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Megafire Action Statement on the Tragic Loss of Three Firefighters Along Utah-Colorado Border

Three Firefighters Killed and Two Injured While Fighting Utah-Colorado Wildfires

WASHINGTON — Megafire Action, the leading nonprofit organization dedicated to solving the megafire crisis, today released the following statement in response to [reports](#) that three wildland firefighters died while responding to the Knowles and Gore fires along the Colorado-Utah border on Saturday, June 27. The firefighters have been identified as Emily Barker, 38, of Clinton Township, Michigan, Nick Hutcherson, 27 of Glendale, Arizona, and Sydney Watson, 27, of Warrior, Alabama, according to the [US Department of the Interior](#). Two additional crew members were injured in the line of duty.

*“Having served on a helitack team myself, these losses hit close to home,” said **Jay Balagna, California policy advisor of Megafire Action and former federal wildland firefighter.** “Every firefighter knows the risks, but that never makes the call that a brother or sister didn’t come home any easier. We grieve alongside their families, friends, and crews, and we’re reminded why reducing wildfire risk is one of the most important investments we can make.”*

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