

# **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 vs. Pedestrian**

**Fatality – RRU E-35**

**July 5, 2013**

**13-CA-RRU-068054**

**13-CA-CSR-000053**

**California Southern 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

On the Morning of Friday, July 5, 2013 Riverside County Fire Engine 35 (E-35) was parked on the right shoulder of Monterey Avenue onramp to eastbound Interstate 10 (I-10) in the City of Palm Desert. A vehicle traveling down the onramp struck and fatally injured the Fire Apparatus Engineer-Paramedic (FAE-P).

## CONDITIONS

Thousand Palms RAWs: N 33° 49' 26,436" W 116° 23' 46.896"  
Orientation to incident: Northwest approximately 1 mile  
Date/Time: July 5, 2013 0935  
Temperature: 87° F  
Relative Humidity: 25%  
Wind Speed/Direction: 2 mph North  
Visibility: Clear, 10 miles  
Roadway: Two lane freeway onramp (narrowed to single lane at accident site), dry, paved asphalt.

Make/Model of Equipment: 2004 SMEAL Type 1 Fire Engine. CA License #1107221

## SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

On July 5, 2013 at 0925, E-35 was dispatched to a medical emergency in the parking lot outside a retail business located at 34500 Monterey Avenue. E-35 was cancelled at scene and available at 0931.

At 0935, while stopped at the intersection of Toni Drive and Dinah Shore Drive, E-35 along with E-81 was dispatched to a traffic collision on the westbound I-10, east of Washington Street. At 0936, E-35 acknowledged the dispatch, traveled approximately ½ mile to Monterey Avenue onramp stopping midway on the eastbound right shoulder. The FAE-P exited E-35 to don structure Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). The FAE-P was adjacent to the driver's side of the cab when a vehicle traveling down the onramp struck the FAE-P along with the open rear cab door, propelling the FAE-P to the front of E-35.

The E-35 Fire Captain notified the Perris Emergency Command Center that an individual on E-35 had been struck by a vehicle and requested additional resources. The Firefighter Paramedic assessed and administered Advanced Life Support treatment to the injured FAE-P.

Additional response of E-69, E-71, Medic-71, American Medical Response Ambulance- 103, Battalion Chiefs 10-B and 12-B arrived at scene and assisted with scene management and patient treatment. The FAE-P was transported and succumbed to injuries at a local Trauma Center.

## **INJURIES/DAMAGES**

The FAE-P suffered major blunt force trauma resulting in fatal injuries.

## **SAFETY ISSUES FOR REVIEW**

- Maintain situational awareness at all times.
- Review highway safety procedures, i.e., crew protection, warning devices, and traffic control.

