

GREEN SHEET

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Informational Summary Report of Serious CDF Injuries, Illnesses, Accidents and Near-Miss Incidents



Vehicle Accident

Oak Glen Crew 3 ECT Rollover

June 23, 2008

CA-RRU-055716

CA-CSR-000057

A Board of Review has not approved this Summary Report. It is intended as a safety and training tool, an aid to preventing future occurrences, and to inform interested parties. Because it is published on a short time frame, the information contained herein is subject to revision as further investigation is conducted and additional information is developed.

SUMMARY

On June 23, 2008 at 1937 hours, Oak Glen 3 was returning to Oak Glen Conservation Camp from a vegetation fire – Valley Incident (CARRU-055557) in the area of Wilson Valley Road and Highway 371. On Wilson Valley Road the ECT struck the embankment on the side of the road and rolled onto its right side. Three California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) firefighters sustained moderate to serious injuries and twelve others received minor injuries. The Fire Captain also sustained minor injuries during the accident. The ECT was a total loss.

CONDITIONS

Location: Wilson Valley Road, 2 miles north of Highway 371

Traffic: Light traffic volumes on Wilson Valley Road, consistent with the time of day and season of the year. Local vehicular traffic was considered normal.

Weather: RAWS Station: Anza, Riverside County, CA

Observation Time: 1900 Hours

Temperature: 76 Degrees

Relative Humidity: 27%

Winds: 259 Degrees @ 6 Miles per Hour

Visibility: Clear Skies

Road Surface: The road is a paved, narrow winding mountain road. This section of road is a downhill grade and drops nearly 600 feet in one and a half miles. The average grade is approximately 7%. The roadway was dry at the time of the accident.

Vehicle/Equipment: The vehicle was a 1992 International Model 4900 Emergency Crew Transport (ECT) with a manual transmission and a two speed rear end. The vehicle maintenance records were current and the vehicle's tires and brakes were relatively new.

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

At 1009 hours on June 23, 2008, Oak Glen 3 was dispatched to the Valley Incident, a vegetation fire (CARRU 055557) near Wilson Valley Road and Highway 371. At 1920 hours, Oak Glen 3 was released to return to Oak Glen Conservation Camp.

At 1937 hours, Oak Glen 3 was returning to Oak Glen Conservation Camp traveling west bound on Wilson Valley Road, which is a paved, narrow winding mountain road. While attempting to down shift into a lower gear, the Fire Captain was not able to engage a gear and the ECT began free wheeling. The Fire Captain, in an effort to prevent the ECT from leaving the roadway, steered the ECT into the eastbound embankment causing the ECT to roll onto the passenger side. Perris ECC was notified of the incident by Oak Glen 7, who requested assistance. Multiple units that were in the process of leaving the Valley Incident responded and came to the aid of the injured crew members.

The most seriously injured CDCR Firefighter was transported by air ambulance and two other injured CDCR firefighters were transported by ground ambulances. The 12 remaining CDCR firefighters were examined on scene, treated for minor injuries and returned to camp. Several CDCR Firefighters later complained of some pains, were examined and treated within the CDCR medical system. The Fire Captain was transported, treated and released by the hospital.

INJURIES/DAMAGES

Injuries: The most serious injury was to a CDCR Firefighter who was admitted to the hospital and required surgery due to injuries to his right arm. He remains hospitalized. Two other CDCR Firefighters were also transported, one requiring stitches to his head the other firefighter complained of back pain. They were treated at the hospital and released back to Oak Glen Camp the same day. The Fire Captain was treated for minor injuries at the hospital and released the same day.

Damage: The ECT is a total loss with damage to the engine compartment, cab and right side of the vehicle.

SAFETY ISSUES FOR REVIEW

- Utilize extreme caution when driving on unfamiliar roads, especially in rural and rugged terrain.
- Ensure that vehicles are being operated at safe speeds at all times.
- Ensure appropriate gear selection is made prior to descending a downhill grade.
- Per Section 6784 of the 6700 Handbook, seatbelts will be worn at all times while any vehicle is in motion.

MAPS



Accident Site

Wilson Valley Road

