

GREEN SHEET

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

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



**Vehicle Accident NEU Engine 2374
Moderate Engine Damage**

August 9, 2011

Eighty Incident

11-CA-NEU-017787

California Northern Region

A Board of Review has not approved this Summary Report. It 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

The following is a preliminary summary of a traffic collision involving CAL FIRE Engine 2374, an International Model 35, and a privately owned Freightliner semi-truck with a van-type trailer. The accident occurred on August 9, 2011 at approximately 2144 hours and resulted in moderate damage to both vehicles. No injuries were sustained by CAL FIRE personnel or the occupant of the semi truck/trailer.

CONDITIONS

The weather was clear and roads were dry.

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Engine 2374 responded from CAL FIRE Station 50 in Truckee to a commercial vehicle fire on eastbound Interstate 80 at the Donner Lake Interchange. Eastbound traffic was completely stopped and westbound was reduced to the #2 lane due to engine and hose placement. After the fire was knocked down, Engine 2374 was directed by the Incident Commander to travel westbound to a break in the K rail, turn through it and return to the scene in the eastbound lanes. Westbound traffic was to be stopped at the incident long enough for Engine 2374 to travel to and maneuver through the K rail facilitating the turn around. Approximately ½ mile from the break in the K rail the Fire Captain driving Engine 2374 noticed headlights some distance behind in the driver's side mirror and turned on the rear amber warning lights with the directional arrow stick in the flash position. Approximately ¼-mile from the intended turn, E2374 began travelling in an "S" pattern crossing both lanes and indicated a left turn with the turn signal. The Fire Captain checked the driver's mirror again and saw a semi-truck in the #2 lane which appeared to be yielding. The Fire Captain continued to maneuver Engine 2374 through the final "S" turn making a left turn from the right shoulder across the #2 lane and stopped after realizing that the semi-truck had changed to the #1 lane and was attempting to pass on the left. The semi-truck attempted to swerve left to avoid the collision but was unable to do so and struck the driver's front corner of Engine 2374 causing moderate damage to both vehicles. The engine company and the driver of the semi-truck/trailer were uninjured in the incident.

INJURIES/DAMAGES

No injuries occurred. E2374 sustained moderate damage to the left front hood, bumper, wheel and axle. The semi-truck/trailer rig sustained moderate damage to the right front hood, bumper, tire, and side of the van trailer.

SAFETY ISSUES FOR REVIEW

1. Use of Code 3 and or rear amber warning lights.
2. Use of seatbelts by all CAL FIRE employees.