

# Rapid Lesson Sharing

**Event Type:** Dozer Tip Over

**Date:** August 24, 2018

**Location:** South Sugarloaf Fire  
Owyhee, Nevada

## NARRATIVE

On August 24 at approximately 1030 hours, Southwest Dozer E-64 experienced a tip over on Division Hotel of the South Sugarloaf Fire near Owyhee, Nevada. The dozer tipped over 90 degrees, resting on its right side.

The Dozer and transport were being delivered to a location to construct indirect fireline on Division Hotel. As the transport was being driven up a narrow dirt road, the driver experienced wheel spin which caused him to lose momentum going up the grade.

The decision was then made by the Transport Driver to engage the parking brakes on the truck and transport and offload the Dozer. The intent was to utilize the Dozer to assist the transport to the top of the hill.

### Transport Driver Jumps Off Ramp – Breaks Ankle

The Transport Driver assisted unhooking the chains that secure the Dozer. He also acted as a spotter for the Dozer Operator.

As the Dozer was backing off the transport, the weight of the Dozer on the rear ramps caused the front of the transport trailer and the rear of the transport truck to pitch into the air, causing the whole transport to slide as the emergency-braked wheels lost contact with a solid surface.

The weight of the truck pushed the trailer down and slightly off the road. The Dozer was roughly 2/3rds off the trailer but still on the ramps. As the trailer began to move, it forced the Dozer into an awkward angle, causing the dozer to tip off the ramps.

As the trailer pitched into the air, the Transport Driver, standing on the trailer, jumped off onto the road. The impact of hitting the road caused him to suffer a broken ankle. He was treated at the scene, packaged, and transported to a local medical facility. He was ultimately taken to a Level 1 Trauma Center for surgery.



### SUCCESSSES

- ✓ The patient was assessed, stabilized and transported in a reasonable amount of time. The medical response protocol initiation was good.
- ✓ Medically trained personnel with the nearby Interagency Hotshot Crew rapidly responded.

### LESSONS

- ❖ Due to long travel distances, the decision to fly the patient out was looked at. But due to the fire behavior and widespread smoke impacts, they were unable to execute this action.
- ❖ Working around heavy equipment requires increased situational awareness due to the size, weight and potential chain reactions from equipment. Personnel should therefore be well clear of heavy equipment during operation.  
(**Key Considerations:** Limited sight from equipment operators, size and weight of equipment, shifting and unstable motions, and chain reactions associated with the shifting and swaying of equipment).



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#### ***This RLS was submitted by:***

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