

# **BLUE SHEET**

## **California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)**

### **Preliminary Summary Report of Serious CAL FIRE Injuries, Illnesses, Accidents and Near-Miss Incidents**



**Burn Injury to the Hand**

**August 3, 2014**

**Oregon Gulch Fire**

**14-CA-SKU-005589**

**California Northern Region**

This Preliminary Summary Report is intended as an aid in accident prevention, and to provide factual information from the first 24 hours of the accident review. To that end it is published and distributed within a short time frame. Information contained within may be subject to revision as further investigation is conducted, and other reports and documents are received.

**Lookout**

**Communications**

**Escape Routes**

**Safety Zones**

## **SYNOPSIS**

The following is a Preliminary Summary Report of an incident that occurred during the suppression of a major wildland fire. A CAL FIRE firefighter suffered a serious burn injury to the hand while trying to extinguish their flaming web gear.

## **NARRATIVE**

A CAL FIRE engine crew was assigned to Division U on the Oregon Gulch fire burning in the Siskiyou Unit. The crew was assigned to mop up activity in their division. At approximately 0300 hours, the crew took a break on the fire line. The crew took their break on a piece of dozer line which was at the bottom of a slope that the crew had been working.

A crew member went to the middle of the dozer line, removed their gloves and partially removed their web gear to sit down on the line. Within minutes of sitting down the firefighter was struck by a burning log about 2 feet long by 6 inches in diameter. The log had rolled down the slope to the dozer line. The burning log impacted the firefighter on the right side igniting components of the web gear. The firefighter suffered a serious burn to the hand while trying to pat out the flames of the web gear.

The firefighter was treated on the line and transported to the local medical facility for evaluation. The firefighter was then transported to the UC Davis Burn Center.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REVIEW**

- Review the 18<sup>th</sup> Situation that Shouts Watch Out – You feel like taking a nap on the fire line.
- Look, Up, Down, Around for hazard trees, heavy equipment, rolling materials, etc.
- Post a lookout to stay awake and protect crew members from fire.