

## ***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: Commissary Ridge      Dates of Assignment: 8/31/02 – 9/10/02**

**Unit or Jurisdiction(s): Kemmerer Field Office – BLM, State of Wyoming**

**Geographic Area: WY-RSD-268      Phone Number: (406)881-2371**

**Report Submitted by: Bob Sandman Type 2 Incident Commander**

1. What was the most notable success at the incident that others may learn from?
  1. With extreme fire behavior, approximately 23 summer homes/cabins and 15 outbuildings were saved and the fire contained at 3500 acres without a break in fire behavior or weather conditions (requires additional discussion).
  
2. What were some of the most difficult challenges faced and how were they overcome?
  1. Extreme Fire behavior – IMT utilized region-specific drought information developed by Kelly Close in combination with up-to-the minute fire behavior predictions from the FBA and Fire Meteorologist. The drought information developed by Kelly should be looked at as a model for future use.
  2. Extreme Fire weather – IMT utilized an on-scene Fire Meteorologist who worked closely with the fire behavior analyst to give up-to-the minutes updates to fire ground operations. Key triggers resulted in fireline personnel disengaging into safety zones, and re-engaging during acceptable conditions.
  3. Wildland-Residential Interface – IMT evacuated additional areas in advance of potential fire spread. The Structure Protection Specialist developed and supervised a bump and run structure protection plan that included progressive construction of defensible space, resource pre-positioning, application of protection in place measures, and aggressive firefighting tactics (requires additional explanation).
  4. Hazardous materials – IMT quarantined all engines and tenders for 24 hours until lab testing could confirm the contents of a water tender that had previously been hauling petroleum products. Certain petroleum products are highly hazardous. After obtaining lab results, all tenders and engines were cleaning using a high-pressure, high-temperature mobile cleaning

plant. This resulted in a number of gaskets and fittings being replaced from the cleaning process.

5. Setting up camp during a holiday weekend – IMT heavily impacted the local district office and strained relations with Expanded Dispatch by operating three days with telephone service.
  6. Communications with Expanded Dispatch, 150 miles away – Once telephone service was available, coordination with expanded dispatch improved significantly. IMT held a daily conference call with expanded to trouble shoot issues and stay ahead of the power curve. Daily conference calls will be considered SOP for this IMT on future incidents.
  7. Community information sharing – IMT held daily community meetings that included PowerPoint presentations of current fire behavior, fire progression, and corresponding strategies and tactics. IMT also produced large size maps and photos to aid in briefing presentations. The visual display of actions really improved community understanding of terminology, strategies, and tactics. It also eliminated most of the rumor mill.
  8. Standards for Survival – Again, this IMT had to work with the local District to put on emergency version of Standards for Survival before certain resources were allowed on the fire ground.
  9. Carbon Monoxide poisoning – Six crewmembers were taken to the hospital with a mild to moderate case of carbon monoxide poisoning after they disobeyed orders and hooked up a propane heater in a large tent. The heater was not functioning properly and luckily caught part of the tent on fire, or the crew may never have woken up. All propane heaters were secured to prevent unauthorized use.
  10. Emergency transfer of a person with a mental illness – IMT flew one individual home on an emergency flight after IMT discovered the individual had stopped taken medication to address a mental illness AND diabetes (requires more explanation, some of which is confidential).
  11. Sharing of resources between incidents – This incident shared limited resources with and from other incidents. This greatly increased the efficient use of costly and scarce resources. This IMT encountered this in other regions, and it must be looked at and expanded in the future.
  12. Night Operations – IMT utilized a night shift that greatly contributed to the success on this incident. Many folks today believe a night shift is unsafe, but this IMT believes that given the right circumstances, resources, and mitigations, night shifts can play a key role on structure protection and fire containment (requires more explanation).
3. What changes, additions or deletions are recommended to wild land fire training curriculums?
1. This fire occurred in a natural amphitheater. As such, there is a tremendous amount of photography and video of this incident, including active firefighting in the interface with crews, engines, and aircraft. This incident can be used for a number of training sessions for crews, engines, aircraft, and IMTs (requires more explanation, but I've attached a photo as an example).

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

1. Water tenders in this part of the country may come to an incident from the Petroleum industry. If not properly cleaned, many of the possible tank contents pose a serious hazardous materials issue. This possibility should be addressed, and corresponding procedures be developed in this region.
2. Agreements with key utilities should be established that identify and describe procedures to obtain emergency service on nights, weekends, and holidays.

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.**