



# AIRWARD NEWS

In Recognition of Professional Performance during a Hazardous Aviation Event or Significant Contribution to Aviation Mishap Prevention

December 2002



No picture available

## Bird of Prey

Craig Wilson, a helicopter mechanic for Superior Helicopters, performed as an owl by spotting a major problem on a K-MAX helicopter. He began a maintenance inspection after the pilot noted a slight drift in the flight controls. Craig swooped down on his prey and found a broken bolt in the U-crank assembly, which is a rare failure that has never occurred before this time. Craig really gives a HOOT for safety!

[SafeCom 02-944](mailto:SafeCom 02-944)

## Gilligan's Isle

Just sit right back and you'll hear a tale, a tale of a fateful trip, when Gil Elmy, Region 4 Aviation Maintenance Program Manager, expressed his effort for safety after encountering new engines with defects from Continental. These engines experience low fuel flow and high CHT and TIT following installation. This was definitely not a three-hour tour. He discovered that swapping the fuel servo with a new replacement would solve the problem. Gil also asked to be contacted and updated about this safety measure by all the regions. Way to go, Gil!

[SafeCom 02-876](mailto:SafeCom 02-876)



Jim Morrison (left) and Gil Elmy (right)

## Batman and Boy Wonder



Bob Wofford, captain, and Skip Alderson, copilot, worked together as a Batman and Robin duo and prevented a P2V airtanker mishap. Skip discovered a 12-inch crack in the underside of the wing while washing the P2V. Small cracks were found on the opposite wing after further inspection. Bob returned to the Batcave to assess if this was a stress or weight bearing section of the wing and removed the airtanker from service until further inspection. He also recommended that other P2V airtankers be inspected. This superhero duo definitely deserves these Airwards.

[SafeCom 02-454](#)

## Most Valuable Player

Joseph Rice, pilot, was returning to the Cave Junction Helibase after completing a fuel cycle of aerial hay mulching on the Biscuit Fire Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation. During flight, he experienced some feedback, surging and increasing stiffness in the flight controls. After the aircraft's Master Caution light illuminated, indicating a hydraulic system failure, Joseph began emergency procedures by shutting off the hydraulic system. Joseph decided to run the ball by establishing a stable air speed, contacting the helibase, and starting a slow descent. When the net touched the ground, he jettisoned the long line. Touchdown! Joseph successfully made a run on landing without injury or damage to the aircraft. Nice play, Joseph!

[SafeCom 03-28](#)



## Team Effort for Safety

Chris Trudeau and Cynthia 'Scooter' McCarty, Bridgeport Helitack Crewmembers, and Brandi Hollowell, Owens Valley Interagency Dispatcher, applied their high levels of expertise during post mishap procedures. After a Eurocopter AS350-B3 crashed during a premature liftoff while engaged in a pre-departure hydraulic flight control check, Chris and Cynthia assisted the onboard crew and extinguished a post crash fire. Brandi immediately made the proper notifications and utilized the Forest's Incident/ Accident Response Guide to a tee. Gooooooooo team!

[SafeCom 02-962](#)



## Go Speed Racer!

Rosie Massiet, forestry technician for the Angeles National Forest who works in airtanker base management at the Fox Airtanker Base, prevented extensive engine damage or possibly an aviation mishap during the Wolf Fire on the Los Padres National Forest. While in the pilot ready room at the Fox Airtanker Base, she noticed a local Fixed Base Operator (FBO) fueling vehicle pull up to refuel a S2A airtanker on the ramp. The FBO was a Jet A fuel truck and the airtanker requires 100 LL fuel. Rosie immediately put it into gear and raced outside to stop the fueller. Rosie's speedy reactions prevented a much worse scenario. Go Speed Racer!  
No SafeCom submitted



## The Great Houdini

Ben Hinkel, the BLM Air Space Coordinator 'Houdini,' set up a one-year agreement with AeroPlanner, a web based company, to develop a BLM site to show all fire Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFR) with flight planning software. These TFRs are displayed on a map, Sectionals, or World Aeronautical Chart for dispatch centers and airbases. The site was operational by all wildland fire agencies at the beginning of the 2002 fire season. This site, with the wave of a magic wand, allows managers, pilots, and dispatchers a one-stop assessment to all TFRs in the United States. This allows each pilot to be aware and visualize TFRs graphically rather than in the past when it was difficult to understand the extent of the flight restriction. Abracadabra....'poof'.... an Airward for Ben.

No SafeCom submitted

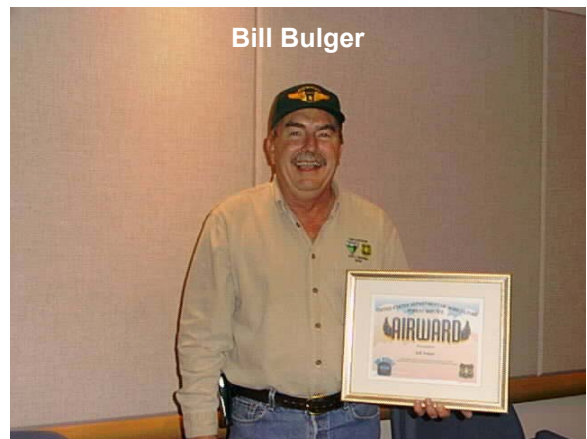


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## Safety Bill

Bill Bulger, Region 6 Aviation Safety Manager, was recognized for running a tight ship in Region 6 and taking a proactive approach to accident prevention. Bill ventured to the field, accessing aviation bases and ensuring they were ready for the fire season. After another very busy season in Region 6, Bill was credited for an accident-free season. Rock on, Bill!

No SafeCom submitted



## The Sixth Sense



No picture available

During routine operations over a wildland fire in Colorado, Ivan's sixth sense noticed a disparity between the digital and analog fuel gauges. He immediately aborted the low level run and correctly assumed there was a fuel leak in the aircraft fuel system. During the climb out, Ivan again used his special power to note a visible decrease in fuel volume in each tank even though there was no visible fuel from the cockpit. Assessing the rate of loss and considering the rough terrain, Ivan contacted Montrose Dispatch to inform them that he needed to make an emergency landing at Montrose, Colorado. Crash rescue was notified and the emergency was declared. Ivan successfully landed the aircraft with no mishap. His quick assessment of the situation and proper course of action deserves an Airward. Nice flying, Ivan!  
No SafeCom submitted



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