

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



Engine 4699 Accident

Monday, October 5, 2009

Sheep Fire

CA- BDF-013278

CA-CSR-000089

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.

Lookout

Communications

Escape Routes

Safety Zones

SYNOPSIS

On the evening of Monday, October 5, 2009, CAL FIRE Engine 4699 was involved in a single vehicle accident. A Firefighter 1 riding in the cab of the engine received injuries and was transported by ambulance to San Bernardino Community Hospital. A second Firefighter 1 riding in the cab of the engine was transported to Loma Linda University Hospital the following morning (Tuesday) after feeling ill. Engine 4699 sustained major damage to the front end.

NARRATIVE

On Monday, October 5, 2009, Strike Team 9461C was returning from an assignment on Division C of the Sheep Incident in the San Bernardino National Forest. The Strike Team was traveling eastbound on Hwy 138 enroute to the incident base.

At approximately 1920 hours, a private passenger vehicle pulled onto Hwy 138 and into the traffic lane of E-4699. When the operator of E-4699 applied the brakes, the engine lost traction with the road surface. The loss of traction resulted in the engine striking a bridge abutment and causing major damage to the front end of the vehicle.

A Firefighter 1 was transported to San Bernardino Community Hospital where they were treated and released. A second Firefighter 1 became ill the following morning and was taken to Loma Linda University Hospital where they were treated and released. Use of seat belts prevented serious injuries to personnel on the engine.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

- Continue to maintain situational awareness at all times
- Drive defensively
- Emphasize the requirement and benefits of seat belt use