



www.firefighternearmiss.com

Report of the Week

How many times would you take this ride?
5/30/08

Report Number: 08-135

Report Date: 03/08/2008 2301

Demographics

Department type: Volunteer

Job or rank: Fire Fighter

Department shift: Respond from home

Age: 43 - 51

Years of fire service experience: 21 - 23

Region: FEMA Region VI

Service Area: Rural

Event Information

Event type: Vehicle event: responding to, returning from, routine driving, etc.

Event date and time: 12/23/2007 2100

Hours into the shift:

Event participation: Involved in the event

Do you think this will happen again?

What do you believe caused the event?

- Procedure
- Decision Making
- Human Error

What do you believe is the loss potential?

- Property damage
- Life threatening injury
- Lost time injury

Event Description

The engine responded to reported structure fire. We had a driver and officer in the front seats and 2 firefighters in the rear jump seats. No seatbelts were worn for any occupants. The driver and officer were attempting to see the fire scene and the driver dropped the rear wheel off the left side of roadway. The driver overcorrected and caused sway and instability of the engine. The engine rolled completely over two times and came to rest on its wheels facing the opposite direction of original travel. The driver was thrown around in the cab but remained in the vehicle. The officer's head hit the windshield and he was partially ejected. The firefighters in rear of cab were both ejected through the high top roof of the apparatus which was removed when the engine rolled. Both firefighters in the rear were fully geared with gloves, hoods, coats and helmets fastened and closed. No air packs were worn at the time. Loose equipment from the rear of the cab struck the ground. All four air packs were ejected from brackets and became projectiles. At least two had valve failures. The 1000 gallon poly tank, ladders and other apparatus equipment detached on highway. All four fire fighters were transported to a trauma center. One was admitted for

How many times would you take this ride?

1 of 2

observation and released the next day. The other three were treated and released.

Lessons Learned

All occupants utilize seatbelts. Driver's attention must not be distracted from roadway. Department took no training or other action. Chief was in officer position and Assistant Chief was driver.

Discussion Questions

describe what happens when firefighters wear seat belts (bad things happen but no injuries result) and when firefighters don't wear seat belts (see this week's report for an example). Once you have reviewed [#08-135](#) in its entirety, consider the following:

1. What are the other factors that come to light as you read this account?
2. What will it take to get all firefighters to wear seat belts in your department?
3. If your department has a mandatory seat belt regulation, is there 100% compliance?
4. If you do not wear a seat belt, how do you explain your actions to your family?
5. A number of local governments are considering not paying claims for firefighters injured in vehicle incidents that are found not wearing seat belts. Is this reasonable?

Note: The questions posed by the reviewers are designed to generate discussion and thought in the name of promoting firefighter safety. They are not intended to pass judgment on the actions and performance of individuals in the reports.