

# **BLUE SHEET**

## **PRELIMINARY SUMMARY REPORT**



**Structure Fire  
Fall/Burn Injury**

**May 31, 2011**

**Ellsworth Incident  
CA-SAC-11064376**

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.

**Teamwork**

**Integrity**

**Professionalism**

**Service before Self**

## SYNOPSIS

While performing vertical ventilation at a structure fire in a single story residence, a firefighter fell through the roof into the involved garage. A rapid intervention crew quickly located the firefighter and removed him from the structure. The firefighter received burn injuries to his neck and hands. He was treated and released from the hospital.

## NARRATIVE

Station 108 received a walk-in report of a structure fire behind the fire station. Engine 108 Captain notified Fire Dispatch of the incident and requested a structure fire (S3) assignment. The initial response included Engine 108, Engine 23, Engine 21, Engine 24, Truck 23, Rescue 21, Medic 21, Battalion 7 and Battalion 13.

Upon arrival Engine 108 reported a well-involved garage fire. Engine 108 initiated fire attack and requested the second engine obtain a water supply and take command. Truck 23 was assigned to perform vertical ventilation and search. Truck 23 Captain split his crew into two teams. Team 1 consisted of Truck 23 Captain and Truck 23 Firefighter. Truck 23 Team 1 obtained a 14 foot roof ladder from Engine 108. The ladder was placed on A/D corner. After placing the ladder Rescue 21 Firefighter arrived at the ladder and advised Truck 23 Captain that he was assigned to assist with ventilation. Truck 23 Team 1 ascended the ladder to the roof.

Once on the roof, Truck 23 Captain sounded the roof using a rubbish hook. Truck 23 Team 1 moved from the A/D corner to the B side of the roof near the garage. They made a 4 foot by 4 foot ventilation hole on the B side roof. After louvering the roof deck, very little smoke exited from the ventilation hole. Rescue 21 Firefighter made a second ventilation hole toward the main part of the house. Truck 23 Captain assisted in opening this vent hole.

After opening the second vent hole, Rescue 21 Firefighter watched Truck 23 Firefighter fall through the roof. He advised Truck 23 Captain. Truck 23 Captain broadcast a Mayday over the tactical frequency A6. A Rapid Intervention Crew consisting of Rescue 21 and Medic 21 was activated.

Rescue 21 and Medic 21 made access to the garage. The downed firefighter was quickly located. A quick assessment showed the firefighter was conscious and breathing. Rescue 21 and Medic 21 removed the firefighter from the garage. The firefighter was transferred Code 3 to UC Davis Medical Center. The firefighter injured a knee and sustained burns to the head and hand. He was released from the hospital later in the day.

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## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SAFETY ACTIONS

- Always wear full personal protective equipment including Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus when operating above a fire.
- When operating on a roof, ensure that fire does not cut off your exit.
- Be alert for changes in the structural stability of the roof assembly during roof operations. Use sounding to assess stability.
- Review Mayday and Rapid Intervention procedures.