

Calif. firefighting pilot dies in crash

by UPI

EUREKA, Calif. -- A helicopter carrying water to firefighters at a wildfire in northern California crashed and killed the pilot and started another fire. Officials said the contract helicopter had one unidentified pilot on board when it crashed Monday morning near Happy Camp, Calif., near the Oregon border, the Eureka (Calif.) Reporter said Tuesday. Fire Information Officer Duane Lyon said the craft was carrying a collapsible water container to crews battling a fire in Klamath National Forest, one of 30 started by lightning in the forest since July 10. The crash ignited a fire that other aircraft and fire crews were called to extinguish, the newspaper said. Last August, a similar helicopter crash in the same area killed two crewmen. Federal officials said wildfires were also burning in Idaho, Nevada, Oregon and Utah.

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