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Incident Name: Tunnel 6 or No. 6 Fire, Tahoe National Forest, rear [Sierra City, CA](#) , historic gold rush ghost town

Date: 9/24/1954

Personnel: 3 lives lost

Age:

Agency/Organization: CDF, US Forest Service

Position: firefighters

Summary:

Mel Grodzik, 44

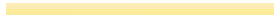
Frank Burr, 41

Richard Fierro, 32

Three firefighters died while sleeping on the fireline on the Tunnel 6 fire on September 24, 1954. The Mono (dry east) winds caused the fire to flare up at night and they were trapped in a canyon. Mel Grodzik, Frank Burr, Richard Fierro were sleeping in an unburned area at the edge of the fire and were overrun. They perished.

This incident prompted the addition of an 18th "watchout" to the [18 Watchout Situations](#) .

The #18 Situation that shouts **Watch out!** is **taking a nap near the fireline...**

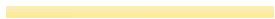


Maps

near Sierra City, CA

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{mosmap lat='39.566488'|lon='-120.634069'|marker='0'|text='near Sierra City, CA historic mining town'}
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Reports, Documentation, Lessons Learned

- Documentation of names of the three firefighters that died.



- California Death Index: [Mel W Grodzik](#) | [Frank Burr](#) | [Richard Fierro](#)

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