

Incident Summary Page for the Smokejumper Line of Duty Death

Name of Smokejumper LODD: Kenneth "Moose" Salyer (MYC-54)	Incident Name: Norton Creek Fire
Pilot: Byron "Skip" Knapp	Incident Date & Time: July 9, 1965
Smokejumper Base: McCall	Incident Location: Payette National Forest, Idaho
Personal Information	
<p>Kenneth "Moose" Salyer 30, was a 12 year smokejumper squad leader/spotter. A champion wrestler, he graduated from Central Washington State College and was a teacher and coach in Boise Idaho. He was survived by his wife and young son.</p> <p>Byron "Skip" Knapp 31, received a degree in Forest Management from University of Florida and a commission in the Air Force where he logged 1,266 hours as a jet pilot. He was survived by his wife and 4 young sons.</p>	
Brief description	
<p>An afternoon smoke report from the Norton Ridge lookout had McCall smokejumpers Jim Tracy (MYC-61), Ron Maki (MYC-64), Mike Kohlhoff (MYC-64) and Gary Watts (MYC-64), along with spotter Moose Salyer and Skip Knapp piloting a Beechcraft AT-11 N9327Z responding to the Norton Creek area. The bumpy 25 minute flight as well as the two sets of streamers thrown by Salyer confirmed turbulent and erratic winds. Despite some concern, the decision was made to man the fire with the four jumpers on board, as the fire was burning on the ridge top and there were several good places to land. With all four smokejumpers on the ground the Beechcraft returned for the first cargo drop. Maki remembers the Beech coming in very low on the first cargo pass and the gear bags going out directly over the ridge line and into the hotly burning fire. Maki, Tracy and Kohlhoff rushed into the fire to save the needed equipment. As they worked to contain the fire they noticed a thin column of smoke rising from a valley about two to three miles away. The second cargo drop never came.</p> <p>The Norton Ridge lookout called in the second smoke and four smokejumpers from the Idaho City base, spotted by James B. "Smokey" Stover (MYC-46) hurriedly responded. The cause of the fire was the crash of the Beechcraft, there were no survivors. Clarence "Ty" Teichert (IDC-55), Marion Horton (IDC-63), Wayne Sugg (IDC-65) and Dick Graham (IDC-58) contained the fire and as darkness fell carried the bodies of Salyer and Knapp downslope to their camp on Norton Creek. The next morning the sheriff and the coroner of Valley County arrived at the accident site by helicopter, following this the bodies were flown to the airfield at Indian Creek Guard Station.</p> <p>McCall jumpers Tracy, Maki, Kohlhoff and Watts were flown off the initial fire later that day and also arrived at the Indian Creek airfield. Both Salyer and Knapp's wives had been informed of the accident by the wife of smokejumper chaplain Stan Tate (MYC-53). Pat Knapp requested that her husband be buried on site with the aircraft. With Knapp's body already at Indian Creek it was agreed that he would be interred there.</p> <p>On Sunday July 11th Byron "Skip" Knapp was laid to rest at Indian Creek, the smokejumpers he delivered to the fire had dug his grave. The following day, services conducted by Stan Tate, were held for Skip at Indian Creek, attended by his wife and family, friends, other smokejumpers and agency officials.</p> <p>A memorial service for Ken "Moose" Salyer, also conducted by Stan Tate was held Wednesday July 14th in McCall Idaho.</p> <p>The accident report cited "unfavorable wind conditions" as a contributor to the loss of control of the Beechcraft.</p>	
Links to more information on this incident:	
https://lessons.wildfire.gov/incident/norton-creek-smokejumper-aircraft-accident-fatalities-1965 https://wlfalwaysremember.net/1965/07/09/skip-knapp-moose-salyer/ https://smokejumpers.com/magazine/remembering-the-norton-creek-disaster-and-the-deaths-of-two-friends/	

Incident Summary Page for the Smokejumper Line of Duty Death



1965

1. Paul Bradley 2. Tom Decker 3. Clarence Teichert 4. Thad Duel 5. Horace Cordove 6. Del Catlin 7. Dale Carlson 8. Neil Satterwhite 9. Clarence Greet 10. Carl Brown 11. Marion Horton 12. Bruce Montgomery 13. Frank Odom 14. Jon Petterson 15. Bill Bull 16. Ray Roark 17. Bruce Yergenson 18. Smokey Stover 19. Jim Tracy 20. Dick Lynch 21. Ron Berkey 22. Ron Maki 23. Bill Rember 24. Tom Chiprany 25. Julio Bilbao 26. Mike Kohlhoff 27. Bill Strawn 28. Bill Yensen 29. Jim Swartley 30. Jim Rush 31. Gary Watts 32. Sam Deffer 33. Jim Weaver 34. Wayne Sugg 35. Howard Koskelo 36. Bruce Granquist 37. Nick Kennedy 38. Ben McBride 39. Pete Fallini 40. Gene Hobbs 41. Vaughn Heinrich 42. Jim Lafferty 43. John Mowery 44. Dale Schmaljohn 45. Dave Austin 46. Les Rosenkrance 47. Dick Graham 48. C.J. Horner 49. Stan Ramsay 50. Gerry McCray 51. Jerry Blattner 52. Jim Lindell 53. Ken Smith 54. Ken Salyer 55. Wayne Webb

MISSING:

Max Allen, Harry Clark, John Cramer, Jim Crockett, Craig DeSilvia, Gordon Dickinson, Bill Donnelley, Allan Graham, Ed Guy, Charles Hay, Dave Hemry, Terry Lewton, Larry Looney, Bob Moloney, John Seagraves, Layton Smith

