

*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 Name: *Pepper Fire*

Dates of Assignment: *7/26-7/31/02*

Unit or Jurisdiction(s): *BLM, Rock Springs FO*

Geographic Area: *WY, R2*

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

A notable success at this Incident was having the County Incident Command Trailer at ICP. ICP was a remote location without phone lines, poor to nonexistent cell phone coverage and poor two way agency radio coverage. The County IC trailer was equipped with a satellite phone and powerful radio antenna which provided excellent phone and radio communication between ICP and other facilities. Satellite phones and proper radio equipment are essential for effective communications, especially from remote sites.

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

The most difficult challenges were a result of the remote location of ICP. The ICP site did not have electricity or phone lines. A ranch several miles to the south was the closest electrical and phone service. It is critical that ICP be located as close as possible to existing electricity and phone lines to support the communications and computer equipment that are required to support Incident operations.

It is also imperative to have facilities, such as trailers or proper tents, to house the electronic office equipment on site quickly, by second shift. The challenges were overcome by using generators, the County IC trailer, traveling to high points to make cell phone calls and using the BLM Rock Springs Field Office until office trailers were set up at ICP.

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

We suggest emphasizing the various needs, including electronic equipment, to be considered when selecting a site for ICP.

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

We suggest reviewing and discussing the role and responsibilities of Expanded Dispatch so that everyone clearly understands them.

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