

24 Hour Report
South 1 Incident
06/27/08

Injured party: Engine Boss of Attack-One Fire Mgmt. Services, Inc. (Contract Engine)
Location: Div. B/C, approximately 1 ¾ mile east of DP-7
N 36.35 50, W 76.32.06

Engine 242 was assigned to Division B/C At approximately 1325 hours on 06/27/08 Engine 242 was moping-up Along West Ditch road, 1 ¾ miles East of DP7 when a snag had struck the Engine Boss working the spot. Division witnessed the snag falling and immediately called in the report and assigned the paramedic on Division B/C who responded to the scene. At approximately 1330 the medical unit was notified and the medical plan was implemented. Nansemond-Suffolk Volunteer Ambulance County was called to transport the injured crew member. The individual sustained injuries to their left eye / face and left shoulder. Lookouts had been posted to watch for snags while working the fire. The incident was witnessed by other engine crews as well and responded. A second paramedic arrived from Division Tango to assist with patient care. The ambulance was met at the junction of Desert Road and Railroad Ditch at 1404 by the medical unit leader and lead the ambulance to the incident. The ambulance after retrieving the firefighter requested Life Flight at approximately 1427. The helicopter landed at ICP @ 1448 and flew the patient to Sentara Norfolk General Trauma Center.

- Engine Crew was working on a fire that had spotted across the fireline.
- Spotter yelled “snag”!
- Crew members were wearing full PPE.
- The snag scraped the back of his hard hat, hitting him parallel along the shoulders. causing injury to their left eye and left shoulder as it fell to the ground.
- Witnesses said the tree was approximately 4” DBH at the point of impact to the firefighter. Estimated DBH at the base of tree was 20”.

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS to the accident:

1. Root system of snag had been weakened by fire.
2. Prolonged drought in the area.
3. Soils are organic in the fire area.

Mitigations

- ✓ Line construction or IA is to be done by mechanized track equipment with hard top.
- ✓ Limit firefighter exposure outside of vehicles on any road or fireline where fire has weakened or undermined tree root systems.
- ✓ Identify safe areas for personnel along roads or fireline where risks of falling trees have been removed.

Bill Clausen, SOF2_____