

## ***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 and Type: East Lake**

**Dates of Assignment 4/28/2003**

**Unit or Jurisdiction(s): Hiawatha National Forest Geographic Area: Upper Peninsula of Michigan**

**Report Submitted by: Don Mikel Type 4 IC**

**Phone Number: 906-635-5311 ext 12**

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

***Fire prone property protection*** – most of the local private property owners had worked last fall, cleaning up their property – mowing the lawn, raking leaves, etc. One individual lost a cabin, trailer, two sheds, and a garage because brush, long grass and leaves were allowed to remain rather than being removed. A little pre-work is worth the effort.



***Interagency cooperation*** – Forest Service, Michigan DNR, Volunteer Fire Departments and local law enforcement worked together for a common cause. Good working relationships have been a focal point for several years. It is paying off.

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

Any loss of private structures is unpleasant. The ***efforts to increase private property owner’s knowledge*** of fire prone property protection methods are a continuous process. However, some will never get the word until too late.



Remains

At the time of detection, aircraft reported four structures involved and several being threatened. The fire was in hardwood litter and started late in the day so we knew it would not go far. On the other hand, with the threat to structures and 45 minutes travel time to the incident, more equipment than really necessary was ordered. Most were cancelled shortly after arrival and size up of the fire.

It is very important to do a ***thorough check of all buildings*** in the area of the fire. The accompanying photograph below entitled “Close Call Wet Wood” was not immediately recognized as threatened. It was found when the rest of the fire was being attended after the readily visible structures had been checked.



Close Call Wet Wood

3. What changes, additions or deletions are recommended to wild land fire training curriculums?

None

4. What issues were not resolved to your satisfaction and need further review? Based on what was learned, what is your recommendation for resolution? None

Other Photos:



Metal Siding Works



Saved By A Yard



Yard Rubble

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.**