

Preliminary Summary Report of Serious or Near Serious CAL FIRE Injuries, Illnesses and Accidents



BLUE SHEET

Bulldozer Heat Damage

July 16, 2026

Thorn Incident

26-CA-SDU-016203

California Southern Region

SUMMARY

On Thursday, July 16, 2026, at approximately 1600 hours, a CAL FIRE 2023 Caterpillar D5 Bulldozer (DOZ1) was impacted by radiant heat and flame while assigned to the Thorn Incident in San Diego, California. DOZ1 was constructing direct fire line when it experienced a mechanical issue resulting in DOZ1 becoming inoperable. After three attempts, the operator was able to start DOZ1 and operated it in limp mode. DOZ1 was able to gain minimal power and continued with line construction for several more hours. DOZ1 sustained cracked/bubbled windows, blistered plastic, and melted exterior lights. The operator was uninjured.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

No recommendations were identified within the first 12 hours of this summary.