

Numbers and Lessons

Collected From 2020 Incident Reports



Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center

15

Fatalities



- 9 Aviation Related
(3 in an Airtanker Crash in Australia)
- 4 Medical
- 2 Entrapments



Accidents, Incidents, and Injuries:

3

Chainsaw Cuts

- 2 Kickback
- 1 Boot Strike



4

Hit By Rock Incidents

- 30 Stitches to Face
- 2 Fractured Vertebrae
- 1 Concussion
- 1 Skull Fracture



6

Rollovers

- 2 Pickups
- 1 Water Tender
- 1 Engine
- 1 Dozer
- 1 Skidgine



7

Hit By Tree Incidents

- 4 Non-Chainsaw Ops
- 3 Chainsaw Ops



15

Entrapment Incidents

- 8 Initial Attack
- 7 Extended Attack



Lessons

Tighten Your Chaps

The fast-moving chain cut into the chaps, causing the chaps to be pulled quickly toward the inside of the sawyer's lower left leg, allowing for the lower leg to become exposed to the still-moving chain.



[Chainsaw Kickback Incident](#)

Tighten leg straps so chaps are snug around your legs.

Talk About Rocks

The operator felt the machine shift sideways as his right rear tire rolled off a half-buried two-foot boulder.

[Neals Hill Fire Skidgine Rollover](#)



Dozer was pushing line where it had twice driven. The rocks and the dozer started to slide. The dozer slid off the rocks and momentum tipped the dozer.

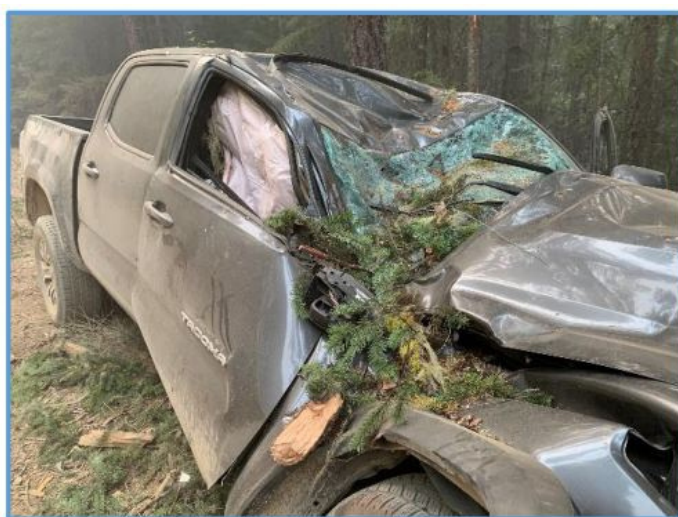
[Baboon Fire Dozer Tip-Over](#)



Rocks can increase the equipment's operating angle - talk with operators about rocky ground.

RED = Action

A tree fell and struck a vehicle occupied by a Strike Team Leader. An Engine Captain was first on scene and quickly called in a "RED" medical which allowed the Division Supervisor Trainee to clear radio traffic and prompted off-site resources to mobilize.



[August Complex Hit by Tree](#)

Communicating early, even with incomplete information, allows others to initiate action.

COVID-19 Lessons

We received 43 different reports focused on sharing experiences and lessons related to wildland fire and COVID-19. This illustrates our community's ability to rapidly adapt and share information in service to organizational learning.

The most important lessons from those 43 reports are compiled in two summaries.

[Coronavirus Lessons Summaries](#)

"The fire community should embrace this time of change as an opportunity."

[East Canyon Fire COVID 19 IMT Lessons](#)

