

# Rapid Lesson Sharing

**Event Type:** Engine Strikes Tree  
During Prescribed Fire Operations

**Date:** March 29, 2015

**Location:** Arkansas



## NARRATIVE

During operations on the Pine Bluestem Prescribed Fire a Type 6 engine with a full tank is driving on single-lane Forest Service Road.

The engine pulls over and stops to let another vehicle pass by.

When the engine resumes course, its passenger-side wheels are in the road ditch, which is soft due to previous rains.

After traveling approximately 200 feet attempting to get out of the ditch, the vehicle suddenly regains traction and goes across the roadway—where it strikes a tree. The airbags do not deploy.

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***In hindsight, he could have stopped the vehicle and put it in four-wheel-drive to get out of the ditch.***

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## LESSONS

- ✓ The crew was well prepared to respond to this Incident-Within-an-Incident.
- ✓ To avoid getting stuck in the soft ditch, the driver's past experience informed him to keep going with forward momentum.
- ✓ In hindsight, he could have stopped the vehicle and put it in four-wheel-drive to get out of the ditch.



**This RLS Submitted By:**

Crewmember

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