

Lessons Learned



“Be Alert! Even the Simplest Tasks Can Backfire!”

Date/Time: 26 April 2010

Location: Riverside Fire Laboratory

Purpose: Simple tasks are the ones where we underestimate risks because it is so familiar, we do it all the time, we’ve always done it this way and haven’t gotten hurt, yet.....

Details: While driving continues to be one of the greatest risks USFS employees are exposed to, both on and off the job, many low risk activities also result in injuries.

At the end of the day a Lab Employee was closing the gate to the lower parking area. The lower gate latch caught on the pavement, bounced back and struck the employee across the bridge of the nose and forehead.

Lesson(s) Learned:

- Situational Awareness is for more than the field.
- When closing the gate move off to the side, not behind the gate.
- When you notice something in need of repair report it to your supervisor. It just may save a co-worker from a mishap.