
File Code: 6730/5100
Date: September 4, 2019

Subject: 72-Hour Report of IHC Crew Member Tree Strike

To: Craig Trulock
Glenn Casamassa
Ed Guzman

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Location: 204 Cow Fire, Malheur National Forest, Prairie City Ranger District

Date of Occurrence: August 29, 2019

Time of Occurrence: 1300 PST

Activity: Wildland Fire Suppression

Number of Injuries: 1

Number of Fatalities: 0

Injury: Tree Strike IHC Crew Member

Narrative: IHC crew member was located on Division A, working on spot fires. The firefighter was struck by a 10-12 foot, 30 inch DBH stob with possible injuries to the upper and lower back. IHC medical responders, line safety, and division medical personnel arrived and evaluated scene safety then helped with evacuation of patient. Patient was extracted from the line to where the incident ambulance had arrived. The patient was then transported to a helispot to meet the Type III shorthaul helicopter. Once the patient was loaded internally, the helicopter then flew to John Day airport (Airbase) where they met the Life Flight helicopter. Upon arrival at the airport, Life Flight paramedics determined that the patient would need to be flown to a hospital in Bend, Oregon for a higher level of care. Patient injuries were evaluated and the patient was released from the hospital that evening. The patient is expected to make a full recovery.

A Facilitated Learning Analysis (FLA) Team has been assigned, and is working with participants to identify lessons learned from this incident. The intent of this FLA is to share the story of the incident with others in the wildland fire community so that future responders can anticipate similar events and learn from innovative problem solving leading to successful outcomes.

Sincerely,

Alex Robertson

FLA Team Lead

cc: Julian Affuso, SORO Risk Management

