



Robert A. Hales
Scappoose Rural Fire Protection District
Year of Death: 2008

Robert had just completed a strenuous 10-hour shift fighting lightning-caused wildfires for the Scappoose Rural Fire District. Under a Red Flag Warning, the series of fires were a very unusual event for this region of Oregon and kept crews working at a heightened response level throughout the day. Robert participated in all of these activities with duty and commitment reflective of the exemplary person he was.

Robert arrived home around 14:15 hours and about 45 minutes later got in his car to drive his daughter to work. Shortly after leaving and about a half mile from their home the car veered off the road and down a small embankment where it came to rest against a tree. His daughter was not hurt and could see that Robert was having difficulty breathing and unresponsive. The position of the car was such that most of Robert's weight was supported from the seat and shoulder belts. His daughter tried but could not pull her dad's weight away from the belts. She decided to get help, got out of the car and climbed back to the road where she did not see anyone or any traffic, so she ran back to their house to tell her mother. A resident nearby heard the crash and called 911 while her husband went to investigate.

The resident's husband arrived to find the car over the embankment but visible from the road, and climbed down to check it for occupants. He found Robert suspended by the seat belts. He manages to unbuckle Robert and remove him from the car. He checks Roberts's vitals and begins CPR until help arrives. Despite all heroic efforts by the first responders and the District paramedics, Robert was pronounced dead at the scene at 16:04.

