

Incident Summary Page for a Smokejumper Line of Duty Death

Name of Smokejumper LODD: Luke D Sheehy (RDD-09)	Incident Name: Saddle Back Fire
	Incident Date & Time: June 10, 2013
Smokejumper Base Redding	Incident Location: South Warner Wilderness, Modoc National Forest, California
Personal Information	
<p>Luke was born and raised in Susanville, California, graduating from Lassen High School. He was an experienced outdoorsman and wildland firefighter. In addition to working for his uncle's logging company, Luke also served as a firefighter with CalFire and then with the Bureau of Land Management as a member of the Diamond Mountain Interagency Hotshot Crew. He was in his fifth season smokejumping, having rookied at Redding in 2009. Luke was survived by his parents and two sisters.</p>	
Brief description	
<p>Luke was killed June 10th, when hit by a falling limb on the lightning caused Saddle Back Fire, South Warner Wilderness, Modoc National Forest, California. Luke and two other smokejumpers responded to the single tree lightning fire, one of many sparked in the Modoc and Northern California during a two day lightning bust.</p> <p>While Luke, as Incident Commander, was talking with dispatch about the fire size-up, the top of the large burning White Fir tree broke off. After reassessing the situation, the three smokejumpers began work to put in a "scratch line" to encompass the fallen burning tree top and encircle the ground fire. Aware that additional debris from the tree could fall, the three smokejumpers were hopeful the tree would burn itself out by morning. A loud "whoosh" was then heard, and the smokejumpers saw a large limb fall and hit Luke. Both remaining smokejumpers were EMT's and began immediately treating Luke.</p> <p>Communications were established with dispatch stating the emergency and a medivac helicopter was requested. The jump ship also returned and deployed five additional smokejumpers, a trauma kit and oxygen.</p> <p>After being airlifted by helicopter Luke was pronounced dead at the hospital in Alturas California.</p>	
Links to more information on this incident:	
<p>https://smokejumpers.com/magazine/luke-sheehy-remembered/ https://lessons.wildfire.gov/incident/saddleback-fire-fatality-2013 https://wlfalwaysremember.net/2013/06/10/luke-sheehy/</p>	



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BACK ROW: (STANDING) GREG FASHANO, TYE ERWIN, DAN HERNANDEZ, PAUL BAILEY, ANNETTE MOORE (ADMIN), LUKE SHEEHY, MITCH HOKANSON, BRIAN PONTES, NATE FOCHT, BRIAN KVISLER, DON GRAHAM, DON SAND, DEREK WHEELER, DOUG POWELL, DAN JOHNSON (PILOT), DORSEY LIGHTNER

MIDDLE ROW: (KNEELING) DEAN BANDUCCI, TOBIAS SMITH, DAVE JOHNSON, JOEY MAGGIO, DYLAN REEVES, FELIPE MARQUEZ, JESSE SANKEY, CURTIS MATTHEWS, RUSS MCCAFFERTY (PILOT)

FRONT ROW: (SITTING) TRAVIS MITCHELL, TIM QUIGLEY, BOB BENTE, KATIE SCHEER, JIM REBENACK, BRAD SCHUETTE, BRAD RICHARDS (PILOT)

NOT PICTURED: JOHN CASEY, RICHARD GONZALEZ, STEVE GRAYDON, TONY HERBERT, SEAN HINES, NATE KESLER, JOSH MATHIESEN, STEVE MURPHY, RICK RATAJ, SCOTT SMITH, JERRY SPENCE