated and released from a local hospital. Fire Apparatus Engineer Michael Arizaga sustained moderate injuries. He remains hospitalized at Arrowhead Regional Medical Center for ongoing evaluation and observation.

Firefighter Kanton is survived by his wife of six months, Kathryn. Cards can be sent to the family in care of:

CDF/Riverside Co. Fire Dept
c/o Kanton Family
210 W. San Jacinto Av.
Perris CA 92570

The California Highway Patrol Major Accident Investigation Team (MAIT) is conducting the investigation.

CDF/Riverside County Fire Department Chief Craig Anthony wishes to express his deepest condolences to the families of the deceased and injured firefighters. This event deeply saddens all of the members of the firefighting community and affects the members of the CDF/Riverside County Fire Department. Grief counselors have been made available to members of the fire department and family members to assist them through this difficult time.

Funeral arrangements are pending. A news release will be sent out later with those details.

