

One-Page Summary
Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center

This is an excerpt from the 32-page *Fiddler's Island Road Burn Out FLA*. It is intended to provide an overview of events and a sample of the numerous lessons captured in the original report. For the complete report, please click on this link:

http://wildfirelessons.net/documents/Fiddlers_Island_Burn_Out_FLA.pdf

Fiddlers Island Road Burn Out FLA

On June 1, 2011, a number of resources on Division D were reassigned to Division C to assist with a burn out operation along Fiddlers Island Road.

The objective was to keep the fire within the Okefenokee Wildlife Refuge Swamp Edge Break.

The decision was made to conduct a strategic firing operation in advance of the head of the fire and hold it on the east side of the road.

After a briefing, assigned resources positioned themselves along Fiddlers Island Road.



A 30 to 45-minute delay in ignitions occurred while resources waited for the Fire Behavior Analyst and the Safety Officer to return from scouting ahead of the main fire.

Next, the decision was made to change the original ignition location from the middle of Fiddlers Island Road to the south end of this road—approximately 200-300 yards north of the dip site.

Environmental conditions seemed minimal during the ignitions operation. Once ignitions were in progress, the main fire spotted in two different locations, (Finger #1 and Finger #2). Finger #3 laid across Fiddlers Island Road. As the main fire continued burning to the west toward Buck Island, the decision was made for all resources to withdraw to the Strange Island Staging Safety Zone.

No injuries to personnel or damage to equipment was reported.

Some of the Lessons from Participants

Briefing:

- ❖ All parties involved in a burn out operation should be present at briefings.
- ❖ Ask more questions (Trigger Points, Safety Zones, Escape Route, Operations, verify Chain of Command).
- ❖ Do not leave a briefing until all your questions are answered.
- ❖ If you are unsure of the operation, ask more questions.
- ❖ As assignments change, regroup and brief crews.