



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Pacific  
Southwest  
Region

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File code: 6730  
Route to: R5 FAM

Date: 9/6/04

Subject: Preliminary (24-Hour) Briefing

To: Barbie Rate - DASHO

**THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AN SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

Location: Division Z (AEU/ CDF) Powerhouse Fire

Date of occurrence: 9/5/04

Time of occurrence: Approximately 1706hrs

Team leader: Tom Oldag (CDF)

Mission: Fire Fighting

Activity: Line Construction

Number injured: 1

Number of fatalities: 0

Property damage (such as to vessels, equipment, and structures): N/A

Narrative: On 9/5/04 at approximately 1230 hrs. resources from CDF, USFS, and Amador County Fire Protection District responded to the Powerhouse Incident. The Eldorado Hotshots were assigned to construct fire line on Division Z (right flank). Line was being constructed from the River road uphill toward the top of the ridge on steep slopes ranging from 40-70% in a mature timber stand. At approximately 1706 hrs. a tree limb out of a green, 90' tall, 72"DBH California Live Oak, within the fires perimeter, broke off and fell striking a crewmember who was on the fire line, 38' away from the tree. The crewmember was struck on the back of the hard hat, and on his back. The crewmember was working as a swamper with a saw team. The crew had constructed approximately 1800' of line before the accident occurred. The crewmember was airlifted at approximately 1804hrs, and flown to Sutter Roseville Hospital for treatment. CDF is taking the lead in the investigation in cooperation with the US Forest Service. Preliminary findings indicate that all safety protocols were being followed.

cc:  
Dave Poucher, and Peter Tolosano



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