

**Memorandum**

**To:** Ron Dunton, Director, Office of Fire and Aviation (Acting)  
Warren Johnson, Bureau of Land Management DASHO

**From:** Tim Murphy, Serious Accident Investigation Team Leader

**Subject:** Preliminary Notice, Fatal Injury to David J. LISTON, April 29, 2000 and Reserve Parachute Deployment with Thomas O. ROACH, April 29, 2000

Attached is the preliminary notice concerning the fatality of Dave J. Liston, a smoke jumper with the Bureau of Land Management, Alaska Fire Service, at Fort Wainwright, Fairbanks, Alaska, on April 29, 2000. The investigation will include a Reserve Parachute Deployment by Thomas O. Roach. We have initiated a formal investigation of the accident and will have more information later. This notice is provided for your use and as required by the Safety and Health Handbook, 485 DM. Please forward this notice to the DOI DASHO.

**Signed By:** Timothy M. Murphy  
Timothy M. Murphy,  
Serious Accident  
Investigation Team Leader

**Authenticated by:**  
Human Resources Staff Administrator

- 2 Attachments**
- 1 - Preliminary Notice to DASHO
  - 2 - News Release

**cc:** WO101, Nina Hatfield, Deputy Directory  
HR240, Bureau Safety Manager, Bruce Prater  
AK910, Fran Cherry, State Director  
AK310, Scott Billing, Manager, Alaska Fire Service

## Preliminary Notice

### Fatal Injury to David J. Liston

On April 29, 2000, David J. Liston, a smoke jumper with the Bureau of Land Management, Alaska Fire Service, at Fort Wainwright, Fairbanks, Alaska, was fatally injured on April 29, 2000, in a pre-season refresher qualification jump. Mr. Liston has worked with the Bureau of Land Management as a smoke jumper since 1998. Mr. Liston has completed approximately 60 jumps. The investigation indicates that the drogue parachute deployed but the main parachute did not. The reserve pilot chute entangled with the bridle of the drogue. The reserve parachute did not deploy.

A multi-jurisdictional (concurrent) investigation is in progress, including members of the Serious Accident Investigation Team, U.S. Army Criminal Investigative Division, and the City of Fairbanks Police. Other Agencies involved with the investigation include the Federal Aviation Administration and the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Inspection. Interagency cooperation has been positive and productive.