

BLUE SHEET

PRELIMINARY SUMMARY REPORT



Camp 16 Incident Vehicle Accident and Fatalities

August 30, 2009

CA-LAC-09196997

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.

SYNOPSIS

On the afternoon of Sunday August 30, 2009 at approximately 1645 hours, a County of Los Angeles Fire Department, Fire Captain and Fire Fighter Specialist were involved in a single vehicle accident near Los Angeles County Fire Camp 16. (Near Mt. Gleason)

Both firefighters died as a result of their injuries.

Several other firefighters received burn and smoke inhalation injuries while trying to get to and render aid to the firefighters who were involved in the vehicle accident.

NARRATIVE

The fire was rapidly approaching the Fire Camp from the South East with extreme fire behavior when the accident occurred. The sudden increase in fire behavior also resulted in the burn over of the Fire Camp destroying the majority of the Camp.

At the time of the burn over, approximately sixty-five fire fighters were involved in the protection of the fire camp and many were forced to seek refuge from the fire at various locations at the fire camp.

The Fire Captain and Firefighter Specialist were involved in an operation protecting the camp from the rapidly approaching fire. They entered their vehicle and were in the process of leaving the immediate area when the accident occurred. Their vehicle left the roadway resulting in the fatalities.

Several firefighters received burn and smoke inhalation injuries while trying to get to and render aid to the firefighters who were involved in the vehicle accident. The injured firefighters were transported to local hospitals where they were treated and released.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

Have adequate resources available to support all emergency operations at all times.

Maintain current information on fire weather forecasts and expected fire behavior.

Identify safety zones and escape routes, and update them regularly.

Maintain Situational Awareness and know what the fire is doing at all times.

Identify trigger points which allow for adequate time to evacuate after receiving notification by posted lookouts.