

## ***After Incident Report Lessons Learned Center***

The purpose of the After Incident Report is to identify both successes and challenges on an incident that can be used as a learning tool for others. The lessons learned in the report will also be used to improve training curriculums. Issues and trends that are identified may have Information Collection Teams assigned to them in the future for further analysis and resolution.

Type 1-5 incident commanders and agency administrators are requested to complete the following questionnaire for each incident they manage. Crews and single resources are also encouraged to complete the questionnaire for incidents they participated in:

**Incident Name: Battle Creek**                      **Dates of Assignment 8/17-26/02**

**Unit or Jurisdiction(s): Black Hills NF**    **Geographic Area: 02**

**Report Submitted by: Tom Cable CIIMT3 Phone Number: 530-252-5830**

1. What was the most notable success at the incident that others may learn from?

The Most notable success was that with the distraction of having to deal with a Governor that does not like the Federal Government or its policies, the fire still got put out and no family dwellings were lost. The team coordinated efforts with South Dakota Highway Patrol, National Guard, Sheriffs, VFDs and the State Wildland Fire Coordinator. We worked as one team in spite of the Governor's independent action and direction.

2. What were some of the most difficult challenges faced and how were they overcome? Independent action and ordering by the Governor led to confusion and inflated costs. He ordered the Natl Guard (250 people), 185 structure and wildland engines, many Highway patrol and Sheriffs Officers with their own communication van at the ICP and set up his motor home as his command post at our ICP. We invited him to attend our planning meetings and briefings and he rarely did. We held a private briefing with him and he was receptive to our proposed plans.

3. What changes, additions or deletions are recommended to wild land fire training curriculums? Again, the certification and training documentation of private and volunteer fire personnel and apparatus consume valuable time from team members when they should be focused on the task of suppressing the incident. How can an incident be expected to send VFD engines and other equipment home when structures are at risk because they don't have a carding system

4. What issues were not resolved to your satisfaction and need further review? Based on what was learned, what is your recommendation for resolution? How do you control the safety issues created by the Governor of the state you are working in? Accountability is an issue. Is the IC responsible????

Please submit this report to the Lessons Learned Center at the National Advanced Resource Technology Center (NARTC) attention Paula Nasiatka(pnasiatka@fs.fed.us or Fax 520-670-6413)

**Thank you for completing the report. Others can learn from your experiences.**