

Los Angeles Fire Department Informational Summary Report

BLUE SHEET



LFD D-8R Dozer Rollover

December 5, 2017

Creek Fire

CA-LAC-362189

This report is intended as a safety/training tool and aids in preventing future occurrences. This Preliminary Summary Report is prepared and distributed within 72 hours following a Review Teams arrival to investigate a serious incident. Information contained herein is subject to revision as further investigation is conducted and additional information is developed.

SUMMARY

On Tuesday, December 5, 2017 at approximately 0800 hours, a Los Angeles Fire Department (LFD) Heavy Equipment Operator (HEO) while operating a D-8R Dozer (DZ11) as part of LFD S/T 1000K was involved in a significant rollover while maneuvering on a ridgeline, adjacent to the Ebey Herreres Truck Trail. The HEO initiated a "Mayday" and self-extricated DZ11 with injuries.

NARRATIVE

On Tuesday, December 5, 2017 at 0345 hours a Brush Assignment and Pre-Deployed resources were dispatched to 11350 North Riverwood Drive (Incident #137). The address was corrected to 13326 Little Tujunga in Los Angeles County where the "Creek" Fire grew to approximately 15,000 acres over the next several days. The need for dozers was required on the Eastern Flank in attempts to keep the fire West of Big Tujunga Canyon. A Dozer Strike Team, LFD S/T 1000K reported to the Command Post (CP) and was directed to attempt to anchor the heel of the fire.

Initially the area of operation had good visibility. Two large manmade barriers were in close proximity to each other and were identified and communicated as Safety Zones. A plan was formulated to improve the Ebey Herreres Truck Trail. The work assignment was considered low risk by the HEO and the Heavy Equipment Boss (HEQB). The HEO and Swamper (SWP) began to offload their equipment in the Safety Zone and started their work assignment.

The HEQB scouted out additional areas to work. Messages from the HEQB prompted the SWP to recon a possibly threatened structure, in proximity to the work, consequently resulting in the SWP leaving the HEO. After approximately 15 minutes into improving the road, the HEO started working the ridgeline above and adjacent to the Ebey Herreres Truck Trail. The operational area had varying degrees of visibility due to increased fire behavior. While maneuvering on the ridgeline and eventually stopped, DZ11 slid off, then rolled down and eventually flipped end over end, landing approximately 160 feet down, coming to a rest in a wash.

The HEO attempted to initiate a "Mayday" on Channel 3 with no success. An additional attempt by the HEO was initiated on Channel 6 by activating the Emergency Alert Button (EAB). The HEO was acknowledged by Metropolitan Fire Communications (MFC) and pertinent information was obtained along with acknowledgement by the Incident Commander (IC). The HEO was met by the other members from LFD S/T 1000K. An additional D-8R Dozer (DZ12) provided ground clearance around DZ11 due to active fire conditions. The HEO was loaded onto the Dozer Tender and driven to an

accessible area near Little Tujunga Canyon Road. A Rescue Ambulance was deployed for treatment and transportation of the injured HEO.

CONDITIONS

On Tuesday, December 5, 2017, a Santa Ana wind event producing wind speeds of 40 MPH with gusts up to 65mph out of the Northeast. The temperature was 65 degrees with humidity at 6%. A fast-moving brush fire descended down the foothills towards the community of Sunland/Tujunga. Conditions deteriorated and were unfavorable in the operational area of DZ11 adjacent to Ebey Herreres Truck Trail when the slide occurred.

INJURIES/DAMAGES

The HEO sustained a laceration to the head and multiple contusions to the upper torso. DZ11 sustained heavy damage to the cab, roll over protection system, "C" frame, fuel tank and battery compartment.

SAFETY ISSUES FOR REVIEW

- Book 99 Brush Fire Operations Manual
- Incident Response Pocket Guide (IRPG) Page 1 and Page 80
- Department Bulletin 17-01 (Brush Fire Operations)
- Department Bulletin 15-11 (Risk Management Policy and Firefighter Emergency/Mayday Procedures)
- RT-130 Annual Fireline Safety Refresher Training

REFERENCE MATERIAL

(See Attached Photos)

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