

Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center

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To: William Kaage, Chair, National Wildfire Coordinating Group

From: Brit Rosso, Center Manager

Subject: 2010 Annual Summary of Accomplishments, Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center (LLC)

LLC Key Accomplishments in 2010 for the Interagency Wildland Fire Community

- ❖ The LLC was in transition during 2010. The previous Center Manager, Paula Nasiatka, retired the end of January, and Brit Rosso came on board as the new Center Manger in November. During the interim David Christenson, the Assistant Center Manager, continued to manage LLC operations.
- ❖ The LLC web site contract was awarded to SolutionsKM last October. SKM is a group of highly recommended specialists, who are now in the process of taking the LLC web sites and KMS to a new level of superior service. By the end of 2010 they had already completed an in-depth analysis and made a series of recommendations for the next five years. Improving the functionality of the LLC web sites is now the centers number one priority.
- ❖ Lessons Learned in Aviation joined Lessons Learned in Large Fire Management as large sections of the LLC Home Page.
- ❖ During 2010 the Learning From Incidents, Firefighter Remember This Series II expanded the LLC collection of short video products with another 4 distance learning movies containing significant lessons. The Learning From Experts Section added another 10 video interviews with experts on the new Strategic Operational Planner's role in large fire management. Other LLC video projects captured 10 oral histories from senior fire managers and lessons learned by 4 ICT3 fire managers that will be released after editing and final production in 2011.
- ❖ Three Special Projects were completed in 2010:



❖ *The Prescott Basin 2010 Drill*

The Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center teamed up with the US Forest Service's National Incident Management Organizations to capture a regional, interagency, complex drill that demonstrates the value of region-wide simulation of emergency response to a multi-jurisdictional wildfire. It is an excellent example of striving together toward high reliability and continuous improvement in a complex environment. Their preparations have evolved over two decades and recently paid huge dividends when the Indian Fire actually occurred as they suspected it eventually would. Now, many new players are included in the 2010 Drill as members change and organizations grow.



❖ ***Chino Valley Water Tender Rollover Learning Organization 2010 Case Study***

While driving Water Tender 66 to a grass fire on April 17, 2008, two firefighters from the Chino Valley Independent Fire Protection District were involved in an off-road rollover accident. The firefighters received minor injuries; Water Tender 66 (WT-66) was a total loss.

The case study is based on an actual investigation, which took place in 2008. The members of the investigation team were not trained investigators; they were firefighters with a mission to understand an incident that could have been disastrous. As luck would have it, it was not. What resulted was a spontaneous understanding of the event in terms of conditions, culture, equipment limitations and communications. The underlying construction of the method of the analysis was "Learn, Share and Be Fair".



❖ ***Case Study: Lives Lost Lessons Learned – The Victims and Survivors of the 2005-2006 Texas and Oklahoma Wildfires***

These explosive grass fires that rage across Texas and Oklahoma killed 25 people—including four firefighters. What can we learn from these wildfire outbreak events? What can we do to try to prevent such tragic outcomes from occurring in the future? This comprehensive lessons learned report strives to answer these significant questions.

- ❖ LLC Staff directly supported Rx-301, Rx-341, Rx-310, L-280, S-244, S-390, S-420, S-520 NWCG training courses during 2010.
- ❖ 734,370 people visited the LLC main website, www.WildfireLessons.net, and viewed 3, 251, 009 pages during 2010.
- ❖ 438 groups were active in the www.MyFireCommunity.net neighborhoods in 2010 where over 7,000 interagency members of the wildland fire community worked on projects of mutual interest.
- ❖ Over 400 videos were available to firefighters through the redesigned www.MyFireVideos.net website.
- ❖ The LLC's continually growing Incident Management Team Web site (www.IMTcenter.net) welcomed 13 new member Incident Management Teams during 2010. This popular online "Team Center" site hosted 118 teams, including Area Command Teams, Fire Use Management Teams, National Incident Management Organization Teams, IMT Types 1-4, fire prevention teams, and state teams. This convenient "Team Center" site provides these IMTs with a place and means to set up and maintain their own Web sites—without the need for a Webmaster or special software training. The Team Center includes calendars, team rosters, photo galleries, and secure file sharing for these teams, as well as their public audiences. In addition, these IMT members can now maintain their contact and availability information in a secure, private part of their team's site.

- ❖ One *Scratchline* newsletter was researched and published:
<http://www.wildfirelessons.net/Scratchline.aspx>



Wildfire Training Academies Lessons Learned – Issue 27

The LLC staff recently interviewed seven fire training academy coordinators around the US regarding their notable successes, difficult challenges, effective safety practices, training recommendations and unresolved issues in the implementation of fire training academies.

- ❖ The Center cosponsored the 3rd International High Reliability Organizing Conference in New Orleans, January 9-10 and received 100 visitors from 17 different countries. Academics and leaders of high-risk industries learned from wildland fire practitioners about the practical implementation of HRO. With the assistance of the LLC, S-520 again featured HRO training as a significant part of its program of learning during the March session at NAFRI. During June and July, LLC staff completed the France - USA HRO Implementation in Incident Management Teams 4-year project. In August, the LLC was invited to participate in the National Interagency HRO Roundtable in Washington, DC.
- ❖ The Center also cosponsored the Human Dimensions in Wildland Fire Conference in April, 2010 that brought 150 fire managers and scientists from around the world to San Antonio, Texas.
- ❖ The LLC staff made approximately 4,350 contacts at meetings, conferences, workshops, seminars, and wildfire academies throughout the United States during 2010.
- ❖ The LLC staff completed the internal design and development of an LLC Self Evaluation System and was able to use their new capacity to design, develop, and implement an Evaluation System of the US Forest Service Continual Improvement in Decision-Making for large Wildfire Management in collaboration with the National Incident Management Organization. This resulted in dozens of identifiable lessons and effective practices that will continue to impact at least 30 National Forests.
- ❖ The LLC Advances in Fire Practice section began a very successful Webinar series in collaboration with the Joint Fire Science Program and the International Association of Wildland Firefighters. Initial topics on climate change and how it affects fire managers drew hundreds of participants from around the world. LLC AFP also interviewed fire history expert Stephen Pyne and created 18 videos, papers, fact sheets and articles related to fire science of interest to fire managers. <http://wildfirelessons.net/AFP.aspx?Page=AFPOverview>