

### Incident Summary Page for the Smokejumper Line of Duty Death

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| <b>Name of Smokejumper LODD:</b><br>William "Bill" Martin (LGD-79)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>Incident Name:</b><br>Training                |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>Incident Date &amp; Time:</b><br>May 31, 1991 |
| <b>Smokejumper Base:</b><br>Grangeville                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>Incident Location:</b><br>Missoula, Montana   |
| <b>Personal Information</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                  |
| <p>Bill, 34, a squad leader, was killed in a parachute training accident. An experienced Smokejumper, he was in his 12th smoke jumping season and had amassed 234 jumps.</p> <p>Born in Moscow Idaho, Bill graduated high school in Estacada Oregon and had attended Oregon State University and the University of Idaho. He began his fire career with the Forest Service in 1978, rookied at La Grande Oregon in 1979 and moved to Grangeville, Idaho starting with the 1980 fire season. Bill was an avid outdoorsman, enjoying hunting, fishing and trap shooting. He also volunteered as a youth wrestling coach in the Grangeville schools. He was survived by his wife Kathleen, his mother, three brothers and a sister.</p> |                                                  |
| <b>Brief description</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                  |
| <p>Bill and nine other experienced Forest Service Smokejumpers were training on square Ram-Air parachutes used by the BLM for an eventual transition from round parachutes. While very experienced on the static line round parachute used by Forest Service Smokejumpers, he was essentially a rookie on the new square parachute. For unknown reasons, Bill never pulled his drogue release/main chute rip cord and did not release his reserve chute until too late to prevent his fatal collision with the ground.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                  |
| <b>Links to more information on this incident:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                  |
| <a href="https://wlfalwaysremember.net/1991/05/31/william-martin/">https://wlfalwaysremember.net/1991/05/31/william-martin/</a><br><a href="https://www.lmtribune.com/obituaries/william-martin-34-grangeville-smokejumper-cbb5d4d6/">https://www.lmtribune.com/obituaries/william-martin-34-grangeville-smokejumper-cbb5d4d6/</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                  |



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**1979**

**Dave Schas (pilot), Jon Foland (loft foreman), Denny Lewis, Carl Dammann, Jim Grant (base manager), Howard Cooper, Mark Corbet**

**Dave Dell, Russ West, Greg Castellaw, Mike Walker, Jere Seguin, Roger McKim, Gary Cordy, Steve Dickenson, Warren Villa, Ted Taylor, Bill Bickers**

**Jack Wassard, Jeff Seals, Keving Gilbert, Kirk Hale, Greg Nolan, Steve Seigrist, Bill Martin, Mike August, Ken Franz**

**Not pictured: Joe Schaan**