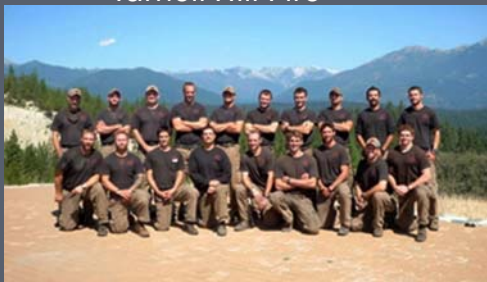


Maricopa County Mass Fatality Management Yarnell Hill Fire



Yarnell 19

- June 28, 2013 fire starts due to lightning
- June 30, 2013 Granite Mountain Interagency Hotshots arrive-20 team members
 - Winds increased substantially and the fire shifted and overran their team at approximately 1642
 - Search launched to look for them at approximately 1716



June 30, 2013

- 1835-DPS Officer/Medic on scene confirms 19 fatalities
 - One crew member survives
- OME receives call from Yavapai ME and Yavapai SO
 - Chief ME in Yavapai contacts Chief ME in Maricopa
- OME initiates call down tree
 - Recovery is scheduled for 7/1/13

All 19 were found together



July 1, 2013

- Meeting held at 0700
 - Discuss process
- Admitting Process
 - Coordination of multiple agencies
 - Honor guard
 - Transport Company/United Support Services
 - Yavapai County Sheriffs office
 - Prescott Fire Department
 - Phoenix PD and Fire
 - OME staff (2 designated investigators lead the process)

July 1, 2013

- Transport was made with the utility of multiple vans
- First decedent was admitted at 1241
- Processing time took approximately 2 hours to complete
- All 19 were unidentified

July 1, 2013

- All documentation initiated
- X-rays process started
 - Extended hours
- Designated coordination for the next day
 - Discussed the autopsy protocol
 - Firefighter protocol used as guide
 - Developed consistent approach
 - Managed oversight of daily operations
 - 9 additional cases 7/1/13

July 2, 2013

- All exams completed
 - 5 doctors
 - 9 FT's
 - 1 odontologist
 - 1 forensic anthropologist
 - One anthro volunteer
 - 1 unidentified coordinator
- All x-rays finished
- Majority of dental exams completed
- Contact with families initiated
 - Unidentified coordinator spoke with families to obtain identifying features (dental, medical hardware, tattoos, personal effects and demographic information)
 - 11 ID's confirmed
- 13 additional cases transported in 7/2/13

Examination Finding

- Thermal injuries (12)-not inside safety shelters
- Decomposed with thermal injuries (7)-inside safety shelter tents
 - Safety shelter tents equipped with withstand 300 degree temps for approx. 40 min. Wildfire was approx. 2,000 degrees.
 - GMH were trained to deploy tents within 30 sec.
- COD: Fire Related Injuries

July 3, 2013

- Remaining ID's confirmed
 - 6 ID's positively (scientifically) made by dental radiographs
 - 11 ID's confirmed by tattoos, physical description, property, etc.
 - 2 ID's positively (scientifically) made by radiographs of medical hardware
- Funeral Home release forms received
- All of the evidence and property was released
 - 19 bags (full body bags)
 - 2 designated member of staff
 - FT Supervisor
 - Investigator
 - Yavapai SO
- 16 additional cases transported in 7/3/13



Body positions at the deployment site. Numbers are based on the crew manifest.

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Eric Marsh | 8. Andrew Ashcraft | 16. William Warneke |
| 2. Jesse Steed | 10. Joe Thurston | 17. Kevin Woyjeck |
| 3. Clayton Whitted | 11. Sean Misner | 18. John Percin, Jr. |
| 4. Robert Caldwell | 12. Anthony Rose | 19. Grant McKee |
| 5. Travis Carter | 13. Garret Zuppiger | 20. Wade Parker |
| 6. Christopher MacKenzie | 14. Scott Norris | |
| 7. Travis Turbyfill | 15. Dustin DeFord | |

Cooler Capacity

- Maricopa County Office of Vital Registration help expedited releases
 - In house Cooler Capacity: Total of 138 decedents based on shelving capacity at the time of this incident (Receiving cooler: 48, Release cooler: 48, Special Procedures: 42)
- 12 additional cases transported in 7/3/13
- On average we release 12-16 bodies per day
 - Weekends 5-6
 - Holidays none

Capacity Limitations

- In preparation for the arrival of the GMH
 - 17 bodies released
 - prior to their arrival
 - 20 released on 7/2/13
 - 12 released on 7/3/13
 - 5 released on 7/4/13
 - 14 released Friday 7/5/13
 - 6 released Saturday 7/6/13

Sunday 7/7/2013 coordination

- All 19 to be released together
 - Had to be confirmed with every family
 - Calls made to confirm from 7/3/13-7/6/13
- Single Case Information Coordinator assigned to release process
- Multiple Agencies Involved
 - Honor Guard
 - Color guard
 - Phoenix Fire and PD
 - Yavapai Fire and PD
 - Prescott Fire and PD
 - Hampton FH
 - Numerous other FH's
 - Total of 20 white hearses
 - Staging within the garage

Release Escort Order

- Eric Marsh- crew supervisor
- Jesse Steed- assistant supervisor
- Travis Carter- squad boss
- Robert Caldwell- squad boss
- Clayton Whitted- squad boss
- Travis Turbyfill- firefighter
- Andrew Ashcraft- firefighter
- Dustin Deford- firefighter
- Christopher Mackenzie- firefighter
- Grant McKee- firefighter
- Sean Misner- firefighter
- Scott Norris- firefighter
- Wade Parker- firefighter
- John Percin- firefighter
- Anthony Rose- firefighter
- Joe Thurston- firefighter
- William Warneke- firefighter
- Kevin Woyjeck- firefighter
- Garret Zuppinger- firefighter

Yarnell 19



What Worked

- Single points of contact
 - PIO (Cari Gerchick)
 - Media control
 - Identification Liaison (Christen Eggers)
 - Collection of antimortem and postmortem information
 - Yavapai County Sheriff's Office (Lieutenant Tom Boelts and Officer Matt Medina)
 - Assisted with the families
 - Collected antimortem records
 - Medical Examiner (Dr. Jeff Johnston)
 - Continuity between Yavapai and Maricopa
 - Mass Fatality Coordinator (Melanie Rouse)
 - Interagency coordination
 - Honor Guard Commander (Gordy Cunningham)

Lessons Learned

- Incredible staff
- Increased threshold
- Communication
- Tested the balance of critical incidents and daily operations
 - Between 6/30/13 and 7/7/13
 - Admitted 95 cases
 - Released 74 cases
 - Plus 19 GMH



In Memory Of

Andrew Sterling Ashcraft
13-4434



Robert E. Caldwell
13-4439



Travis Clay Carter
13-4433



Dustin James DeFord
13-4431



Christopher A. MacKenzie
13-4426



Eric S. Marsh
13-4435



Grant Quinn McKee
13-4437



Sean M. Misner
13-4425



In Memory Of

Scott Daniel Norris
13-4441



Wade S. Parker
13-4442



John J. Percin, Jr.
13-4429



Anthony M. Rose
13-4438



Jesse James Steed
13-4436



Joe B. Thurston
13-4432



Travis Turbyfill
13-4443



William Howard 'Billy'
Warneke
13-4430



In Memory Of

Clayton Thomas Whitted
13-4427



Kevin J. Woyjeck
13-4428



Garret Zuppiger
13-4440



References:

- Eggers, C. (2013) Unidentified files
- OME (2013) Photos
- Rouse, M. (2013) After Action Report
- Serious Accident Investigation Report (2013) Yarnell Hill Fire