

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.

Incident Management Teams and Agency Administrators are encouraged to complete the following questionnaire for the incident(s) that they managed. Individual Field Units are also welcome to complete the questionnaire for incidents they participated in:

Incident Name: Oversite Fire

Dates of Assignment: March 1 to March 10

Unit or Jurisdiction(s): AZ-CNF

Geographic Area: SWA

Report Submitted by: Rich Kvale, ICT2

Phone Number: 520-670-4547

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

My teams' greatest success was the recognition that we did not have adequate suppression resources (namely Type 1 crews and very limited Type 2 crews) for staffing the incident. We were operating very early in the season and no crews were on except from the Southern Area and 3 inmate crews in AZ. We had three divisions and could only staff 2 divisions at a time. So we established priorities that we needed to protect and then used our weather predictions for wind to help us select those divisions to be staffed. Eventually we got all divisions handled.

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

Not having resources and overhead available that early in the season. Same as above.

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

The need to be ADAPTABLE and adjust to extreme conditions as they present themselves...even if the "extreme" conditions are resource shortages.

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

An issue that will continue to be of grave concern is that of illegal immigration along the border on all land jurisdictions in southern Arizona and New Mexico. While these people are not a threat to our firefighters, it is a huge concern when it comes to conducting large "burnout" operations associated with indirect attack. Safety of these folks is a big concern because there is no way to be absolutely sure that

they are not in the area to be burned. During the early stages of the Oversight Fire, prior to the Type 2 Team takeover, over 102 people walked through the spike camp on their way to a “new life in the US”. We discussed contacting Border Patrol for IR flights etc. The greatest mitigation on this issue is that illegal immigration and smuggling usually occurs at night and our firing operations usually, but not always, happen in the day time hours. Our Safety Officer is very concerned with indirect attack along the border because of this issue.

Smuggling of contraband, primarily the drug trade, is a problem with firefighter safety. We instruct our firefighters to avoid pack trains and groups of people with back packs near the border. This a concern on the Coronado, not only in Fire Management, but with all field going employees.

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.