

# **BLUE SHEET**

## **California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)**

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



#### **Burn Injuries of Four Firefighters**

**July 26, 2015**

**Lowell SART**

**15-CA-NEU-017851**

**15-CA-CDF-000444**

#### **Sacramento Headquarters**

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**

## **SUMMARY**

On July 26, 2015, at approximately 1620 hours, two CAL FIRE and two U.S. Forest Service firefighters suffered burn injuries while battling the Lowell Fire, north of the community of Dutch Flat in Nevada County.

Three U.S. Forest Service firefighters were scouting the division in the immediate vicinity of three CAL FIRE engine crews who were patrolling the fire's edge. The firefighters observed an increase in fire activity below their location. A decision was made by all firefighters to relocate themselves and their equipment to a safer area. As they attempted to relocate, they were overrun by fire. Four firefighters suffered burn injuries, two utility vehicles were destroyed and one engine was damaged.

The injured firefighters were transported to UC Davis Burn Center. The two CAL FIRE firefighters and one U.S. Forest Service firefighter were treated and released. The second U.S. Forest Service firefighter was admitted and remains hospitalized with serious burn injuries to the face and hands.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE CORRECTIVE ACTIONS**

No recommendations for immediate corrective actions were identified within the first 24 hours of this review.