

# **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**



**VMP Live Burn  
Near Miss**

**January 3, 2012**

**Corte Madera Ranch VMP**

**12-CA-MVU-000132**

**12-CA-MVU-000065**

**California Southern Region**

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**

The following information is a preliminary summary of a near miss aviation incident that involved a San Diego County Sheriff's Fire Fighting Helicopter in the San Diego Unit. The Helicopter sustained heat related damage while performing flight operations during a controlled Vegetation Management Program (VMP) burn.

## **NARRATIVE**

The Sheriff's Helicopter was assisting CAL FIRE and San Diego County Fire Authority ground resources on the Corte Madera Ranch VMP burn in South East San Diego County. The VMP project has been ongoing in the San Diego Unit and the current project portion covers some 600 acres with multiple burn plots. Operations on this date began at approximately 9:30 AM. The Crew on the Helicopter consisted of a San Diego County Sheriff's pilot and a CAL FIRE Helitack Captain. At approximately 10:20 AM, the Helicopter sustained moderate heat damage to the front exterior surface area of the helicopter's cockpit during flight operations. The pilot was able to land the helicopter at a nearby Helibase without further incident or injuries. After cleared by the Sheriff's helicopter mechanic, it flew back to home base without incident.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE CORRECTIVE ACTIONS**

- Review VMP/live fire use Policy 7030
- Review Helicopter Operations Policy 8344 and appropriate use of Rotary Wing Aircraft during VMP operations.