

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



Vehicle Accident

July 23, 2014

Bully Incident

14-CA-SHU-006248

14-CA-SHU-006639

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 a multiple vehicle accident that occurred during the Bully Incident. A CAL FIRE utility providing logistical support collided with a tractor trailer. Minor injuries occurred to two CAL FIRE firefighters. No injuries were reported by the civilian commercial vehicle operator. The CAL FIRE utility vehicle and trailer of the commercial vehicle sustained extensive damage.

NARRATIVE

On July 23, 2014, at approximately 1357 hours, a CALFIRE 1 ton utility stake side, (U-2438) assigned to logistics support on the Bully Incident was returning to the Shasta Trinity Unit headquarters with a full load of dirty fire hose and related appliances. U-2438 was staffed with two CAL FIRE firefighters and was travelling eastbound on Clear Creek Road. Approximately two-thirds of a mile east of Cloverdale Road they encountered west bound a tractor trailer in their lane. The operator of the tractor trailer made an abrupt right turn steering movement to avoid a head on collision with U-2438. The dump style 40 foot trailer, loaded with debris, jackknifed. The tractor trailer hit the south guardrail, tipped, on its driver side and continued to slide westbound blocking all lanes of traffic. The driver of U-2438 braked and moved to the right as far as possible. The tractor sideswiped the driver side of the U-2438 behind the cab and the nose of the dump trailer impacted U-2438 head on. The roadway at this location is a double yellow painted divider with guardrail on each side. There was no shoulder available for the CAL FIRE driver. U-2438 was wedged between the tractor on the driver side, the trailer at the front, and the guardrail on the passenger side.

Upon notification of the accident by 911 to the Redding ECC, a full vehicle traffic collision with extrication response was initiated. The response included three engines equipped with extrication tools, an air ambulance helicopter and multiple overhead. Before arrival of the ground resources the firefighters self-extricated. Both firefighters were treated and released after being transported via ground ambulance to Mercy Medical Center in Redding. An investigation has been initiated by California Highway Patrol.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SAFETY REVIEW

- Ensure **SITUATIONAL AWARENESS** at all times.
- Drive defensively and **ALWAYS WEAR YOUR SEAT BELT**





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