



SAFETY ALERT

Action Communication

To: All Stations and Chief Officers

DATE: November 27, 2012

From: Charles Truvillion
Safety 1

Subject: **Lucard Incident – Firefighter Through Garage Floor**

On Tuesday, November 20th, 2012, a KCFD firefighter fell into a hole in the floor of a residential garage. He received moderate injuries to the upper left quadrant of the torso. See the attached Blue Sheet for important information regarding this incident.

*Station Captains are responsible for briefing all subordinates and for documenting this information as a safety meeting in the station journal and training record **immediately** upon receipt.*

BLUE SHEET

Informational Summary Report of Near-Miss Incidents



STRUCTURE FIRE

NOVEMBER 20, 2012

LUCARD INCIDENT

Call Time: 1800 hrs.

Incident # 12-36623

STATION 21- BATTALION 2

This Summary Report is intended as a safety and training tool, an aid to preventing future occurrences, and to inform interested parties. Because it is published on a short time frame, the information contained herein is subject to revision as further investigation is conducted and additional information is developed.

SUMMARY

At approximately 1815 hrs. on Tuesday, November 20th 2012 a firefighter fell into a hole in the floor of a garage, receiving moderate injuries to the upper left quadrant of the torso.

CONDITIONS

Weather was clear with no wind. Darkness and heavy smoke conditions did impact visibility. The structure was a detached garage with a small living area separated by an interior partition wall. There was a significant access issue, due to accumulated exterior storage and fences. There were exposures threatened on the "B", "C" and "D" sides of the involved structure. The structure appeared to be greater than fifty years old and had been uninhabited for several years.

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Crews responded to the scene of structure fire at 607 Lucard St. in Taft, CA. The initial dispatch was for a reinforced structure response. Engine 21 was the first unit on scene at 1806 hours. They spotted in the alley, deployed a 1 ¾" line and assumed fire attack from what became the "A" side of the structure. Battalion 2 and Truck 21 were returning from a previous call and arrived at 1806 and 1807 respectively. T-21 was directed to go to the Lucard Street side, assume Division "C" and pull a line between the houses towards the rear of the property for both exposure protection and fire attack. After knocking down the fire, the T-21 crew was in transition from an exterior indirect fire attack to an interior direct attack to extinguish remaining active fire. The firefighter assigned to T-21 partially fell through an opening in the floor of the garage that was later determined to be an automotive service pit. The injured firefighter was able to stabilize his position, which prevented him from falling to the bottom of the pit. With the assistance of another firefighter, he was removed from the pit and helped back to the street to assess his injuries. The firefighter was transported by ambulance to Kern Medical Center, where he was treated and released.

INJURIES/DAMAGES

The firefighter's injuries were diagnosed as bruising and possible hairline rib fractures.

SAFETY ISSUES FOR REVIEW/LESSONS LEARNED

Dark, smoky conditions combined with the wearing of an SCBA mask contributed to the firefighter not being able to see the hole in the floor. When making entry into structure fires there are always unknowns that present possible injury or life hazards to firefighters. If you cannot see where you are walking, there are several ways to minimize the chances of falls and potential injuries.

1. Sweep the area in front of you with a tool to detect obstacles
2. Sound the floor with a tool to insure its integrity
3. Use your flashlights and/or set up auxiliary lighting sources
4. Address ventilation to increase interior visibility

INCIDENTAL ISSUES FOR REVIEW

Continually maintain your situational awareness and ensure you are always doing a comprehensive risk versus gain analysis. If you are unsure of the structural conditions in the area you are entering, can the same tactical objectives be accomplished by directing hose streams from a doorway? Are there any advantages and can you justify accepting risk when there is nothing to gain and no lives or property to save?

Alley Exterior View E-21 Fire Attack



INTERIOR VIEW OF DOOR INJURED F/F ENTERED



VIEW FROM DOOR F/F ENTERED AND AUTO SERVICE PIT





Lookouts

Communications

Escape Routes

Safety Zones

