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



BLUE SHEET

Rolling Rock Caused by Water Drop

August 19, 2016

LEBEC FIRE

CA-KRN-031281

California Southern Region

SUMMARY

On August 19, 2016, at approximately 1530 hours, CAL FIRE Helicopter 305, with the helitack crew, was assigned to the Lebec Fire in Kern County, California. While completing hand line in a steep narrow drainage, the helitack Fire Captain (FC) was struck on the helmet by a rock approximately twelve (12) inches in diameter. The rock was loosened by another helicopter assigned to the fire which made a water drop above the FC. The speed and force of the rock caused the helmet's suspension system to lacerate the head of the FC. The FC was treated and transported by paramedics to a local hospital by ground ambulance for further evaluation and treatment of the injury.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

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

This Preliminary Summary Report is intended as an aid in accident prevention, and to provide factual information from the first 12 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/or documents are received.