



*Richard W. Black
Weyerhaeuser,
Eugene Helicopter Operation
Year of Death: 2003*

Pilot Black and Forest Unit Supervisor Mackey were involved in a reconnaissance flight to locate water supplies for future fire suppression operations. They were flying in a Weyerhaeuser-operated Bell 206B helicopter. The pair located water supply locations that could be utilized by helicopters and recorded their GPS location for future use.

After about an hour in flight, the helicopter was proceeding along a river when it collided with a 5/8-inch neutral/ground cable line that was strung across the Siuslaw River. The weather at the time was cloudy and foggy. The helicopter fell approximately 250 to 300 feet into the river and came to rest in about 3 feet of water. The cable was entangled in the wreckage. Pilot Black and Forest Unit Supervisor Mackey died from multiple traumatic injuries. The cable that was struck by the helicopter was not marked as a flight hazard on maps.

