

Informational Summary



Railroad Fire

USFS-Sierra National Forest

Burn Injury to Right Hand

September 4, 2017

Incident # CA-SNF-001743

Summary

On September 4, 2017 at approximately 2043 hours, a medical injury occurred while working on the Railroad Fire. A firefighter, in darkness, accidentally grabbed the auxiliary pump exhaust pipe which caused first degree burns to his hand and fingers and second to third degree burns to the palm of the hand. The firefighter just finished loading hose and was climbing down the apparatus. The patient was transported by incident ambulance to CRMC in Fresno. The remaining members of the engine crew returned to work.

Conditions

Location: Division A on the Railroad Fire in the area of 24S Road and 17R Road.
(37*24.970, 119*40.071)

Temperature: 86 degrees

Relative Humidity: 44%

Wind: WNW 9 mph

Area Description: Timber component on a wildland fire

***Weather is from intellicast using Fish Camp, California as the location

Sequence of Events

On September 4, 2017 at approximately 2043 hours, a medical injury was broadcast over the radio on the Railroad Fire. Engine 385, part of Strike Team 1810 Alpha, was working in Division A trying to clean up the large spot fire from the day before. The crew was using the reel line to suppress the fire and flopped it over the rig to the other side. The crew started to roll up the hose in an effort to relocate the engine. The hose reel was dragging so a firefighter off of the engine jumped up on top of the apparatus and assisted by pulling on the hose. After successfully loading the hose, the firefighter, in darkness, accidentally grabbed the auxiliary pump exhaust pipe. The firefighter was trying to steady himself to climb off of the engine. The member immediately burned his hand. Members on scene provided BLS treatment until the incident medics arrived. The patient received first degree burns to his hand and fingers and second to third degree burns to the palm of the hand. The patient was transported by incident ambulance to CRMC in Fresno. The firefighter is currently being treated at CRMC. The remaining members of the engine crew returned to work. Night Operations, line medics, incident ambulance, and safety all responded to the IWI. Notifications were made and the loop was closed at the completion of the incident by night safety.

Key Points

1. The Firefighter who was injured was not wearing gloves. Gloves would have eliminated or at the least, limited the severeness of the injury.
2. Injury was reported quickly but needed to be reported by the Division to Communications.

3. The appropriate equipment responded based on the initial radio transmission.

Recommendations

- Use lights on the apparatus and or hand lights when appropriate
- Wear all PPE
- Review the 9 line of injury reporting in the IAP prior to needing it