



Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center 2020 Mid-Year Analysis

Information collected from
Incident Reports
(January - June)



4

Fatalities

- Airtanker Crash - 3
(one crash resulting in 3 fatalities-Australia)
- Medical - 1

Accidents, Incidents, and Injuries:

2

Chainsaw Cuts

- 1-Kickback cut to leg
- 1-Boot strike



3

Driving Incidents

- 2-Lost Duals
- 1-Tire Delamination

6

During Physical Training

- 3-Rhabdomyolysis
- 2-Heat Related Injuries
- 1-Hit by Vehicle



3

Hit By Tree Incidents

- 2-Struck by Limb (Felling Ops)
- 1-Engine Ops (IA)

3

Falls While Hiking

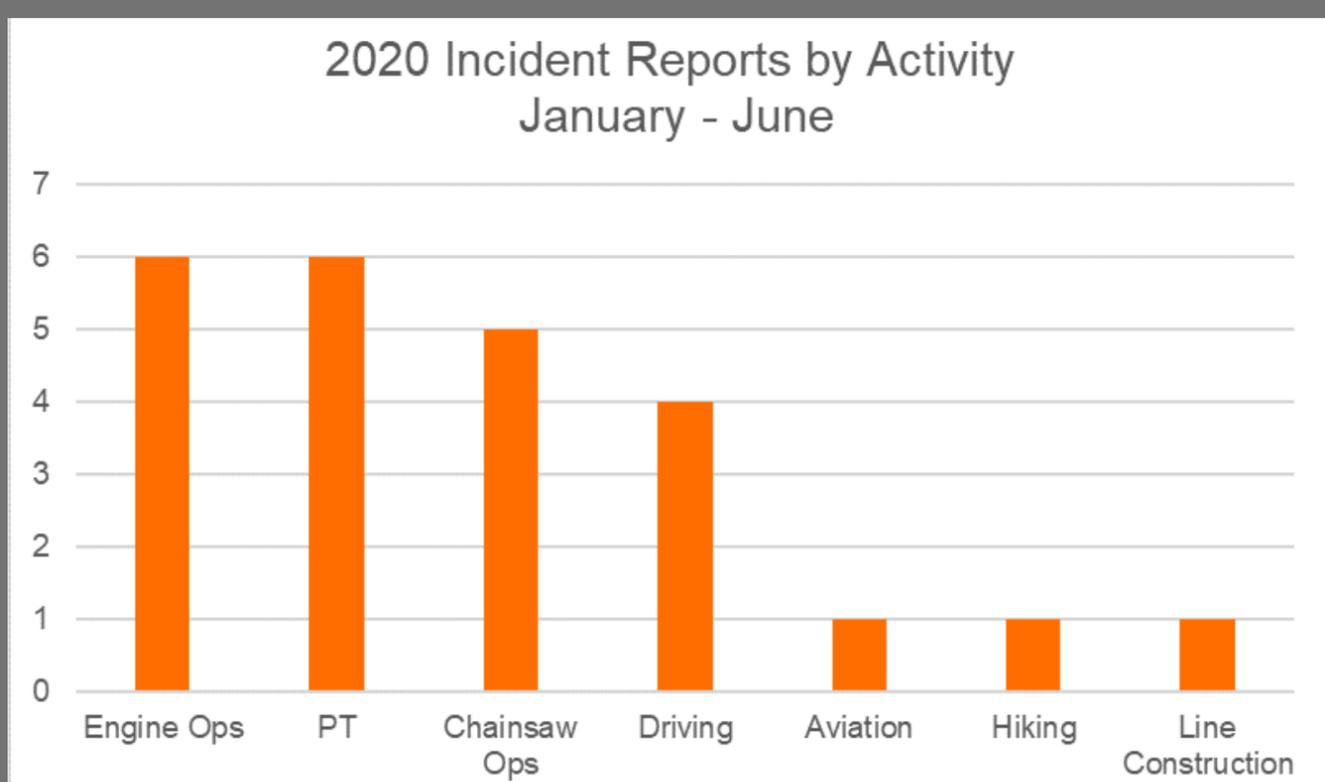
- 2-Broken Ankles
- 1-Pulled Muscle



★ Tactical Pause ★

Discuss these events

Reflect - Refocus - Reengage



Lessons

Move away, stay away

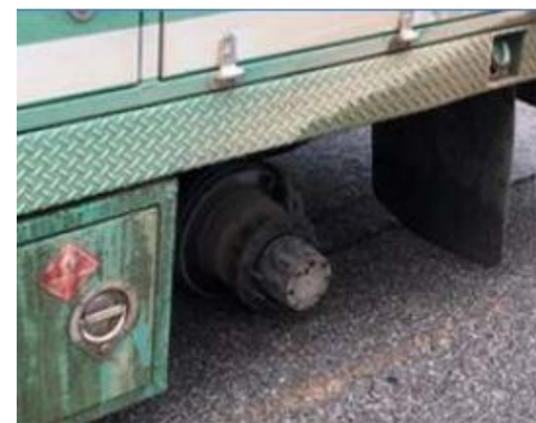
"I turned and took a few steps away. I heard and saw the tree hit the ground and come to a rest. I moved a step or two back toward the tree, looked up to check for overhead hazards, and found one - with my mouth."

[Boggy Draw Limb Strike](#)



Arrow points to the limb that caused the injury. This is where the limb strike occurred. The limb was not moved after the injury.

"Give it 30 seconds and wait for the death missiles to land before you approach the stump."



Inspect. Don't Over-tighten.

"Going approximately 45 mph, I felt the rear of the engine sway. I looked quickly in my side view mirror to see the outside dual pass the engine. It bounced through the ditch, bounced across the highway, and down the embankment."

[Engine Duals Come Off](#)

It only takes one instance of overtightening to damage a lug. After it is damaged, even if using a torque wrench, the lug is prone to failure.

Expect a geyser - Cover the cap

The sawyer attempted to restart the saw, he was unsuccessful—getting nothing more than a sputter. He set the saw down to cool. He then once again attempted to restart the saw—but couldn't. Suspicious of a vapor-lock, he set the saw aside for continued cooling. Several minutes later, the sawyer cautiously opened the saw's fuel tank—only to be greeted with a geyser of fuel.



[Colorado Fuel Geyser](#)

"Thanks to the repeated LLC discussions, I have developed a habit of covering the fuel cap with a gloved hand when opening."

