



Facilitated Learning Analysis



Tree Strike on Division A

Incident: Bagley Fire

Location: Shasta-Trinity National Forest

Date of Incident: 08/30/2012

Date of FLA: 09/15/2012

**Summary:**

Incident: Tree strike resulting in vehicle damage and injury

Vehicle Type: Contract Water Tender

Assignment: Shuttle Water

Conditions: Water tender was parked at fill site

Two operators/drivers

Day Shift

Narrative:

On August 30, 2012 at approximately 0853hrs, Division A contacted Bagley Communications requesting a hold on all radio traffic for a possible medical emergency on Division A.

That day a contract water tender had been assigned to water the roads in Div. A, from the spike camp down to the N18R road. The night driver had been working the previous night shift and was working through a shift change with the day driver. Both were at the pre-established water fill site and had been drafting water into their tank. Both individuals were standing on the left side of the water tender attending to the pump when they began to hear debris falling on the truck. The night driver retreated into the cab of the vehicle on the driver's side. At this time, he lost sight of the day driver. Once the debris had stopped falling, the night driver exited the cab and began looking for the day driver. The day driver was no longer next to the pump where he had last seen him. The night driver walked around to the front of the vehicle and observed the day driver lying on the ground unresponsive. Upon seeing this, the night driver made a call for assistance over the tactical channel and then began attending to the day driver. As division resources responded to their location, night driver reported that the day driver started to regain consciousness. Once Division A and EMS personnel arrived, night driver turned patient care and scene control over to the overhead line resources. At 0853hrs, Div. A requested to hold all radio traffic for a possible medical emergency.

An ambulance staged at the nearby spike camp was requested (at 0903hrs) to respond along with a medical helicopter for air transport to a local trauma center in Redding, CA. The IMT requested the California National Guard medical transport helicopter due to its hoist capabilities and medical equipment and personnel on-board. The patient was stabilized on scene and due to smoky conditions at the accident site; helicopter pick up would be at drop point 25. The transport ambulance would

transport the patient to DP 25 (0928hrs). The patient arrived at DP25 and was hoisted by the medical helicopter and transported to the local trauma center (inbound to Redding, 1016hrs). The patient received staples to the head lacerations and required surgery to repair a broken shoulder blade. The water tender did receive major damage to the front of the vehicle.

Upon further investigation of the “debris” that had fallen, it was determined the cause of the debris was a snag that fell well interior, then hit a green tree that ended up falling at the draft site, resulting in the impact with the water tender and then eventually striking the day driver.

From first transmission of the medical emergency to when the medical helicopter completed the hoist operations was approximately one hour.

Lessons Learned/Recommendations:

- +Even pre-identified and presumed “safe” locations within the fire area can present hazards. Always maintain your situational awareness and post lookouts when possible.
- +Pre-identified drop points should have good GPS coordinates already preloaded into the system.
- +Wearing your helmet can prevent serious injuries.
- +Having line EMTs and an incident ambulance staged at nearby drop points or spike camps can greatly reduce the response time of emergency medical personnel.
- +IMTs should drill on complex medical emergencies to ensure during a true event, operations run as smooth as possible.

Related FLAs to Reference:

http://wildfirelessons.net/documents/Deerpark_FLA.pdf

http://wildfirelessons.net/documents/Snow_Gate_FLA.pdf

