

Rapid Lesson Sharing

Event Type: Pump and Roll Engine Operation

Date: Aug. 3, 2016

Location: Butte 2 Fire, Montana



The Engine Crew reattached the mirror with fiber tape.

NARRATIVE

This incident occurred during a firing operation while an Engine was being used in standard pump and roll procedure to hold a containment line. Toward the end of the operational period, the Engine was relocated approximately one mile to the next ignition location along a dusty two-track road. Even though this was during dusk hours, poor visibility and smoke were not a factor.

Throughout the shift, the two-person Engine Crew had been cautious to not allow slack in the hose while pumping and rolling.

Prior to this incident, all pump and roll operations had been done along the driver's side with the firefighter walking next to the Engine, holding the line and directing the hose.

As the Engine was moved to the next ignition location, both crew members were seated in the cab. The hard line was wrapped around the driver's side mirror and was being held by the driver to maintain tension on the line.

While navigating a left-hand turn—with the hose's nozzle end wrapped around the mirror—slack in the line allowed the hose to be caught under the outside dual tire on the driver's side. This caused enough force to detach the mirror from the vehicle. There were no injuries and no other damage to the vehicle except for the broken mirror. The Engine Crew immediately notified their supervisor and reattached the mirror with fiber tape.

LESSONS

- ✓ The operator was being cautious and driving slowly.
- ✓ There is enough to worry about when driving on two-track roads. The added responsibility of keeping tension on the hose while driving was unnecessary. This could have been avoided by reeling the hose up when moving the Engine to the next ignition location.
- ✓ This incident could also have been prevented by running the hose along the top of the tank instead of on the side and by hanging the hose over the top of the mirror instead of looping the hose around it.

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