

Incident Summary Page for the Hotshot Crew Line of Duty Death

Name of Hotshot LODD: Richard Stone	Incident Name: Rabbit Peak Fire
	Incident Date & Time: 07/14/1967
Hotshot Crew: Del Rosa	Incident Location: Angeles National Forest, California
Personal Information	
Richard Stone, age 19, was born in Illinois, had graduated from Pacific High School in San Bernardino and was attending Valley College. He had celebrated his 19th birthday the day before and was survived by his parents and family.	
Brief description	
Stone was killed when the crew truck he was riding in overturned and tumbled 100 feet down an embankment. The accident occurred near Round Top Mountain on the Angeles National Forest in California while responding to the lightning caused Rabbit Peak Fire. Thirteen other members of the Del Rosa Hotshot Crew were also injured.	
Links to more information on this incident:	
https://wlfalwaysremember.net/1967/07/14/richard-stone/	





FIRE FIGHTER KILLED IN PLUNGE OF TRUCK

A truck carrying a U.S. Forest Service "hotshot" fire-fighting crew to a blaze in the Angeles National Forest overturned and tumbled down a 100-foot embankment near Round Top Mountain early Friday, killing one man and injuring 13 others.

The dead man was identified as Richard Lee Stone, 19, of San Bernardino.

Eight of the victims were admitted to Swan Memorial Hospital in Palmdale with serious injuries. A Forest Service spokesman said the other five received minor injuries.

All 14 occupants of the truck were members of the Del Rosa "hotshot" crew, a team of fire-fighting experts from the San Bernardino National Forest. They were being brought in to help with mop-up operations on a 35-acre brush and timber fire on a slope of Rabbit Peak, 20 miles north of Pasadena.

Officials said the crew truck was proceeding up a dirt road near the Chilao ranger station when a wheel apparently caught in a soft shoulder.

"The truck must have flipped six to eight times before it came to rest against a tree at the bottom of the embankment," Rodney Wrench, 24, the crew chief, recalled as he awaited treatment for his injured shoulder at Palmdale hospital.

"Most of the boys were catapulted out of the truck as it flipped over and over," he said.

Wrench had high praise for his young crew, many of whom were recent high school graduates.

The injured men were evacuated from the scene by Forest Service helicopters, which flew them directly to the Palmdale hospital.

The Rabbit Peak fire, apparently started by lightning late Thursday, was declared controlled at 6 a.m. Friday.