

CNF LESSONS LEARNED 09-08

Date of Incidents: May 27 and October 5, 2009

Subject: TWO INCIDENTS WHICH RESULTED IN RADIANT HEAT BURNS DUE TO HEAT PENETRATION THROUGH BOOT

1ST Incident: On May 27, 2009, while assigned to a fire, a fire fighter received minor burns to his left foot while cutting down a snag. Fire Fighter was wearing Nicks (Hot Shot) fire boots which were about 1 year old and had been resoled about a month prior to the incident.

2nd Incident: On October 5, 2009, while assigned to a fire, a fire fighter received a 1st degree burn to his left foot while cutting a tree which had been identified as a hazard. Fire fighter was wearing Whites fire boots which were about 2 years old and had been previously resoled about a year ago.

Commonalities: Both fire fighters were falling trees while assigned to incidents, both knew of the risk associated with hot embers/ash at the foot or near the trees, both felt fairly safe when they commenced falling the tree, both felt the heat build-up as they progressed in their cuts, Both felt committed to accomplishing the task at hand.

Lesson(s) Learned – Prior to beginning fire operations:

1. Remind fallers of the risks associated with cutting trees during fire assignments.
2. Prior to cutting a tree within a fire area, ensure the area where work will be performed is assessed for any type of hidden hazard.
3. When possible, wet down the base area where work will be done or clear out the area to get rid of hot ambers/ashes that might be hidden beneath the ground.
4. Remind fire fighters that fire boots only allow for a certain amount of protection.
5. Inform tree faller training of these two incidents so they may share during their training sessions.