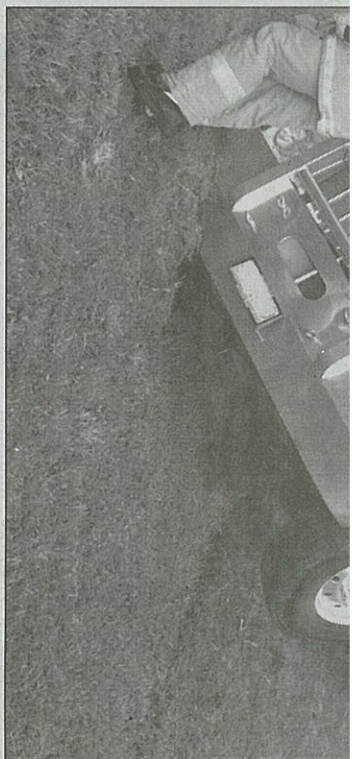


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A short time later, a westbound truck driver narrowly avoided injury after his refrigerated meat-filled semi-trailer tipped over on the Warrego Highway near Withcott. Queensland Fire and Rescue sent an appliance from the Southport region to the crash and helped the driver retrieve belongings from the cabin.

Police said the highway was closed for up to six hours as Main Roads cleared the vehicle and a large diesel spill from the road.



Traffic was diverted for six hours near Withcott on Saturday after this meat-laden semi-trailer rolled just after 3pm.

PICTURE: DAVE NOONAN

Oil to prevent destroying house



Firefighter Allan Lange (left) and passer-by Wal Little (right) attack the fierce Pechey Street blaze.

PICTURE: NEV MADSSEN

She suspected it had been the squatters this time.

"They must have bolted as soon as it took hold. They really must have moved," Mrs Carlish said.

A Queensland Fire and Rescue Service spokesperson said the abandoned house was destroyed and Fire Investigations handed the matter over to the police.

Police said the fire was being treated as suspicious and the cause of it is still not known.

It follows a suspicious fire in Harlaxton on Thursday night that partly destroyed historic wheat sheds and threatened nearby businesses.

Anyone with information is urged to call Toowoomba Police on 4631 6333.

Fallen climber survives impaling

● FROM PAGE 1

receiving end of endless cries of "watch out for that tree".

It's an amazing recovery less than a day after a 50cm tree branch entered his body between his scrotum and anus, passing out of the body just below his naval.

"I remember running into a tree. Well not so much running into it, as landing on it," Mr Bridger said.

"(But) There is something sobering about seeing a stick pointing out of your navel." Paramedics from the Emergex Community Rescue helicopter were called to the popular lookout west of Noosa just after 1pm.

Emergex pilot John Hodges said Mr Bridger was winched 35 metres across treacherous territory to safety, with paramedics using boltcutters to cut away about 15cm of branch protruding from his body. Noosa firefighter John Lewis described Mr Bridger as a "very, very lucky" man with the branch also stopping any blood loss.

The now-infamous stick sits by Mr Bridger's bedside as a memento, the 27-year-old left with a small scar and a few more days of observation at hospital.

The incident has friends dubbing the long-time abseiling enthusiast as 'George of the Jungle'.