

## *After Incident Report Lessons Learned Center*

The purpose of the After Incident Report is to identify issues that occurred on an incident and how they were resolved. The lessons learned in the report will also be used to refresh or update training curriculums. Issues and trends that are identified may have Fire Action Collection Teams assigned to them in the future for further analysis and resolution.

Incident Management Teams and Agency Administrators are encouraged to complete the following questionnaire for the incident(s) that they managed. Individual Field Units are also welcome to complete the questionnaire for incidents they participated in:

**Incident Name: Biscuit Zone 2**      **Dates of Assignment: 7/30/02 – 8/14/02**

**Unit or Jurisdiction(s): Six Rivers NF**    **Geographic Area: North Zone - California**

**Report Submitted by: Wally Bennett**    **Phone Number: Contact WFLLC by E-mail**

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

**Once again the value of having the Liaison Officer position filled. This position focused on the relationships with the Local Agencies, brought them together into a cooperative working relationship with the IMT. Allowed me to focus my attention almost entirely on the incident.**

2. What were some of the most difficult challenges faced and how were they overcome?

**(1) I was delegated the responsibility for both the Sour Biscuit Zone 2, and Shelly Fires. Under this delegation, the Type 2 Team that was assigned would work under my delegated authority. This only works well if the Type 2 IC is supportive. It was an extremely difficult time for me, and my Team. We made it work, but it was extremely stressful to accomplish. I strongly recommend that this not be done again, unless the respective IC's mutually agree that we are able to throw the turf issues away, and make it work. In this particular case both Teams could have worked for Area Command with their own Delegation, and still collocated in the same camp.**

**(2) Dealing with the Port Orford Cedar Root Disease. The Delegation I received was quite specific about not using contaminated water for bucket drops. Water had to be treated with bleach before it could be used. The problem was that no one was sure of the exact mix, and also if retardant had to be treated. We lost several days of aggressive fire fighting because of this issue. The Forest Supervisor did finally give me a new Delegation letter including a paragraph that specifically gave me the latitude to use untreated water for suppression efforts if (Firefighter, Public, or Community) safety was at risk. I recommend all National Forests that are dealing with this issue come together to give a unified voice on how to deal with suppression efforts of this magnitude when dealing with the Port Orford Cedar Root Disease.**

**(3) The Multi Incident Resource Process System (MIRPS). This was the system that California is using to track resources, equipment, supplies etc. Our Ordering, Finance, and Planning folks had never worked with this system before. It caused a lot of confusion on our part. Expanded**

**Dispatch did finally send an individual to our ICP to teach our folks, but the bottom line is that the system has some flaws that need to be corrected, and when an out of area Team arrives the GACC should assign an individual immediately to the Team to train them on this system.**

**3. What changes, additions or deletions are recommended to various training curriculums?**

**Make sure the Ordering Manager and Supply Unit Leader courses are including training on the system that California is using to track resources. At a minimum, folks need to be aware of this 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?**

**We are still having problems with Expanded Dispatch Centers giving up control of numbers. To clarify.. We believe that Expanded Dispatch should give our Ordering Manager a block of numbers to use. When we fill in the resource orders to the assigned block of numbers expanded can take copies of our orders. We feel this would cut out most of the confusion and the need for reconciling our orders continually. However, most dispatch centers refuse to do this. It almost appears to be a control issue, but causes many problems that our folks and the dispatch centers we have worked with must spend extra time dealing with.**

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

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