

1. OVERVIEW OF ACCIDENT

The following is the account of the CAL FIRE Dozer 4641 (D4641) rollover and fatality which occurred during a structure/wildland fire that was reported on Monday, October 8, 2007, at 12:42 PM in Monterey County, California. The incident occurred two miles east of Highway 1 on Palo Colorado Canyon Road, 11 miles south of Carmel, California. The fire was on private property in State Responsibility Area. The accident site was in a drainage branching north of Palo Colorado Canyon Road, about one mile north-west of the Mid Coast Fire Brigade Station.

CAL FIRE Heavy Fire Equipment Operator (HFEO) #1 was assisting to extract BEU D4645 that had become immobile due to topography and loose soil conditions. While constructing a bench below D4645, HFEO #1's dozer slipped off the side of the hill, rolled, and came to rest 154 feet down the drainage.

On October 9, 2007, at 2:40 PM, HFEO #1 succumbed to his injuries at San Jose Regional Medical Center. His fatal injury was from a single violent impact to the head from blunt force trauma.

On Wednesday, October 9, 2007 a Serious Accident Review Team (SART) convened. The team consisted of the following members: David Cabral, Tracy Cheek, John Ferreira (Team Leader), Kevin Gaines, Bill McDonald, Ken Mello, Mike Stebens, Kirk Swartzlander, and Eric Watkins.

Chief Chuck Maner was assigned the Agency Administrator and Chief Mikel Martin was the Incident Commander (Area Command) and oversaw the fire investigation, accident investigation, and memorial services related to this incident.