

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 Information Collection Teams assigned to them in the future for further analysis and resolution.

Type I – V Incident Commanders and Agency Administrators are requested to complete the following questionnaire for the incident(s) that they managed. Crews and single resources are also encouraged to complete the questionnaire for incidents they participated in:

Incident Name: Kupukupu Fire **Dates of Assignment:** May 16 - present

Unit or Jurisdiction(s): Hawaii Volcanoes National Park **Geographic Area:**

Report Submitted by: Jack Minassian **Phone Number:** 808-985-6042

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

We had as many as 180 fire personnel assigned to this fire. Traditional fire suppression tactics were not applicable due to the dense rainforest vegetation, lack of escape routes, potential for re-burn of black area, etc. Also the area is of recent volcanic activity, which has holes on the surface you cannot see, one of the superintendents fell into an 8 ft hole but was not injured. During this entire incident which started on May 16th we have not had a single serious accident. I feel this was not just luck but that we followed establish agency procedures.

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

It took two days to activate the US Army for use of two Blackhawk helicopters. I will follow-up with Susie Bates to see if the next time I need them the resource order will travel thru the chain of command faster.

The other issue was the use of Fireline Explosives (FLE). Initially I planned on using this tool because line construction thru heavy fuels did not allow for an escape route or safety zone. However, the fuels have to be dry and brittle for FLE to work. We had a slight shower which moistened the fuel, and it was determined the FLE would no longer be an effective tool. One of the major issues was transportation of explosives. There were no commercial vendors available, the military was the only means of transport by air.

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

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

This may be just a HAVO issue, but the issue of providing meals for firefighters at their duty station came up again. The Interagency Business Handbook allows this, but the Federal Travel Reg. prohibit feeding employees. This was never fully resolved. We continued to feed HAVO employees who were assigned to the fire incident and were working 13 hr. days. I plan to have a Regional Fire Review, and try to settle this issue once and for all.

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

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