

Rapid Lesson Sharing

Event Type: Vehicle Accident

Date: July 31, 2018

Location: South Umpqua Complex
Tiller, Oregon

***"I don't know how he missed the vehicles
and people in the middle
of the staging area."***

Road Guard

***"The ground was soft. There were NO skid
marks at the accident site!"***

Safety Officer

Narrative

Drop Point 1 is located on a slight rise and cannot be completely seen as resources approach it from the north. Once on the north edge of this Drop Point, personnel can see: Road 400 coming in from the northeast, vehicles and personnel located in the middle of the staging area, and Road 1610 leaving the Drop Point to the south.

Drop Point 1 is approximately an acre and a half in size (bigger than a football field). When this vehicle accident occurred, Drop Point 1 had approximately 16 people and 13 vehicles: three crews, three overhead, a road guard, and a dozer transport.

A five-person squad from a contract crew traveling in a four-door pickup were coming down Road 1610 from the north (Hamlin Prairie Helispot) into Drop Point 1. The driver noticed the resources (personnel and vehicles) scattered around the area and suddenly saw a vehicle come into his vision from the east on Road 400.

At this time, the pickup engine suddenly started revving as the pickup raced across the Drop Point approximately 170 feet, slamming into the trees just south of Road 1610. The pickup just missed hitting a vehicle parked to the right, then struck and broke off an 8-inch diameter 40-foot tall tree, then traveled an additional 35 feet into the timber.



The horizontal tree above the vehicle is the tree they struck and broke off.



As you can see, they also barely missed hitting this tree.

Both front airbags deployed. All five of the people onboard were wearing their seat belts. There were no injuries. The pickup was a total loss.

[Note: The driver and passengers were reassigned to another incident and were therefore not available to be interviewed for this RLS. This report was generated from IMT documentation and team personnel interviews.]

***“The resources knew (verbally) that the 1610 Road south was one way.
But it wasn’t marked as such yet.”***

Safety Officer

***“I wouldn’t call what happened complacency.
The crew had only been here three days.”***

Safety Officer

Questions

- ❖ Why was the brake pedal missed and the gas pedal engaged?
- ❖ Was the driver surprised at seeing the vehicle coming into his vision?
- ❖ How much driving experience did the driver have in a chaotic environment?
- ❖ Was the driver distracted?
- ❖ What kind of situational awareness (SA) did the driver have?

Successes

- ❖ No one was injured.
- ❖ Safety Officers “reminded” personnel during briefings about driving conditions and speed.
- ❖ Seat belts were worn by everyone in the pickup.



This RLS was submitted by:

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