

TRINITY RIDGE FIRE - FLA

1ST DEGREE BURN ON DIVISION A

Boise National Forest – September 3, 2012

The Story

Kurt has worked as a FFT1 on his engine for the Trinity Ridge Fire for several days performing many different tasks. On this particular day their engine was assigned a section of line that was a dirty burn with plenty of smoke and heat. Kurt and his fellow firefighter were cold trailing a particular section which required them to have one glove on and one glove off. Kurt was utilizing a hose from their engine and his partner had a pulaski when they noticed a stump hole smoking. He stood over the stump hole and applied water utilizing a forester nozzle halfway between the straight stream and fog. Kurt is unsure if it was the extreme heat or hot rocks or a combination of both but when the water hit the stump hole it erupted with a

shower of “sludge”. This mixture of hot mud and water hit his ungloved hand (which was holding the hose) and he immediately felt pain. He washed off the sludge and examined his hand. Kurt didn’t notice any immediate injury and continued to work the stump hole to ensure it was out. Once they were done with the stump hole he was notified they were done on the line for the day. Having attended EMT courses with a municipal fire department he identified the bright red skin on his hand as a burn that needed burn cream and to keep it uncovered. Kurt and his engine spent the night spiked out on the fire. Upon arrival at ICP in the morning he went to the Medical Unit and was sent to a nearby hospital for examination.

Facilitative
Learning
Analysis

To learn more information about this process go to:

<http://wildfirelessons.net/OrgLearning.aspx>

Lessons Learned from Kurt

1. If you are utilizing a hose to mopup or cold trail you should have both gloves on.
2. Always have another person with you on the fireline. Kurt feels he was lucky that the sludge only hit his hand, if it had hit his face or if he had inhaled the steam he would have needed medical assistance from his fellow firefighter.

FLA Team Members

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