

Incident Summary Page for the Smokejumper Line of Duty Death

Name of Smokejumper LODD: Arden L Davis, Jr (FBX-64)	Incident Name: Pre-season Training
	Incident Date & Time: May 11, 1966
Smokejumper Base: Fairbanks	Incident Location: Fairbanks, Alaska
Personal Information	
Arden, a 2nd year Smokejumper was born in Sandpoint ID, graduated from high school in Thompson Falls, Montana and received his Forestry degree from the University of Montana in 1965. He was survived by his wife Karen and two young daughters.	
Brief description	
Arden died in the result of a practice jump accident. Cecil Hicks (NCSB-62) recounted, <i>“We were jumping three-man sticks on the University of Alaska Experimental Farm. It was the first practice jump for returning jumpers. I was the first man out, followed by Arden and Jerry Fuller (FBX-65). It was breezy. Jerry and I immediately turned into the wind and drifted backward into the trees. We wondered why Arden was running with the wind. He landed quite a distance from us. The rest of the load landed near the jump spot. We didn’t see Arden but figured that he was having a problem untangling his parachute from the trees. After retrieving our chutes and returning to the jump spot we found that Arden was not there. Tom Crane (FBX-62) Jerry Fuller, Neal Rylander (MSO-61) and I took off at a dead run toward Arden’s parachute. We found him hanging with a suspension line caught under his helmet, his Capewells popped. Apparently, he had failed to clear the suspension line and was strangled. His feet were about two feet off the ground.”</i> Jerry Timmons (MSO-62), retired Alaska Smokejumpers superintendent noted, <i>“other jumpers – Don Wahl (MSO-63), Roy Percival (NCSB-57) and Bob Webber (MSO-62) – tried to revive him, but to no avail.”</i>	
Links to more information on this incident:	
https://wlfalwaysremember.net/1966/05/11/arden-davis/ https://alaskafirememorial.com/the-fallen-1/2019/3/8/arden-davis-jr	

