

Rapid Lesson Sharing

Event Type: Burning Snag
Hits Firefighter

Date: Sept. 13, 2014

Location: Meadow Fire in California



NARRATIVE

On the morning of Saturday, Sept. 13, the Arrowhead Interagency Hotshot Crew is working in Division Whiskey on the Meadow Fire. The IHC's assignment is to construct direct line around a larger spot fire in conjunction with direct line on the main fire's edge. Crew overhead decides to send Squad One in the direction of the main fire's edge while Squad Two works the spot fire.

After a short time of being engaged, the saw team working with Squad One begins size-up of a burning snag located along the fire's edge. Next, due to safety concerns with this snag, overhead working in the area instructs the saw team to disengage the area of the snag.

Burning Snag Cuts Loose On Its Own

A short time later, while the saw team worked in the area, the burning snag cuts loose—on its own—at the base.

The upper portion of the snag delivers a direct blow to a saw team member's back and shoulder—knocking him to the ground. The injured individual remains conscious as his saw partner removes the portion of the tree that remained on top of him.

This responding saw partner, also being a qualified EMT, begins his assessment of the situation. It is then relayed that the injured individual has retained consciousness with steady vital signs.

Decision Made for Medical Evacuation Via Helicopter

The decision is immediately made to request a medical evacuation of the injured individual via helicopter assigned to the incident. The injured crew member is then transported to a local medical center.

Later that evening, after being assessed by physicians and treated for non-traumatic injuries, the crew member is released from the hospital for light duty.

*The injured individual remains
conscious as his saw partner removes
the portion of the tree that remained
on top of him.*

LESSONS

- ✓ Positive quick response by crew EMTs, adjacent IHC, and Division/IMT resources during evacuation process.
- ✓ Accurate and proficient patient assessment.
- ✓ Reviews of snag awareness, felling, and safety procedures were focused on throughout the AAR process.

Submitted By:
Crew Overhead

Do you have a Rapid Lesson to share?
Click this button:

Share
Your Lessons