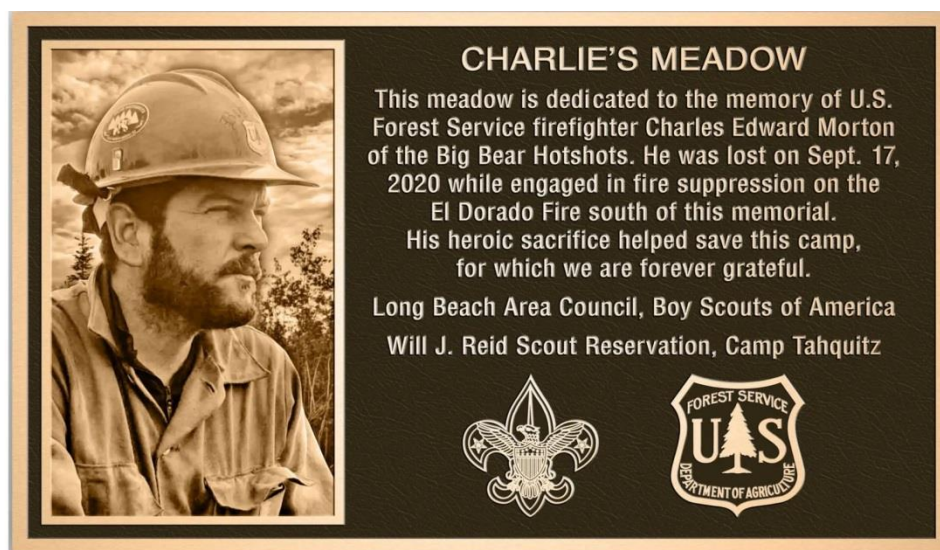


Incident Summary Page for the Hotshot Crew Line of Duty Death

Name of Hotshots LODD: Charlie Morton	Incident Name: El Dorado Fire
	Incident Date & Time: 09/17/2020
Hotshot Crew: Big Bear	Incident Location: San Bernardino National Forest, California
Personal Information	
<p>Charlie, age 39, started his wildland fire service in 2002 with the California Conservation Corps. A year later he would get a job with Firestorm in Chico, California. He would start his US Forest Service career in 2006 in Truckee, California on Tahoe Crew 1 before moving to southern California when he was hired by the San Bernardino National Forest. Charlie worked as a Senior Firefighter for the Big Bear Hotshots, Lytle Creek Engine 31, and Mill Creek Hotshots before returning to the Big Bear Hotshots as a Squad Leader in 2018. Never one to complain about a job needing to be done and no matter what the situation he would never hesitate to assist those around him.</p> <p>He was survived by his partner of 10 years, his daughter, his parents and brothers.</p> <p>A memorial to Charlie is located at Camp Tahquitz, a Boy Scout facility in the San Bernardino Mountains.</p>	
Brief description	
<p>Charlie Morton, Squad Leader with the Big Bear Hotshots died while fighting the El Dorado Fire on the San Bernardino National Forest in California. The fire was started September 5 by a smoke bomb ignited during a gender-reveal event at El Dorado Ranch Park in the foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains. On September 17 the Big Bear Hotshots and other resources were involved with burnout operations in an effort to protect the community of Angelus Oaks. After Charlie's squad completed a firing operation a wind shift caused spot fires that compromised the control lines. Charlie, while away from the squad, was assessing the situation when extreme fire behavior overwhelmed him.</p>	
Links to more information on this incident:	
<p> el_dorado_narrative_final_508c.pdf(usda.gov) https://wlfalwaysremember.net/2020/09/17/2020-09-17-ca-charles-morton/ https://lessonslearned-prod-media-bucket.s3.us-gov-west-1.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2023-07/El%20Dorado%20Fire%20Entrapment%20Learning%20Review.pdf https://lessons.wildfire.gov/incident/el-dorado-fire-fatality-2020 https://wildfiretoday.com/tag/el-dorado-fire/ https://www.sbsun.com/2022/01/11/doomed-el-dorado-firefighters-last-words-trapped-in-a-corner/ https://www.sbsun.com/2020/09/25/memorial-service-held-this-morning-for-big-bear-hotshot-charles-morton/ https://www.mercurynews.com/2021/11/19/charlies-meadow-dedicated-to-honor-fallen-hotshot-firefighter-from-2020-el-dorado-fire/ </p>	



Incident Summary Page for the Hotshot Crew Line of Duty Death



Charlie Morton