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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Arizona State Forestry Division's Response to Inquiries Surrounding Recent Statements**

PHOENIX, AZ (July 30, 2013) – The Arizona State Forestry Division (AZSF) has received numerous inquiries in reference to personal unauthorized opinions made by Deputy State Forester Jerry Payne regarding the Yarnell Hill Fire fatalities.

State Forester Scott Hunt wants to make it clear that State Forestry has taken no position on the causes of the fatalities and awaits the results of the two independent investigations that are currently being conducted by the Serious Accident Investigation Team and Arizona Department of Occupational Safety and Health.

State Forestry apologizes for Mr. Payne's inappropriate expression of opinion as fact and unfounded speculation that prejudices the ultimate conclusion of the investigation. The investigation reports are expected to be released in the coming months.

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