

Incident Summary Page for the Hotshot Crew Line of Duty Death

Name of Hotshots LODD: Caleb Hamm	Incident Name: CR 337 Fire
	Incident Date & Time: 07/07/2011
Hotshot Crew: Bonneville	Incident Location: Palo Pinto County, Texas
Personal Information	
<p>Caleb Hamm, age 26, was born in Arkansas and raised in Idaho where he graduated from high school in Idaho City. He was adventurous free spirit, who was most happy in the outdoors. He was working on a degree in Fire Ecology at Weber State University. He had been a wildland firefighter for five seasons prior to joining the Bonneville Hotshots. He was survived by his girlfriend, parents and extended family.</p>	
Brief description	
<p>The Bonneville Hotshots had been on the road since June 23, first responding to a fire in Georgia and then being assigned to Texas. The crew's assignment that day was to construct hand line, cold trail and mop up in Division A of the fire. Weather conditions were very hot, with afternoon temperatures exceeding 105 degrees Fahrenheit. Around 15:50, shortly after telling a Squad Boss he felt hot and had a headache, Caleb was found collapsed and unresponsive. Crew EMTs immediately initiated an emergency medical response and requested assistance from the incident. His condition deteriorated and CPR was started while extracting him to the nearest road. After meeting up with local EMS personnel, advanced life support measures were started. At approximately 17:00 Caleb arrived at Palo Pinto General Hospital in Mineral Wells, where he was pronounced dead.</p>	
Links to more information on this incident:	
<p>https://lessons.fs2c.usda.gov/incident/cr-337-fire-fatality-2011 https://www.tdi.texas.gov/reports/fire/documents/fmloddhamm.pdf https://wildfiretoday.com/2011/07/08/firefighter-who-died-in-texas-identified/ https://wildfiretoday.com/2011/07/15/firefighters-gather-in-boise-for-caleb-hamms-funeral/ https://wildfiretoday.com/2011/10/21/report-released-for-fatality-on-cr-337-fire-in-texas/ https://wildfiretoday.com/2012/05/15/niosh-releases-report-on-cr-337-fire-fatality-in-texas/ https://wlfalwaysremember.net/2011/07/07/caleb-hamm/</p>	



Lynnette Hamm, Caleb Hamm's mother, grieves for her son on July 10 as his body was being flown from Dallas to Boise, three days after he died while fighting a wildfire with the BLM's Bonneville Hotshot crew.

Provided by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management

A fallen brother

IN REMEMBRANCE

CALEB NATHANAEL HAMM

BY PATRICK ORR

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Caleb Hamm was an outdoorsman — someone who loved nature enough to work in it every day, study it in college, and plan to make a career out of ecology so he could help preserve it.

The 24-year-old Hamm never got a chance to finish his plans, dying on July 7 while fighting a wildfire near Mineral Wells, Texas, with his Bureau of Land Management Bonneville Hotshot crew.

More than 200 wildland firefighters and fire officials — along with Hamm's family — filled a conference room in the DoubleTree Hotel Riverside in Garden City earlier this month to show support for their fallen colleague and honor Hamm's memory.

A common theme for many was how much Hamm loved to be in nature, whether riding a mountain bike, hiking with his beloved basset hound, Princess, snowboarding at Bogus Basin Mountain Recreation Area, rock climbing, snowshoeing, or studying ecology at the University of Idaho and then Weber State University.

Loving. Loyal. Uninhibited. Honest. Full of integrity. These were words family members used to describe him.

Hamm spent his summers working as a wildland firefighter



Caleb Hamm

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SHAWN RAECKE / sraecke@idahostatesman.com

During the closing moments of the funeral for fallen firefighter Caleb Hamm, members of the BLM Honor Guard carry his casket through a path of hotshot wildland fire crews at DoubleTree Hotel Riverside in Garden City on July 14.

REMEMBRANCE

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for the last several years, including work on a helitack crew before he joined a hot-shot crew this summer.

"Caleb died doing the very thing he wanted to die doing," which was protecting the ecology of the earth, said the Rev. William Sillings, who knew Hamm's family from back East.

Caleb Hamm was born in Fayetteville, Ark., on Aug. 25, 1987, and his immediate family — younger brother Seth and parents David and Lynnette Hamm — moved to the Boise area. It was a great fit for Caleb's passion for the outdoors.

Hamm graduated from Idaho City High School in 2005 and began his college — he attended both Boise State University and the University of Idaho before settling on Weber State — and firefighting adventures soon after.

Seth Hamm said his older brother always put the needs of others above himself — no matter what happened to him or anyone else he cared about, Caleb would be there.

"My brother was the most compassionate, loving

person ... he always wanted me to better myself," Seth Hamm said at the funeral while fighting back tears. "Caleb would be the one to tell it like it really was, often telling you not what you wanted to hear, but what you needed to hear."

"It's because of him I can achieve my goals."

Seth Hamm said his most cherished memory will be the day he and Caleb built a mountain bike from scratch.

Family members say Hamm was a tireless champion of ecology — doing things like telling family members he would do their dishes if they stopped using styrofoam plates or designing a recycling system for his grandparents.

Sheryl McLain, Caleb's aunt, talked a lot about his free, uninhibited spirit — the kind of spirit that allows someone to run a marathon in a thong or participate in "hashing" — a sort-of footrace where one person acts as a "hare" and leads a group of other runners on a chase, leaving scraps of paper or other items as a trail and making noises, until the end of the trail, when the reward for everyone is a bucket of cold beer.

Many tears were shed at

his funeral July 14 as Hamm's casket was carried through a phalanx of more than 100 wildland firefighters standing at attention.

Earlier that day, a procession of wildland fire engines, firefighters and law enforcement officers traveled down the Fairview Avenue/Chinden Boulevard corridor to honor Hamm.

Hamm collapsed while working the 337 Fire and was being medically evacuated to a nearby hospital when he died. An autopsy will determine the exact cause of death, but the BLM said indications are the extreme heat — temperatures in Texas that day reached as high as 105 degrees — was a primary factor.

Hamm's family has requested that instead of flowers or gifts, donations be made to the Wildland Firefighter Foundation, a nonprofit entity that helps the families of wildland firefighters who die or are injured in the line of duty.

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In Remembrance is a weekly profile on a Treasure Valley resident who has recently passed away. To recommend a friend or loved one for an In Remembrance, email newsroom@idahostatesman.com.