

# Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center

[www.wildfirelessons.net](http://www.wildfirelessons.net)

February 28, 2017

To: John Glenn, Chair, National Wildfire Coordinating Group

From: Brit Rosso, Director, Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center

Subject: 2016 Annual Summary of Accomplishments, Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center (LLC)



## LLC Podcast Launched in 2016

Do you know the risks of scouting? Want to hear the lessons from a fire entrapment survivor? What about insights on the “contractor’s dilemma” out on the line? Or, what you might want to do differently when operating your chainsaw? All of these topics—and more—were covered and discussed during 2016 in the LLC’s new Podcast.

Launched in August, a total of six Podcast episodes were featured last year spotlighting various lessons and learning for wildland firefighters. We have received a strong positive response to this new LLC communication tool, which is continuing in 2017. The proven power of these Podcasts is how their hosts, Alex Viktora and Travis Dotson, weave their informal discussions around the Podcast’s given topic. In turn, members of the Podcast audience are invited to join the conversation.



<https://wildfirelessons.podbean.com/>

Our Podcast is also available in iTunes, Stitcher, and Google Play.

## Annual Incident Review Summary

Once again last year we produced and published the annual Incident Review Summary which analyzes and summarizes new entries in the LLC’s [Incident Review Database](#). This report’s overall intent is to provide topics for crew training and discussions. Here are some examples of the content from the [2015 Incident Review Summary](#) that was released and posted last year:

- ❖ **Ask About Rhabdo** – “Fire staff recognized the symptoms associated with rhabdomyolysis as FFT2 was being admitted to the hospital, and requested that the hospital staff test for the illness.” [Big Cypress Work Capacity Test Rhabdomyolysis](#)
- ❖ **Think of a Torch like a Saw** – “Think about a drip torch similar to a chainsaw in dense brush—you always watch the tip and know where it is.” [Drip Torch Leg Burn 3](#)
- ❖ **Pilot to Pilot** – “Having the agency contract pilot and the Life Flight pilot communicating in the air resulted in a successful outcome at a remote location under challenging conditions.” [Miners Peak Medical Evacuation](#)

### Exercise (40 minutes)

Look through all of the lessons on pages 8 and 9. On a separate piece of paper, put each lesson in one of two categories:

- Items you can implement immediately.
- Items you can bring up with others and make plans for implementation. (20 min.)

Prioritize your lists.

Identify who you need to coordinate with to put lessons into practice.

Identify what Standard Operating Procedures need to be updated to reflect the new practices. (10 min.)

Report out on your Top 3 Priorities. (10 min.)

## Viktora Named New Assistant Center Director



In November 2016, John “Alex” Viktora became the new Assistant Center Director for the Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center. Since 2013, Alex had served as the LLC’s Field Operations Specialist.

“Alex has a keen understanding of the inherent risk and complexity in wildland fire,” informs Center Director Brit Rosso. “He has excellent leadership and facilitation skills. These abilities will serve him well in his new position.”

Alex has more than 19 years of fire experience. He started his fire career in Zion National Park, working in Fire Effects and on a Type 6 Engine. In 2001 Alex moved to the Zion Fire Use Module. In October of 2011 he joined the National Advanced Fire and Resource Institute (NAFRI) to become the new Field

Operations Specialist for the Fire Use Training Academy (FUTA). He held this position until joining the LLC staff in 2013.

He replaces David Christenson who retired as the LLC’s Assistant Center Director in January 2014.

## TWO MORE CHAINS

Volume 10 • No. 1 • Winter 2016 • A Publication and Website Operated by the National Fire Lessons Learned Center

### Are You a Survivor?

It's a sad reality for those who have witnessed a person survive an event, especially a person remaining alive after an event in which others have died.

**Survivor's Guilt**

1 in 4 people who survive, especially a person remaining alive after an event in which others have died, experience survivor's guilt.

### The Illusion of Control

Ready to tip some sacred cows?

By Travis Deaton

It's a common belief that we have control over our own destiny. We believe we can control our own fate. But what if we're wrong? What if we're not in control of our own destiny? What if we're not in control of our own destiny? What if we're not in control of our own destiny?

**Correctly identifying "survivors" is the first step to appropriately care for them.**

## TWO MORE CHAINS

Volume 10 • No. 1 • Winter 2016 • A Publication and Website Operated by the National Fire Lessons Learned Center

### Are You a Survivor?

It's a sad reality for those who have witnessed a person survive an event, especially a person remaining alive after an event in which others have died.

**Survivor's Guilt**

1 in 4 people who survive, especially a person remaining alive after an event in which others have died, experience survivor's guilt.

### The Illusion of Control

Ready to tip some sacred cows?

By Travis Deaton

It's a common belief that we have control over our own destiny. We believe we can control our own fate. But what if we're wrong? What if we're not in control of our own destiny? What if we're not in control of our own destiny? What if we're not in control of our own destiny?

**Correctly identifying "survivors" is the first step to appropriately care for them.**

## TWO MORE CHAINS

Volume 10 • No. 1 • Winter 2016 • A Publication and Website Operated by the National Fire Lessons Learned Center

### Are You a Survivor?

It's a sad reality for those who have witnessed a person survive an event, especially a person remaining alive after an event in which others have died.

**Survivor's Guilt**

1 in 4 people who survive, especially a person remaining alive after an event in which others have died, experience survivor's guilt.

### The Illusion of Control

Ready to tip some sacred cows?

By Travis Deaton

It's a common belief that we have control over our own destiny. We believe we can control our own fate. But what if we're wrong? What if we're not in control of our own destiny? What if we're not in control of our own destiny? What if we're not in control of our own destiny?

**Correctly identifying "survivors" is the first step to appropriately care for them.**

## TWO MORE CHAINS

Volume 10 • No. 1 • Winter 2016 • A Publication and Website Operated by the National Fire Lessons Learned Center

### Are You a Survivor?

It's a sad reality for those who have witnessed a person survive an event, especially a person remaining alive after an event in which others have died.

**Survivor's Guilt**

1 in 4 people who survive, especially a person remaining alive after an event in which others have died, experience survivor's guilt.

### The Illusion of Control

Ready to tip some sacred cows?

By Travis Deaton

It's a common belief that we have control over our own destiny. We believe we can control our own fate. But what if we're wrong? What if we're not in control of our own destiny? What if we're not in control of our own destiny? What if we're not in control of our own destiny?

**Correctly identifying "survivors" is the first step to appropriately care for them.**

## Two More Chains Continues to Share and Analyze Information

In 2016, the LLC continued to produce its popular quarterly publication *Two More Chains*—committed to sharing and analyzing relevant information with this country's wildland firefighters.

<http://bit.ly/2morechains>

### Getting Lessons Directly to the Field

During 2016, the LLC staff assisted with a variety of efforts aimed at getting lessons directly to operators in the field through multiple venues.

#### Staff Rides

The LLC staff assisted with the following Staff Ride efforts:

- ❖ Esperanza Staff Ride Delivery and Support.
- ❖ Yarnell Hill Staff Ride Development and Delivery Support.
- ❖ South Canyon Staff Ride Support.
- ❖ Regional Staff Ride Workshop Support on the Angeles NF.
- ❖ Cerro Grande Staff Ride Support.
- ❖ National Staff Ride Workshop Development.

#### Assistance and Support

The LLC staff assisted with the following efforts and projects:

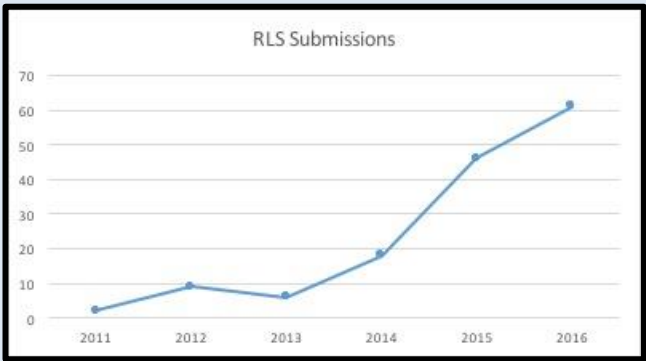
- ❖ The Twisp River Status Report.
- ❖ FLA instructing and support.
- ❖ National Fire Management Leadership instructing.
- ❖ Critical Incident Peer Support in Boise, Idaho.
- ❖ Wildland Fire Apprenticeship Program Human Performance Optimization in Sacramento, California.
- ❖ Coordinated Response Protocol in Sacramento, California.
- ❖ FLA Guide Continuous Improvement Team.
- ❖ FLA Workshop Steering Committee.
- ❖ Strawberry Learning Review Team.

#### Presentations

The LLC staff made personal presentations to:

- ❖ The National Short Haul Operations Subcommittee.
- ❖ The Interagency Emergency Medical Subcommittee.
- ❖ The San Diego County Fire Chiefs Operational Meeting.
- ❖ The California Risk Management Workshop.
- ❖ Both 2016 Learning from Unintended Outcomes Workshops.
- ❖ The 2016 National Fire Management Leadership Course.
- ❖ Northeast Forest Fire Compact.
- ❖ USFS Knowledge Management Workshop in Albuquerque, NM.
- ❖ Multiple local Fire Refreshers.
- ❖ University of Arizona – Intro to Wildland Fire Course.

### Rapid Lesson Sharing



The [Rapid Lessons Sharing \(RLS\)](#) communication tool continues to provide a quick and easy way for firefighters to get their lessons back out to the field.

These “lessons” include successes, challenges, methods for accomplishing tasks more efficiently or safely, close-calls—*anything* that others can learn from.

Launched in 2011, the graph above illustrates how the number of RLS submissions the LLC received per year made a substantial increase during 2016.

The wide variety of the RLS’s we received and shared last year included firsthand lessons on multiple topics, including: tire blowouts, trailer hitch connections, ATV loading, leaf blower operations, Structure Defense Firing Operations, Heavy Equipment Operations, and Medical Extractions.

## Assisting Operations During the 2016 Fire Season

The LLC staff members were dispatched to serve in the following capacities:

- ❖ Onsite collection of information and creation of Rapid Lesson Sharing documents from incidents in New Mexico, Arizona, and California.
- ❖ Safety Officer on multiple Type 1 incidents.
- ❖ Assisting in the Tucson Interagency Dispatch Center.

## The LLC Continues to Assist with Incident Reviews

Throughout 2016, the LLC staff assisted with a wide variety of incident reviews, including:

- ❖ [Day One PT Rhabdo FLA](#) (LLC staff member served as Lead Facilitator)
- ❖ [Rhabdomyolysis in Wildland Fire – A Review of Reported Cases](#)
- ❖ [Rhabdomyolysis LLR – Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks](#)
- ❖ [Foss Lake Escaped Prescribed Fire FLA](#)
- ❖ [Coyote Fire FLA](#)
- ❖ [Black Springs Bucking Accident FLA](#)
- ❖ [Withers Engine Incident FLA](#)
- ❖ [Chamberlin Felling Accident FLA](#)
- ❖ [Training Hike Heat Stroke FLA – Pacific Southwest Region](#)
- ❖ [PT Run Heat Stroke FLA – Region 6](#)
- ❖ [Power Line Fire Bulldozer Damage LLR](#)
- ❖ [Blue Cut Fire Defense of the Mormon Rocks Fire Station](#)
- ❖ [Pioneer Fire Fuel Geyser LLR](#)
- ❖ [Rocky Mount Fire FLA](#)

## LLC YouTube Channel Receives 204,430 Video Views in 2016



During 2016, the LLC's always-growing [YouTube Channel](#) welcomed an additional 569 subscribers, for a total of 2,745 subscribers to our channel. In 2016, our YouTube videos received a total of 204,430 views, for an estimated total of 1,219,681 minutes watched. The average duration for minutes viewed per visit last year was 5 minutes and 57 seconds.

<http://www.youtube.com/user/WildlandFireLLC>



## Our Facebook Interactions Grow

During 2016, the LLC's [Facebook](#) page had a total of 7,240 Likes—an additional 2,097 Likes from 2015. Our Facebook reach ranges from 2,000 to 45,000.

5,109 people reached

8,005 people reached

6,156 people reached

7,716 people reached

22,583 people reached



## Twitter Continues to Help Us Share Lessons

During 2016, 919 new people began following the LLC on [Twitter](#), for a total of 5,072 Twitter followers.

Link clicks  
269

Dec 17  
48 link clicks



On average, you earned **9 link clicks** per day



**Wildland Fire LLC** @WildlandFireLLC · Dec 16

Final docs on Twisp River Entrapments & Fatalities-Try learning through empathy  
[wildfirelessons.net/viewdocument/t...](http://wildfirelessons.net/viewdocument/t...)  
[#honorthroughlearning](#) [#firelessons](#)

4,703