

News *fire information*

Bureau of Land Management AZ Bureau of Land Management UT
Dixie National Forest Zion and Bryce National Parks
Utah, Forestry, Fire, and State Lands Bureau of Indian Affairs



NEWS RELEASE

June 17, 2004 7:30 p.m.

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Single Engine Air Tanker crashes at Dammeron Fire

St. George – A single engine air tanker pilot working the Dammeron Fire died when the plane crashed at approximately 6 p.m. Thursday, 14 miles north of St. George, Utah. The name of the pilot is currently being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

Local emergency services are assisting on scene. The cause of the crash is under investigation. The Department of the Interior's Aviation Management Directorate will participate in the crash investigation, which is being coordinated with the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

The aircraft was one of two contract single engine air tankers (SEATs) being used to suppress the Dammeron Fire. Single engine air tankers are crop-dusting planes that have been converted to drop water or retardant on wildfires. They play a critical role in fire suppression due to their maneuverability.

After an active night of burning, the Dammeron Complex was kept in check Thursday by cool, cloudy weather, aircraft, and more than 100 firefighters. The Dammeron Complex consists of two fires ignited by lightning Wednesday night about 6:45 p.m. One fire in the community of Brookside was held at less than 100 acres and declared contained Thursday. Fire burned adjacent to some homes, but no structures were lost. Residents of the more than 20 homes that were evacuated Wednesday night returned to their homes Thursday morning. The second, larger fire burned 3,600 acres near the community of Dammeron Valley. It had burned little new ground since Thursday morning. Homes in this area are currently not threatened.

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