

After Incident Report

Lessons Learned, NARTC

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 asked to complete the following questionnaire for the incident(s) that they managed:

Incident Name – **Biscuit Zone 4** Dates of Assignment – **8/29-9/13**

Unit or Jurisdiction - **(Rogue/Siskiyou)** Geographic Area - **NW**

Report Submitted by: **J.Furlong Incident Commander**

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

Involvement of local Ranger District front-liners.

The Biscuit Incident was long in duration with numerous teams cycling in and out at 14 day intervals. Our team was the 4th team in the Gold Beach zone and by the time we arrived many folks who worked on the local Ranger District were beginning to feel separate from what was going on related to the Biscuit incident. This was particularly true with those who worked in the information section. As the incident was transitioning from suppression to suppression rehab and BAER work, these folks were feeling less and less informed about what was happening. Our IIO recognized this and organized a series of “front-liner” tours to help bring them up to speed so they were better prepared to deal with the incident in the long-term.

Participation within the community.

The Gold Beach community had several events planned to commemorate the 9/11 World Trade Center/Pentagon attacks. We provided logistical support as well as crews to the community to help with the commemoration. The site of organized fire crews marching through town to the various commemoration events was very striking.

Also during our tour at Biscuit we had the opportunity to work with a contingent of Australian and New Zealand overhead. There was a great deal of interest in the community regarding their participation in the fire fighting effort. We took advantage of this by having them participate in various town meetings as well as

visiting many classes at the local schools. They were always a big hit and created a great deal of goodwill within the community.

The bottom line with these two examples is that IMTs should be watchful of these opportunities as they have the potential to pay huge dividends in terms of community support for the effort, even though there may seem outside of the typical scope of the IMTs delegation of authority.

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

There were many contracted resources at the Biscuit Incident as well as numerous land use agreements. There had been very little attention paid to these contracts and agreements prior to our arrival as the focus was appropriately on fire containment and the public safety issues associated with that. As well as creating a huge workload for us this also resulted in a number of “cost containment” issues that needed to be dealt with. We tried to overcome this by borrowing personnel from other zones as well as the local Forest but never really did get on top of the situation.

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

Stress the importance of including local information folks within the Incident organization throughout the life of incidents in the I-403 (Information Officer) training curriculum.

4. What issues were not resolved to your satisfaction and need further review?
Based on what was learned, what is your recommendation for resolution?

The availability of contract administration expertise is a huge issue for IMTs and needs attention throughout the system by agency administrators. This is especially true in today’s climate of increased use of contracted resources and increased attention to cost containment. Agency administrators need to recognize this situation and either make folks with contract administration skills available to participate on IMTs or make them available when their own unit has an ongoing incident.

Please submit this report to the Lessons Learned Program at the National Advanced Resource Technology Center (NARTC) attention Rich Wands (rwands@fs.fed.us or Rich_Wands@nps.gov or by Fax 520-670-6413)

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