

# **GREEN SHEET**

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

### **Informational Summary Report of Serious CAL FIRE Injuries, Illnesses, Accidents and Near-Miss Incidents**



**Vehicle Accident and Rollover  
Near Miss  
August 12, 2012**

**Lanes Incident  
12-CA-FKU-010166**

**Investigation  
12-CA-FKU-010227**

**California Southern Region**

A Board of Review has not approved this Summary Report. It is intended as a safety and training tool, an aid to preventing future occurrences, and to inform interested parties. Because it is published on a short time frame, the information contained herein is subject to revision as further investigation is conducted and additional information is developed.

Lookouts

Communications

Escape Routes

Safety Zones

## **SUMMARY**

On Sunday, August 12, 2012, at approximately 11:28 a.m. a private water tender assigned to the Lanes Fire was involved in a solo vehicle accident near the intersection of Auberry Road and Beal Road within Fresno County. While the driver was outside of the vehicle, the unoccupied water tender rolled away from the driver, over an embankment and overturned several times. CAL FIRE personnel responded to the accident location where they found the water tender overturned, approximately 219 feet below Beal Road. The driver was not injured and the vehicle sustained major damage.

## **CONDITIONS**

Weather conditions as taken on Division Y at 12:00 p.m.:

Temperature – 99 degrees Fahrenheit  
Relative Humidity – 24 percent  
Winds – Southwest at 3-7 mph

Road conditions at the accident site:

Total road width – 16 feet  
Slope of roadway – 6 percent  
Roadway was dry, dirt/gravel fire control road.

## **EQUIPMENT INVOLVED**

Private 1970 Peterbuilt, Model # 358A, 3-axle, 3600 gallon water tender.

## **SEQUENCE OF EVENTS**

On August 11, 2012 at approximately 7:00 p.m., the owner/driver of the private contract water tender received an assignment to the Lanes Incident and report to briefing at 7:00 a.m., the morning of August 12, 2012. The driver reported to Incident Base, attended briefing, and contacted Division Y at the water fill location on Auberry Road. The driver filled his tank and drove to the intersection of Auberry and Beal Roads. The driver met Division Y at the intersection and the driver asked Division Y to chock his truck, which he did. Division Y determined the driver did not have the proper frequencies in his radio so Division Y advised the driver to remain at the location until he returned from Base Camp with a reprogrammed radio. The driver determined he and the Fresno County Sheriff Office (FSO) vehicles were blocking access to Beal Road so the driver decided to relocate his truck to clear the intersection. The driver got out of his truck, pulled the chock block and drove down Beal Road, approximately 78 feet from Auberry Road and parked. The driver exited his truck and chocked the front dual axle

on the driver's side. The driver got back in his truck, had lunch and checked his cell phone for a signal. The driver estimated he was parked for approximately 15-20 minutes.

While waiting for his radio, the driver decided to ready his truck for the shift. At approximately 11:15 a.m., the driver exited the truck, pulled the chock block and the truck immediately rolled forward and continued down Beal Road, approximately 116 feet where it left the roadway. The truck traveled down the hill on its wheels for approximately 170 feet (approximate 35 percent slope) through rocks, brush and dry grass, until it began to overturn onto the driver's side. The truck rolled approximately 4-5 times, traveling an additional 49 feet, and came to rest on the driver's side in tall brush and trees.

An FSO Deputy witnessed the accident in his rearview mirror. The Deputy saw the driver of the truck jogging toward the runaway truck and as he exited his patrol vehicle he saw the truck roll off the roadway. The Deputy made sure the driver was uninjured and confirmed no one was in the truck. The Deputy notified CAL FIRE of the accident.

## **INJURIES/DAMAGES**

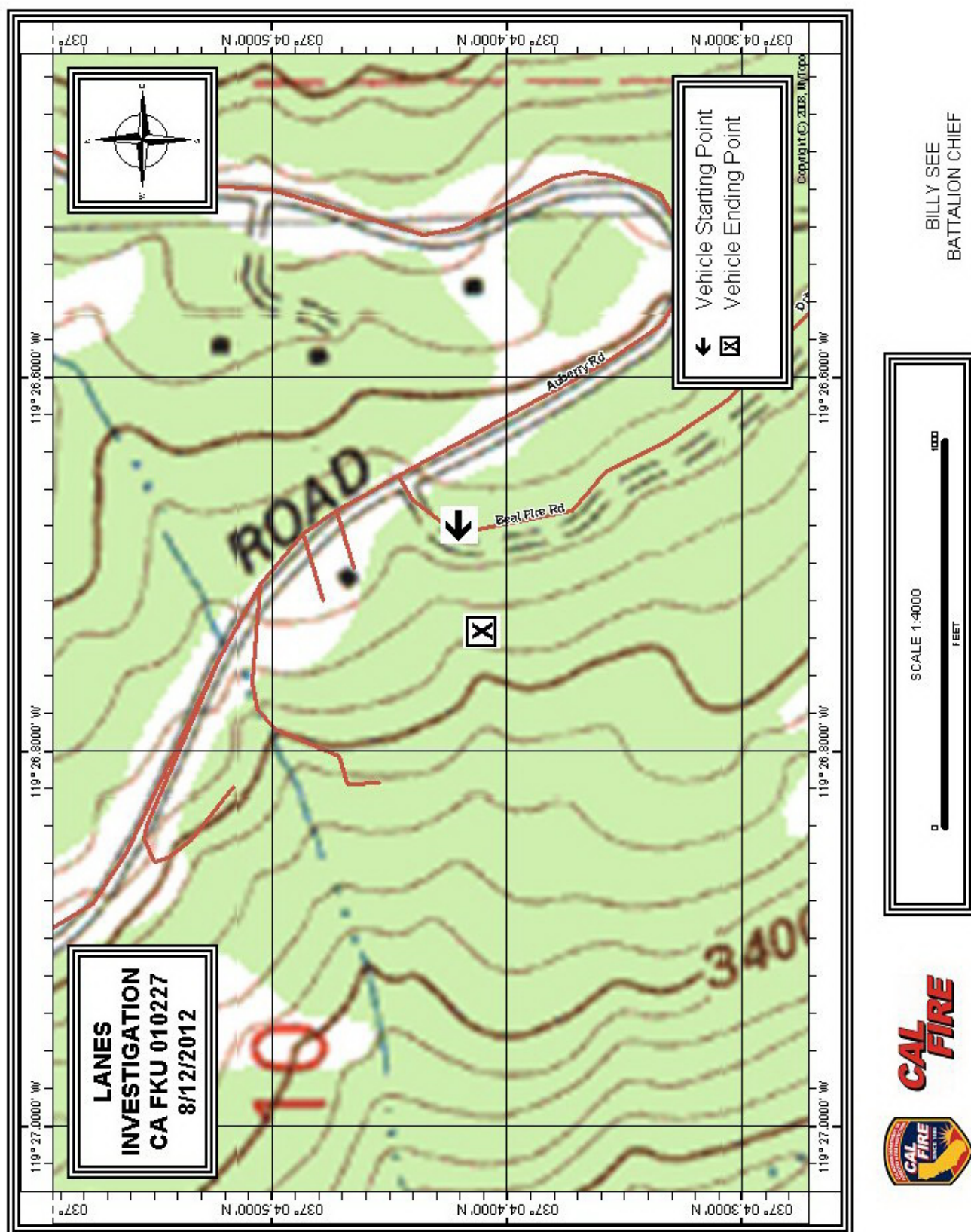
No injuries were reported and the vehicle sustained major damage.

## **SAFETY ISSUES FOR REVIEW**

- Notify private contractors if you identify any safety issues and be willing to assist them in mitigating the problem.
- Drivers should maintain situational awareness at all times while operating a vehicle and be aware of changing road conditions such as narrow, sloped or unfamiliar roads.
- Know the size and other limitations of your vehicle.
- Vehicles must be maintained in compliance with Departmental policy and manufacturer's recommendations.
- Tailgate safety sessions should include discussions of safe driving practices, including parking on hills/slopes.
- Review CAL FIRE Policy 6851.1 describing proper chock block usage.

## **INCIDENTAL ISSUES FOR REVIEW**

- Secure loose items in the cab and passenger spaces of vehicles so they do not become projectiles during accidents or evasive maneuvers.







P-EW-001 View of slope looking down toward water tender



P-EW-002 View of water tender at rest