

Accident Synopsis

Date and Time of Accident: November 8, 2018, at 10 a.m.

Brief Description of Accident:

A logging crew was standing by a warming fire. The fire started to go out so the choker setter poured fuel on the fire to keep it from going out. The container caught on fire and blew fuel onto the victim causing burns to 25 percent of his body. He was hospitalized for approximately six weeks.

What the victim was doing at the time of the accident:

The victim was standing by a warming fire during his lunch break.

Description of the Accident:

On November 8, 2018 at approximately 10 a.m., the yarder engineer called the rigging crew on the radio and told them that the guy line needed to be moved and the rigging crew should take lunch during the down time. The crew lunches and an old reused milk jug of fuel mix (3/4 diesel, 1/4 gas) for a fire was sent in their last turn by the choker setter.

The skyline was lowered to the ground and the landing crew began moving the guy line. During this time, a fire was built and the rigging crew huddled around the fire to stay warm. The fire began to die down and the choker setter decided to add some of the fuel mix to the fire. He splashed the mixture onto the fire, and the flame from the fire went back to the jug and the remaining mixture exploded and shot onto the victim who was standing near the choker setter and the fire. The fuel mixture covered the victim's left arm, chest, left side of his neck, and part of his face. He immediately went to the ground and started rolling in an attempt to extinguish the flames. The rest of the rigging crew jumped on the victim to extinguish the fire. During the process, the victim's clothes were cut off of him and the fire was eventually extinguished.

The crew immediately called the landing and initiated the company's emergency medical plan. The crew was approximately 800 feet from the landing and the terrain was extremely steep and rocky, so it was decided by the entire crew including the hook tender to attach the stretcher to the chokers hanging from the Acme carriage and use the yarder to pull the victim to the landing. The stretcher was connected to the chokers by rolling full roll mollies in the bells of the chokers to ensure that it was strong enough to hold the stretcher and the weight of the victim. The other employees walked along side of the stretcher and kept it steady as the victim was slowly yarded to the landing. After reaching the landing, the victim was taken by Life Flight to Legacy Emanuel Hospital in Portland and then immediately transferred to the burn center for further treatment.

List of Violations:

Violation 01-001: High/Serious

Penalty: \$800 after 60% reduction

Rule: OAR 437-007-0110(2)(b). Supervisory Responsibilities. The employer or their authorized representative must: (2) Verify that all current and new employees: (b) Have received adequate job safety instruction and training.

Violation 02-002: Other Than Serious with a mandatory penalty

Penalty: \$1000 with no reduction.

Rule: OAR 437-001-0704(4)(a). Reporting Fatalities, Catastrophes, Injuries, and Illnesses to

Oregon OSHA (4) You must report in-patient hospitalizations, loss of an eye, and either amputations or avulsions that result in bone loss, to Oregon OSHA within 24 hours after occurrence of the work related incident or employer knowledge (reported to you or any of your agents) of the event. When an amputation, avulsion, or loss of an eye involves in-patient hospitalization, you need only to make a single report.(a) In-Patient Hospitalization. In-patient hospitalization is the formal admission to the in-patient service of a hospital or clinic for care or medical treatment (includes first-aid). Hospitalization for observation only is not reportable, nor is emergency room treatment. In-patient hospitalization for any reason after emergency room treatment is reportable. You must report all incidents that result in in-patient hospitalization, including heart attacks and motor vehicle accidents. Report in-patient hospitalizations only if they occur within 24 hours of the incident that caused the hospitalization.