

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



Firefighter Serious Burn Injuries

May 24, 2014

14-CA-LNU-003887

14-CA-LNU-003892

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.

SYNOPSIS

The following information is a preliminary summary of an incident in which a CAL FIRE firefighter received first and second degree burns to the face, knee, left hand and feet.

NARRATIVE

On May 24, 2014, at approximately 1620 hours a CAL FIRE firefighter from Copter 104, of the Sonoma/Lake/Napa Unit, sustained serious burn injuries while fighting a wildland fire.

Copter 104 was providing mutual aid to the City of Vallejo Fire Department at the time of the incident. The crew from Copter 104 was initiating direct fireline attack on a flank of the fire, when the firefighter stepped into a depression in the ground with the left foot, causing a loss of balance. The firefighter then fell forward contacting the ground with the left hand and right knee and during this process; the firefighter sustained first and second degree burns to the left hand, both feet and the right knee. Simultaneously a patch of brush, approximately two feet in front of the firefighter, flared up causing first and second degree burns to the firefighters face.

Due to poor access of ground resources, the firefighter was initially treated and transported by Copter 104. The firefighter was transported to Queen of the Valley Medical Center in Napa, assessed and later transferred by ground ambulance to the UC Davis Medical Center burn unit.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REVIEW

- **The Ten Standard Fire Orders**
- **Eighteen Fire Situations that Shout “WATCH OUT”**
- **Common Denominators of Wildland Fire Fatalities**
- **LCES**
- Maintain situational awareness
- Limit exposure to conditions in which sustained heat may compromise safety equipment.
- Personnel should inspect all of their Personal Protective Equipment annually, included in these inspections is the wildland boots. Refer to the 2014 Annual Focus on Safety for a full inspection guide and checklist.