

BLUE SHEET

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

Preliminary Summary Report of Serious CAL FIRE Injuries, Illnesses, Accidents and Near-Miss Incidents



Dozer Fire

August 7, 2013

Silver Incident

13-CA-RRU-080373

13-CA-CSR-000063

California Southern Region

This Preliminary Summary Report is intended as an aid in accident prevention, and to provide factual information from the first 24 hours of the accident review. To that end it is published and distributed within a short time frame. Information contained within may be subject to revision as further investigation is conducted, and other reports and documents are received.

Lookout

Communications

Escape Routes

Safety Zones

SYNOPSIS

The following information is a preliminary summary of an incident where a CAL FIRE Dozer experienced a fire within the passenger compartment of the dozer. The Dozer Operator was able to exit the passenger compartment safely and was not injured.

NARRATIVE

On August 7, 2013 at approximately 1600 hours, Dozer 3341 was assigned to the Silver Incident in the Riverside Unit. During line construction on Branch II, Division "P", the Dozer Operator observed a portion of the fireline that required indirect line due to an inaccessible drainage.

Once the Dozer Operator completed the indirect dozer line, the Dozer Operator began to move the dozer upslope toward a ridgeline when the dozer blade became centered over a large boulder.

When the Dozer Operator began to back down the dozer line for a different travel route, the passenger compartment began to rapidly fill with smoke. The Dozer Operator exited the passenger compartment and was able to use the dozer's fire extinguisher in an effort to suppress the fire.

Additional fire extinguishers from Dozer 3140 and Dozer 3540 were used to help suppress the fire inside the passenger compartment of Dozer 3341. The operator compartment was totally damaged and there was significant damage to the engine compartment.

SAFETY AREAS FOR REVIEW

1. Maintain situational awareness at all times.
2. Ensure that all appropriate safety and operation training has been met by each employee for each vehicle type.
3. Ensure equipment being operated is in good mechanical condition.
4. Review operating guidelines and Unit training records associated with the John Deere 750J Series, 2012.