

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



Chainsaw Cut To Wrist

February 13, 2014

14-CA-NEU-003494

CNR

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.

SYNOPSIS

On February 13, 2014, at approximately 1200 hours, a CAL FIRE inmate Firefighter was operating a chainsaw and sustained a laceration to the top of his left wrist. The inmate was transported by ground ambulance to a local hospital for treatment.

NARRATIVE

At approximately 1200 hours, Washington Ridge Crew 2 was assigned to a grade project clearing a county road. An inmate operating a chainsaw lost his balance and sustained a laceration to his left wrist. The inmate was working on a moderately steep slope clearing small trees and brush. While repositioning himself to make his next cut a few feet away, the inmate lost balance and braced himself by taking his left hand off the chainsaw and putting it on the ground. Simultaneously, the chainsaw, still partially controlled by the inmate's right hand on the handle, contacted the ground. As the inmate was slipping downhill with the chainsaw, the chainsaw rolled inverted causing the throttle to be engaged by the inmates right hand. With the chain now running, the bar came in contact with the top of the inmates left wrist and a small cedar tree. The inmate was wearing full personal protective equipment while operating the chainsaw.

SAFETY ISSUES FOR REVIEW

BASIC CHAINSAW SAFETY AWARENESS

<http://calfireweb.fire.ca.gov/library/handbooks/4300/docs/4311.4.tlp.pdf>

Handbook 1780 - AUTHORITY, GOAL, AND OBJECTIVES OF CAL FIRE CHAIN SAW PROGRAM

<http://calfireweb/library/handbooks/1700/1780.pdf>

Handbook 1758 - HANDTOOL USAGE ON PROJECTS

<http://calfireweb/library/handbooks/1700/1758.pdf>