



United States Department of the Interior  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Medford District  
3040 Biddle Road  
Medford, OR 97504



In Reply Refer to:

Date: August 6, 2019

To: Teresa Trulock, Field Manager, Butte Falls Field Office

From: Dave Whitmer, LLR Team Leader

Subject: 72-Hour Preliminary Report: East Evans Creek Fire Tree Strike

**THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

**Location:** East Evans Creek Fire, Medford, Oregon

**Date of Occurrence:** August 3, 2019

**Time of Occurrence:** Approximately 0230 hours

**Activity:** Wildland Fire Suppression

**Number of Injuries:** 1 serious

**Number of Fatalities:** 0

**Property Damage:** N/A

**Narrative:** On August 3, 2019, at approximately 0230 (PST), a snag fell and hit a member of a 20 person hand crew that was building direct handline on the East Evans Creek Fire during initial attack. The firefighter struck by the snag sustained serious injuries to the head and facial regions.

The hand crew, along with adjacent fireline resources, initiated an emergency extraction of the injured firefighter via SKED stretcher from the tree strike site on the fireline to a pickup truck, and then to a staged ambulance that was already enroute. From there, the injured firefighter was transferred to a Lifeflight helicopter and airlifted to a regional medical center for treatment.

The injured firefighter remains in the hospital in critical condition, and a hospital liaison has been assigned to assist the family during this time.

A Lessons Learned Review Team has been assigned, and is working with the Butte Falls Field Office and Oregon Department of Forestry in Medford to provide a review and detailed report of the incident. The intent of the review is to learn from the events surrounding this incident and prevent future occurrences.

cc:

Theresa Hanley, Acting State Director, Oregon/Washington  
Jeff Fedrizzi, State Fire Management Officer, Oregon/Washington  
Julian Affuso, SORO Fire Operations Risk Management Officer  
Elizabeth Burghard, District Manager, Medford District  
Jennifer Smith, Associate District Manager, Medford District  
Ted Mason, National Fire Safety Program Manager  
Dave Larson, ODF District Forester Southwest Oregon