

From: Cookie <swedisme@yahoo.com>
Subject: **Proud mom I am!! A awesome son I do have !!!**
Date: October 26, 2015 9:17:19 PM EDT
To: Meilynn Smith <meilynn@rinquist.com>, John Rinell <johnrinell@yahoo.com>, lennart@earthwander.com, A Mom Dodo <dodopinell@gmail.com>, John-Erik Björhag <je.bjorhag@gmail.com>, rinell28@gmail.com
▶ 2 Attachments, 227 KB

((Davy is the HOIST/MEDIC for Kern county fire department He is the one that is hoisted down into all situations and dangers to the injured , tends to their injuries , brings them back up and transport by Helicopter to hospitals !!

In this case they were unable to hoist him down due to dangerous conditions for helicopter The crew was able to get the injuries firefighter up to a area where Davy took over his serous condition and flew him to the hospital This is the job Davy is doing durning fire season. The hoist medic program was created and implemented by Davy and is a major rescue program now used by Kern county !! Since this program has started they gave saved dozen of lives.

READ AND SEE PICTURES

KER COUNTY FIRE POSTED THE FOLLOWING

It was great to see Richard Burgess (the Breckenridge Hotshot that was injured on September 7th at the Rough Fire) walk to the podium to thank his rescuers. First District Supervisor Mick Gleason was also on hand to honor the firefighters that played a role in the rescue. Rich was released from the hospital on Friday. We wish him the best as he continues to recover. More details about the accident and rescue can be found below in a letter written by his wife.

A letter from Lisa Smith Burgess

September 23, 2015

Good Morning,

I would like to thank everyone for their respect of our privacy over the past seventeen days. This allowed me the time I needed to personally notify our friends and family.

My husband, Richard Burgess, is a crew member of the Breckenridge Hotshots based out of Havilah, California. On September 7, 2015 Rich was injured while working in the Converse Basin area of the Rough Fire. His crew was tasked with monitoring the fire line along Hoist Ridge. While working on the line there was a 36" DBH (three feet in diameter) downed tree that was engulfed in flames prior to the crew arriving. After finishing up the line both below and above the tree, Rich went back down to tie in a piece of the line. The downed tree freed and started rolling towards Rich, eventually taking him down, and trapping him underneath.

Rich's crew immediately evaluated the situation and acted. One crew member used his chain saw to start cutting away as much weight from the tree as possible. Due to the size of the tree and the smoke, the crew member had to rely on critical communication with the crew to not cut Rich while he

was sawing off portions of the tree. Another crew member was holding Rich's hand for moral support while others did everything they could to get the tree off of Rich and get him out.

Once the tree was light enough, the crew members were able to lift it off of Rich. God provided Rich with the adrenaline he needed to get up from under the tree as they lifted it off of him; and he fell to the ground immediately after getting free. Not only did their immediate actions, critical communication, and timeliness save Rich from continuing to burn, it also prevented the two canisters of gasoline in his pack from catching on fire while he was trapped underneath the tree.

Once Rich was out from under the burning tree, two EMT's on the crew began assessing his injuries, while the rest of the crew started preparing an emergency helispot. The Superintendent of his crew was in communication with Division regarding the Emergency Medivac Plan. After evaluating the smoke and air conditions, it was determined that the helicopter would not be able to land or hoist. The decision was made to carry Rich up the hill utilizing the wheeled stokes provided by the Rapid Extraction Module (REM Team). With the assistance of Palomar Hotshots, CAL FIRE strike team members, and the REM team, Rich was systematically brought up the hill. At that point Rich was placed in the care of the Sequoia Safety Council Ambulance who drove him to the helispot for aerial extraction to the Community Regional Medical Center by Kern County Helicopter 407.

After arriving at Community Regional Medical Center it was determined that Rich had twenty-five percent second-degree burns and seven percent third-degree burns. Rich's lungs were clear and he did not have one broken bone in his body. To date, Rich has had two surgeries. One surgery was an allograft and the other was an autograft; and he endured numerous take-downs before, between, and after each surgery. Rich continues to be in good spirits. He cannot wait to get home and eventually back to work.

I do not think that there could have been a better example of Integrity, Duty, and Respect from Rich's crew and the other First Responders in this situation. "Thank You" will never be enough for saving my husband's life, you are all true heroes, I am beyond thankful that he will eventually be able to come home.

I am very grateful for and wish to say thank you to The Sanders' Family, Jimmy Rocha and Kern County Fire Department, Fulton Hotshots, Horseshoe Meadows Hotshots, Arrowhead Hotshots (thank you for sharing your fire lunch just in case Rich was missing it), The Russ Family, Kern County Burn Survivor's Trust, Bakersfield Fire Fighters Burn Foundation, The Martinez Family, Sequoia National Forest, Sierra National Forest, KVHS CSF, The Burn Unit at Community Regional, Terry's House, Pete Dern and Family (hearing your story and seeing you walk out of the burn unit continues to provide us with hope), and Vicki and Dina from Wildland Firefighter Foundation who have been with me from thirty minutes after receiving the call until Rich is back to work.

To our Family, Friends, Kern River Valley Community, and Fire Family—your outpouring of love, support, and prayers is beyond humbling and we could not be prouder to be connected to you. To my husband Rich—your strength, dignity, and humility makes me proud to be your wife. I am strong because of your example in a time of adversity.

To all the churches and everyone who has prayed for us throughout the Country—your prayers are carrying us. We feel it and it has been the most powerful part of this journey. Rich and I both know that

God has protected us and will continue to as Rich heals. Rich and I are asking that you please continue to keep us in prayer during this time. I know that we have received a lot of requests asking what people can do for us, your prayers are worth more than gold. However, if you still would like to do something else, we are asking that donations are made to Wildland Firefighter Foundation, Kern County Burn Survivor's Trust, Bakersfield Fire Fighters Burn Foundation, or Terry's House.

Again, Thank You and All Glory be to God.

With gratitude and hope,
Lisa Smith Burgess

DAVY IS THE ONE WITH THE MUSTACHE BEHIND RICHARD THE INJURED FIRE FIGHTERV



