

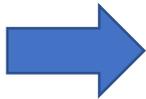
Rapid Lesson Sharing

Event Type: Explosion of Compressed Air Can –
Left in Vehicle

Date: July 23, 2018

Location: Owyhee Fire
Duck Valley Shoshone-Paiute Reservation
Nevada

How Did This Happen?



A fire overhead team member parked his vehicle at the Incident Command Post, located at the local high school.

Prior to the start of his shift, this person had utilized a can of compressed air to clean equipment. The can was left for the day on the dashboard inside the vehicle.

At an unknown time, the can of compressed air violently exploded.

That afternoon, an IMT member discovered significant damage to the front windshield of this person's pickup truck. The damage consisted of a 3-inch by 3-inch hole in the vehicle's front windshield. A can of Ultra Duster (10 oz) had caused—and was partially lodged in—this hole.

In addition, there were multiple associated cracks and chips throughout the windshield's glass surrounding this hole.



Findings

- ✓ Further inspection of the compressed air can revealed a severely deformed can missing its top (previously) sealed lid.
- ✓ This can's "CAUTION LABEL" informed: *"DO NOT leave in direct sunlight, enclosed vehicles, or exposed to temperatures about 120° as overheating can cause rupture."*

LESSONS

- ❖ During the course of a fire season many items gather in vehicles. These items can often include pressurized cans—this includes everything from sunscreen to bug spray, and even a can of soda.
- ❖ When overheated, these items become highly dangerous projectiles that can damage a vehicle or injure a passenger.
- ❖ Being cognizant of what is inside your vehicle is very important. This includes firefighting gear and equipment.
- ❖ In the event of a vehicle collision or rollover, any item can become a deadly projectile that can severely injure or kill passengers, regardless if occupants are utilizing their safety restraints.



Always Take a Second to Check Your Cab!

This RLS was submitted by:

Incident Overhead

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