



Numbers and Lessons

Collected from 2022 Incident Reports

Fatalities

25

Hit by Tree

Medical

Burn Injury

Aviation

Unknown

Entrapment

Vehicle Accident

Accidents, Incidents, and Injuries:

7

Chainsaw Cuts

- 5 to Swampers
- 2 to Sawyers



11

Vehicle Accidents

- 4 Type 6 Engines
- 3 Water Tenders
- 2 Trucks
- 1 ATV
- 1 UTV



12

Entrapment Incidents

- 11 Initial Attack
- 1 Extended Attack



17

Hit by Tree Incidents

- 10 Non-Chainsaw
- 7 Chainsaw Ops



18

Burn Injuries

- 8 Entrapment
- 5 Ash Pit
- 3 Vehicle Related
- 1 Drip Torch Use
- 1 Explosion



Lessons

Inspect Your Helmet

Guidance for helmet serviceability:

- Date of Manufacture: 10 years maximum.
- Visual Inspection: cracks, chemical exposure, Ultraviolet (UV) degradation, etc.
- Physical Inspection: The 1-inch compression flexibility test.

A helmet needs to pass each of these three criteria to remain in service.



[Cedar Creek Fire Tree Strike](#)

Know How to Select a Short-Haul Site



"I wasn't sure what you needed for short-haul... turns out you don't need (much)." – Hotshot Squad Leader

Generally, zero improvement is required to perform a short-haul. With the right flight conditions, we need an opening in the canopy, about the size of a Volkswagen bug. If the terrain is steep, excavating a platform can make it easier to package and depart smoothly with the patient.

[Big Swamp Fire Tree Strike](#)

Make the Fire Extinguisher Accessible

The fire extinguisher assigned to the UTV was not used during this incident. The fire extinguisher was placed in a storage bin under the passenger seat. With fire intensifying and impacting the passenger seat, the UTV Operator was not able to access the extinguisher.



[Davy Crockett NF UTV Fire](#)

Have an AED

"Agonal breathing was observed but no pulse and no respirations were found."



A firefighter assigned to a prescribed fire was found unresponsive at the conclusion of the prescribed burn. EMTs on site started CPR and utilized an AED and were able to reestablish breathing and a heartbeat.

Have and maintain an AED on the engine and mark the compartment.

[Hoosier NF RX CPR and AED Use](#)

Do Some Driver Training

"In all my years in the hotshot world, this is the closest I have come to having our crew vehicles involved in a major accident."

An accident resulted in a pickup rolling several times in the oncoming lane. Our crew vehicle had a following distance of 8 to 10 seconds and they needed every second of that distance.

BL-300 and our in-house training on roadside fires paid off.

[Jackson IHC Close Call](#)

