

BLUE SHEET

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

Preliminary Summary Report of Serious CAL FIRE Injuries, Illnesses, Accidents and Near-Miss Incidents



Vehicle Accident

July 13, 2014

14-CA-MEU-006611

California Northern Region

This Preliminary Summary Report is intended as an aid in accident prevention, and to provide factual information from the first 24 hours of the accident review. To that end it is published and distributed within a short time frame. Information contained within may be subject to revision as further investigation is conducted, and other reports and documents are received.

Lookout

Communications

Escape Routes

Safety Zones

SYNOPSIS

The following is a Preliminary Summary Report of an incident that occurred during the response to a vehicle fire. A CAL FIRE engine was involved in an accident with a passenger vehicle (POV) causing major damage to the vehicle and minor injuries to the driver. The CAL FIRE engine sustained minor damage. The engine the crew was uninjured.

NARRATIVE

At approximately 1830 hours on July 13, 2014, a CAL FIRE Model 34 engine, on cover assignment from out of the Unit, was dispatched to a vehicle fire. The fire was a threat to nearby vegetation on Highway 101 just south of Howard Forest Headquarters. The engine was turning left onto Highway 101, southbound, from the Howard Forest Headquarters driveway. As the engine crossed the northbound lane it was struck by a northbound POV. The POV struck the engines driver side rear duals. The POV sustained major front end damage, and the driver suffered leg and ankle injuries.

The CAL FIRE engine immediately circled and parked off the roadway, and the crew provided treatment to the driver of the POV. The driver of the POV was transported by ambulance to a local hospital and released later that evening.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REVIEW

- Vehicle operators should review Fire Operations Handbook 7000 Section 7060.1 Code 3 Driving.
 - A driver must be aware of the limitations of visual and audible warning devices, i.e., red lights and sirens. The law requires drivers of authorized emergency vehicles use good judgment when responding to emergencies. In all cases, the safety of the general public must take precedence over the response speed of an emergency vehicle.
<http://calfireweb/library/handbooks/7000/7060.pdf>
- Tailgate Safety sessions for all Engine Companies emphasizing the need for all crew members to maintain and communicate situational awareness.