

PRELIMINARY (24-HOUR) REPORT, SERIOUS ACCIDENT

FROM: John Prendergast, View Lake Complex Safety Officer, Portland NIMO Team

TO: Mike Spencer, Acting Region 6 Fire Operations Safety Manager

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

LOCATION: Mt. Hood National Forest, Oregon

DATE OF OCCURRENCE: September 4, 2010

TIME OF OCCURRENCE: Approximately 1815 Hours

ACTIVITY: Warm Springs IHC, Mop-up and suppression rehab

NUMBER & TYPE OF INJURIES/DAMAGE: One person - Warm Springs IHC crewmember, emergency transport to hospital via helicopter, injuries include basal skull fracture, fractured cheekbone, three fractured vertebrae, inter-cranial bleeding and internal bleeding. No other crewmembers were injured.

NARRATIVE:

On September 4, 2010 at approximately 1815 hours, crewmembers from the Warm Springs IHC were taking a break near the end of their shift on Division D of the Pyramid Butte Fire on the View Lake Complex. This location is in the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness Area on the Mt. Hood National Forest, adjacent to the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT). The crew had chosen a narrow, rocky gully/ravine that provided some shelter from the wind as the location for their break. A crewmember was sitting up against the bank of the ravine when a large rock became dislodged from a point behind and just above him. The rock rolled down onto the crewmember, struck him mid-back, and continued to roll over his head forcing his body forward which pushed his face down with significant force into another large rock.

An EMT and wilderness first responder from the Prineville IHC who were working nearby, immediately responded to the accident site and performed the initial assessment. Due to the mechanism of injury and signs and symptoms, a backboard, c-collar and jump kit were requested within 5 minutes. Prineville IHC had the items at the PCT trailhead and they were brought to the scene of injury by Prineville crewmembers. Medic 1, located at a drop-point approximately 25 minutes away, was contacted and patient's vital signs and status were relayed. Medic 1 then started travel to the PCT trailhead. Upon arrival of the backboard and c-collar, patient was immobilized using c-spine precautions. Transport began down the PCT at approximately 1845 hours and the patient arrived at H-2, the closest helicopter evacuation site, at 1925 hours. Paramedic (Medic 1) walked in on the PCT and met the patient approximately halfway through backboard transit. Method of transportation to higher medical care was discussed. Given the nature of the injury, time of day, and length of time ground transport would have required over stretches of very rough, rocky roads, the decision was made to transport the patient by helicopter utilizing a Type 2 helicopter assigned to the incident. The helicopter was waiting at H-2 when the patient arrived there at 1925 hours. The helicopter lifted off H-2 at approximately 1930

hours and the patient was flown to Emanuel Hospital in Portland, Oregon. The helicopter landed at Emanuel Hospital at approximately 2000 hours.

The injured crewmember was wearing his hard hat and full PPE at the time. No one was working or seated above him at the time the rock dislodged.

Submitted by: John Prendergast, View Lake Complex and Portland NIMO Team Safety Officer

/s/ John Prendergast



Arrow in top picture points to rock location before it became dislodged. Arrow in bottom picture points to final location of rock after impacting injured individual.