

# Rapid Lesson Sharing



**Event Type:** Fuel Geyser Incident

**Date:** July 14, 2017

**Location:** Cheyenne River Fire, Wyoming

## NARRATIVE

While operating a Stihl 461 on a 95F day on a wildfire bucking-up a burning cottonwood tree, the saw quit running. Checked the fuel tank, more than half full. Tried choking saw, no go. Remembered likely vapor lock. Moved away from fire and popped open the fuel cap. Fuel geyser blew-up into face. Thankfully, was wearing sunglasses, helmet, Nomex to prevent some damage. Rinsed gas off face with about one gallon water. Dried out Nomex and stayed out of fire remainder of time. No injury.

## LESSONS

Refer to the Fuel Geyser awareness discussions and alerts!  
Rapidly opening the cap while saw was still hot is what got me! Could have turned out way worse!

### Another Recent Fuel Geyser Incident Reported via SAFENET:

[http://safenet.nifc.gov/view\\_safenet.cfm?id=37890&\\_ncforminfo=XCVbMOhp7IOQAqq53b69E\\_V5Cd0V5I1CgwUrIs9iJOSIR0rhvV19Bi4KjLCWXPJCI6SWDOG2YVwttcDI-NfqIq5vvma-70U4](http://safenet.nifc.gov/view_safenet.cfm?id=37890&_ncforminfo=XCVbMOhp7IOQAqq53b69E_V5Cd0V5I1CgwUrIs9iJOSIR0rhvV19Bi4KjLCWXPJCI6SWDOG2YVwttcDI-NfqIq5vvma-70U4)

This RLS was submitted by:  
Fire Management Officer

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