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**Incident Name:** grass fires  
**Date:** 09/25/1983  
**Personnel:** Steve Irwin of Logan  
**Age:** 20  
**Agency/Organization:** Harding Rural Fire District 2  
**Position:** firefighter

**Summary:** Steve Irwin was fighting grass fires in Harding County NM when he was struck and killed by lightning. He was only 20 years old.



**Maps**

Harding County, NM

{mosmap lat='35.892555'|lon='-103.821617'|marker='0'|text=Harding County'}

An alternative record gave location as a grass fire near Nara Vista, NM

{mosmap lat='35.545575'|lon='-103.102918'|marker='0'|text=Nara Vista, NM'}

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## Reports, Documentation, Lessons Learned

Steve Irwin named as fallen:

Ocala Star-Banner, Sep 26, 1983  
**Lightning Kills Firefighter Battling Grass Blaze**  
LOGAN, N. M. (AP) — Lightning struck and killed a man as he battled one of four range fires that blackened about 1,200 acres of grass, yucca and sagebrush, authorities say.  
Steve Irwin, 26, of Logan, was struck by the lightning bolt Sunday, said state police in Tucuman.  
"He was on the top of a crested hill there and lightning hit him," said Jack McCarty, fire chief for the Harding County Rural Fire District No. 2.  
"I was about 100 yards away from him. He was using a shovel throwing dirt on the burning yucca. His watch and belt buckle were laying about 20 feet from him. His shovel was laying away from him," McCarty said.

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