

2003 San Diego Wildfires

October 26 – November 1



Image captured by the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) on the Aqua Satellite



Piru Fire

Grand Prix Fire

Old Fire

San Diego Fires



Camp Pendleton (Roblar Fire)

Escondido (Paradise Fire)

San Diego Area (Cedar Fire)

San Diego Wildfires:

- Killed 16 people
- Destroyed nearly 2,500 homes
- Burned nearly 400,000 acres



Network Damage

- 297,700 ft. of fiber lost
- 1,315,300 ft. of copper lost
- 932 poles burned
- 31,000 working lines affected
- 9 Central Offices & 5 Radio sites went to back-up generators due to loss of commercial power

Management Response

- Emergency Operations Centers were activated in Northern & Southern CA
- Construction & Engineering Command Centers set up in L.A. & San Diego
- Procurement arranged for shipping of necessary restoration supplies
- Employees expected to report to work to assist in provisioning essential services

Safety & Health Concerns

- Corporate Real Estate closed air-intake vents for San Diego buildings (on 100% re-circulated air)
- Complaints of eye and throat irritation received from several Call Centers
- Outside technicians concerned over exposure to smoke

Corporate Safety Response

- Arrangements made for immediate air quality testing of Call Centers in San Diego
- N95 Particulate Respirators ordered for distribution to SBC locations in San Diego



Air Quality Testing

- Indoor and outdoor samples taken at major Call Centers
- Initial results within first two days of testing indicated that levels of Carbon Dioxide, Carbon Monoxide, and Particulates were below Permissible Exposure Limits (PELs)
- Oxygen levels were at 21%

Sampling Equipment

- Q-Trak Plus IAQ Monitor
- TMX-412 Monitor w/CO and O₂ Sensors



Network Restoration



Resources Required

- 1,300,000 ft. of various size copper cable
- 300,000 ft. of various size fiber optic cable
- 950 poles
- Aerial Placing equipment (Telsta T-40s, Diggers, and Pulling Trucks)
- Outside Plant and Splicing Technicians deployed from throughout the state

Safety Concerns

- Exposure to particulates
- Crews working long hours/shifts
- WAP/flagging on narrow winding roads



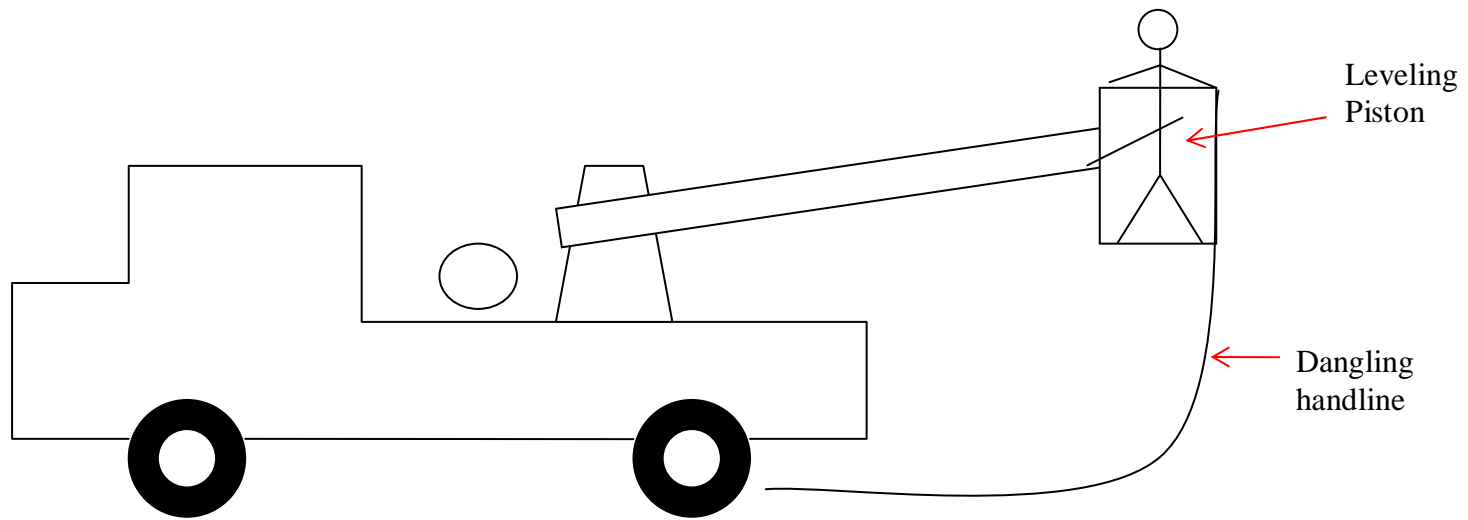
Corporate Safety Field Response

- Conducted Air Quality samples at various burn zones
- Rode with various supervisors to ensure appropriate safety practices were followed
- Maintained high-visibility for support where required

Serious Incidents

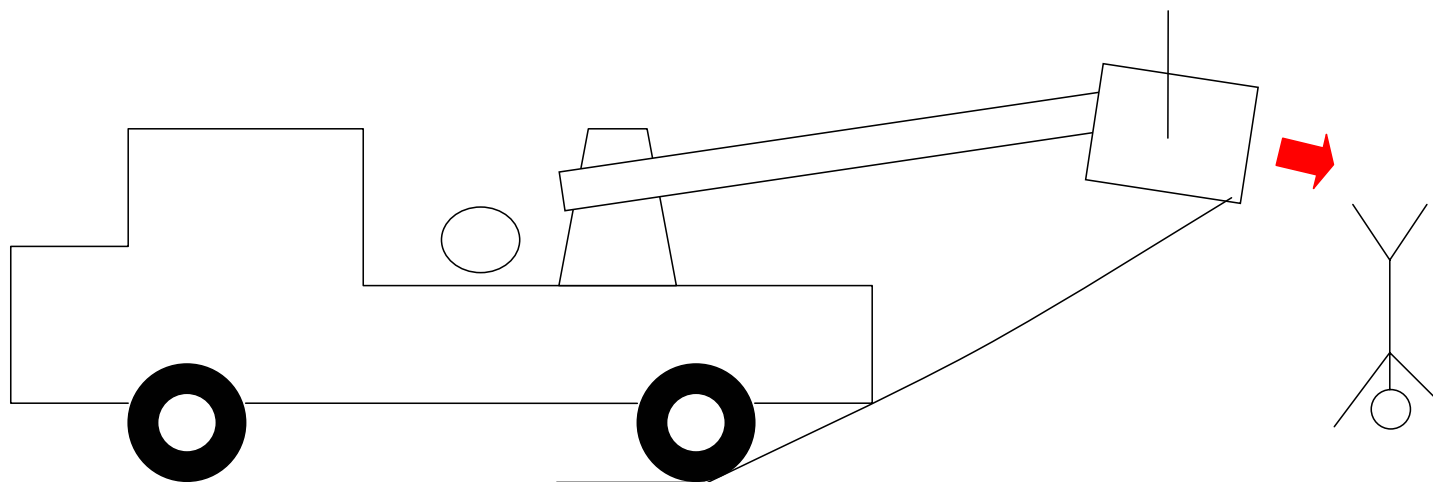
- Outside Plant Technician falls out of tower
Telsta T-40 Bucket
- Splicing Tower overturns in two-lane
highway while avoiding dog in road

T-40 Incident



Direction of travel →

T-40 Incident



Direction of travel →

Splicing Tower Rollover

