

# **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**



#### **Multiple Firefighter Heat Related Injuries**

**July 21, 2012**

**Forest**

**12-CA-LNU-005495**

**12-CA-CDF-000553**

**CNR**

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

On Saturday, July 21, 2012 at approximately 10:11 am, CAL FIRE units were dispatched to a vegetation fire near the community of Guinda in north western Yolo County. During the initial attack operations, multiple firefighters experienced heat related signs and symptoms.

## NARRATIVE

The firefighters were engaged in firefighting operations on the Forest Incident. The fire was burning in grass oak woodland with a brush component. The terrain was relatively steep. General temperature for the operational period ranged from 91 to 102 degrees Fahrenheit. Relative humidity was approximately 20%.

St. Helena Emergency Command Center (ECC) received notification that a firefighter was experiencing heat related signs and symptoms approximately two hours after initial dispatch. The ECC was notified approximately six hours after initial dispatch of a second firefighter experiencing signs and symptoms of heat related illness. By 8:00 pm, multiple firefighters were treated for heat related illnesses. Two of the firefighters were transported to local hospitals via air ambulance, one by ground, and others treated and released at scene.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

- Control heat stress by ensuring employees are properly:
  - Acclimatized (1700 Health and Safety Handbook, Section [1855.5.2](#))
  - Hydrated (1700 Health and Safety Handbook, Section [1855.5.3](#))
  - Ensure work/rest cycles are compatible with the assignment. (1700 Health and Safety Handbook, Section [1855.5.4](#))
  - Maintain personal monitoring (1700 Health and Safety Handbook, Section [1855.5.5](#) )
  - Recognize environmental factors that contribute to heat illnesses
  - Proper nutrition is maintained
  - Employees that exhibit the signs and symptoms of heat stress should notify their supervisor.
- All personnel should familiarize themselves with the Department Heat Illness Prevention Policy HB Section 1855- <http://cdfweb/pubs/issuance/1800/1855.pdf>
- All personnel should familiarize themselves with the Department Heat Illness Prevention Plan <http://calfireweb/organization/fireprotection/safety/>