

Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center

www.wildfirelessons.net

March 5, 2018

To: **Garth Fisher**, Chair, National Wildfire Coordinating Group

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

Subject: **2017 Annual Summary of Accomplishments, Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center (LLC)**



Promoting Key Lessons from the Nuttall Fire by Featuring Video, Podcasts, and Blogs

One Shift. One Division. Many Lessons . . .



The Nuttall Fire



June 30 through July 6 has been designated by the NWCG as the “Wildland Firefighter Week of Remembrance.” For the 2017 Week of Remembrance, the Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center, in coordination with the NWCG Risk Management Committee and Six Minutes for Safety, focused on the lessons from a single shift on the 2004 Nuttall Fire in southeastern Arizona. Every day that week, the LLC featured a

new “What’s New” email blast that incorporated a link to a special Six Minutes for Safety and a new episode in the LLC’s [five-episode “Nuttall Fire Story” video](#). On the sixth day, a special “Lessons from Ten Years Later” Nuttall video was featured. All of these What’s New notifications also included either companion Blog Posts or Podcasts, or both.

The Itinerary for the Nuttall Fire Lessons ‘What’s New’ Notifications Campaign

Day 1 – “Introduction to the Nuttall Fire”; [Podcast “Why the Nuttall Fire?”](#); Video “All Accidents are Preventable”

Day 2 – “Getting Real About Leadership”; Video “Episode 1 – Engage?”

Day 3 – “Getting Real About Expected Fire Behavior”; Video “Episode 2 – Downhill Fire Run”; [Podcast – Two squad leaders share their perspectives and lessons from the Nuttall Fire](#).

Day 4 – “Getting Real About Complexity”; Video “Episode 3 – Unforeseen Circumstances”; [Podcast – A helitack crewmember shares his perspectives and lessons from the Nuttall Fire](#); [Blog – “When You’re the Division Supervisor and Fire Shelters Come Out”](#) – The Division Supervisor shares his perspective and lessons from the Nuttall Fire.

Day 5 – “Getting Real About Escape Routes”; Video “Episode 4 – Plans and Adaptability”; [Podcast – A hotshot sawyer shares his perspective and lessons from the Nuttall Fire](#).

Day 6 – “Getting Real About What’s Normal”; Video “Episode 5 – Conclusion”; [Blog – “We Made it Out, But It was Very, Very Close”](#) – A Squad Leader shares his perspective and lessons from the Nuttall Fire.

LLC Blog is Launched; LLC Podcast Episodes also Continue to Inform

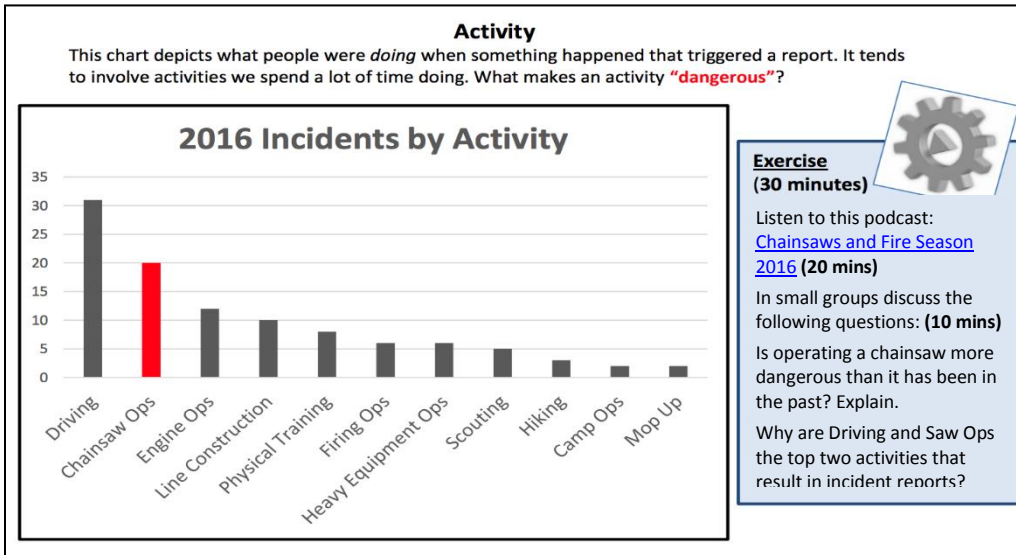
In 2017 we launched the [LLC Blog](#). A total of 50 Blog Posts were highlighted—and continued the conversation on—everything from “Close Call Stories – Trusting Intuition” to why “Socks Matter”. Our Blog site received 89,818 views from 61,206 visitors, with a total of 34 Likes. The most popular Blog Post, with 10,818 views, was “It’s Going to Happen Again” penned by Mike Lewelling, FMO at Rocky Mountain National Park, in which Mike took a realistic examination of the question “How Could this Accident Be Prevented?” Like Mike explains in his Blog Post: *“It was a question that bothered me.”*



In 2017 we also continued featuring our [Podcast episodes](#), an effective communication tool for spotlighting various lessons and learning for wildland firefighters that we initiated in 2016. Last year we produced nine Podcast episodes that highlighted everything from “How Not to Catch Your UTV on Fire” to “Why Burn Injuries are a Big Deal.” Our 2017 Podcasts received 17,226 downloads. Our most popular Podcasts proved to be our Fuel Geyser Awareness Campaign and our Four-Part Nuttall Fire Series.

The Annual Incident Review Summary

Each year we analyze and summarize reported incidents to create an [Incident Review Summary](#). This report's overall intent is to provide content and context for crew training and discussions. The summary includes exercises to aid crew leaders and instructors with facilitation. Here are some examples of the content from the 2016 Incident Review Summary that was released and posted last year:



P.T. – Potential Trauma?

Every year we get a handful of reports on incidents during Physical Training – that's normal. The surprising piece this year was the similarity of the events reported. We only had eight incidents in the PT category, but check this out:

- 6 Rhabdo
- 2 Heat stroke

6 of 8 PT Incidents (5 Rhabdo and 1 Heat Stroke) occurred during the **first few days of the crew coming on.**

If a type of accident happens again and again, what does it mean? It's easy to blame our workforce for "not learning the lesson"—but how well is that working? Maybe the combination of certain conditions and operations will produce the same result time and time again. So what is it that we can change?



Drip Torch Leg Burn

By design, the hot end of a torch is near your leg. Liquid leaks and drips. Rough terrain and brush will trip you up and "grab" stuff. You are flinging a can of gas around flames. Can we expect a burn or two?

Two More Chains Continues to Inform Wildland Firefighters

In 2017 the LLC continued to produce its popular quarterly publication *Two More Chains*. The [Spring Issue](#) spotlighted the often overlooked subject of suicide in the wildland fire service. Folks with firsthand experience and lessons regarding suicide shared their insightful, heartfelt stories. The [Fall Issue](#) focused on "Why Identity Matters." It asked and probed: "What happens when you are 'All In' in your wildland fire service job and you suddenly get the boot?" For the first time in *Two More Chains* history, the publication's readers were provided with a "multimedia" issue that included links to a Podcast and Blog Post that were essential elements to our multifaceted look at this complex subject.

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

TWO MORE CHAINS

Leaving the Fireline

IDENTITY

PODCAST: Identity Matters in the Fire Service

BLOG: Get Information

When we "chase" to leave the fireline...

Podcast and Blog Post are both part of this Two More Chains. Each of these products are available on our website for free.

Please Read the Post, Please Listen to the Podcast.

<http://www.twomorechains.com>

Getting Lessons Directly to the Field

During 2017, 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.
- ❖ South Canyon Staff Ride Delivery and Support.
- ❖ National Staff Ride Workshop Development and Support.
- ❖ USFS Senior Leader Program, Mormon Fire Staff Ride Development/Alpha Test, Coconino NF.
- ❖ Cerro Grande Staff Ride Delivery – for Agency Administrators.

Assistance and Support

The LLC staff assisted with the following efforts and projects:

- ❖ National Fuel Geyser Awareness Campaign – Fuel Geyser Podcast with 2,300 downloads; Fuel Geyser Quiz with 1,300 responses.
- ❖ NWCG Risk Management Committee Advisory Role.
- ❖ USFS Risk Management Council Advisory Role.
- ❖ USFS 2017 Learning Summit in Sacramento, Calif.
- ❖ Visited and supported Fire Module after a Line-of-Duty death.
- ❖ FLA instructing and support.

Presentations

The LLC staff made personal presentations to:

- ❖ The California Risk Management Workshop.
- ❖ Northern Rockies IMT SOFRs, Missoula, Mont.
- ❖ Northeast Forest Fire Compact (Virtual).
- ❖ Incident Emergency Medical Support (IEMS) (Virtual).
- ❖ Both NFML and LFML.
- ❖ Coconino National Forest Burn Boss Refresher (Virtual).
- ❖ National Logistics Webinar (Virtual).
- ❖ Multiple local Fire Refreshers.
- ❖ University of Arizona Guest Lecture at School of Renewable Natural Resources.

Assisting Operations During the 2017 Fire Season

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

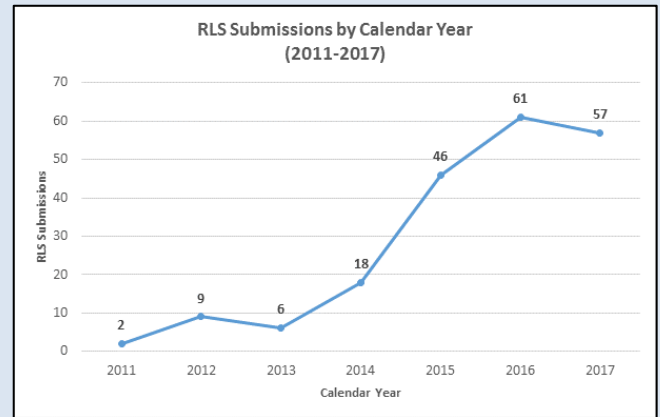
- ❖ Large Fire Support, Region 6, Regional Risk Management Officer (August/September) – Coordinated 3 RLS Teams in the Region; responsible for more than 15 RLS's. Coached one FLA.
- ❖ Fire Management Officer coverage in California.
- ❖ SOF2 on four different incidents (Two T-2, Two T-1).
- ❖ DIVS to Hurricane Maria.

The LLC Continues to Assist with Incident Reviews

Throughout 2017, the LLC staff assisted with a wide variety of incident reviews, including:

- ❖ [Canyon Fire Shelter Deployment and Entrapment FLA](#)
- ❖ [Chimney Tops 2 Fire Review](#)
- ❖ [Crescent Fire Scald Injury FLA](#)
- ❖ [Frye Fire Strep Throat Outbreak](#)
- ❖ [Green Mountain PT Hike Search and Rescue FLA](#)
- ❖ [Little Valley Escaped Prescribed Fire Review](#)
- ❖ [Minerva 5 Fire Felling Injury and Medical Extraction Incident LLR](#)
- ❖ [Preacher Fire Entrapment FLA](#)
- ❖ [Ray Rubio – How Do We Honor the Fallen FLA](#)
- ❖ Sawmill Fire Learning Inquiry
- ❖ [Six Rivers Physical Training Hike Fatality FLA](#)
- ❖ Sperry Chalet Fire FLA
- ❖ [Temple Fire Burn Injury FLA](#)

Rapid Lesson Sharing



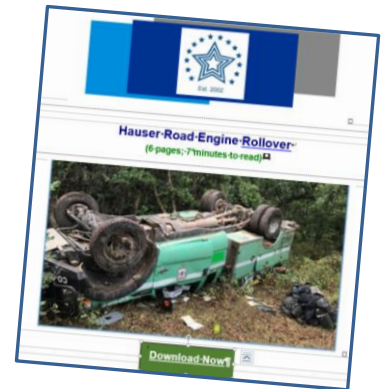
The [Rapid Lesson Sharing \(RLS\)](#) communication tool continues to provide a quick and easy way for firefighters to get their lessons back out to the field.

Our 'What's New' Email Service Subscribers have Grown to Almost 7,000

In 2017, our always increasing number of folks who have signed-up to receive our ["What's New"](#) email announcements increased to a total of 6,945 subscribers.

This special email notification service sends out email blasts to inform you when new documents are posted on the LLC's website. These "What's New" notifications can also include new LLC Blog Posts and Podcasts.

Last year, we sent out a grand total of 715,026 "What's New" emails.



LLC YouTube Channel Subscribers and Views Increase from 2016



During 2017, the LLC's always-growing [YouTube Channel](#) welcomed an additional 980 new subscribers, for a total of 3,724 subscribers to our channel. In 2017, our YouTube videos received a total of 370,535 views (an increase of 166,105 from 2016), for an estimated total of 2,352,035 minutes watched (an increase of 1,132,354 minutes watched from 2016). The average duration for minutes viewed per visit last year was 6 minutes and 4 seconds, which was also an increase from 2016.

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



Our Facebook Interactions Continue to Grow

During 2017, the LLC's [Facebook](#) page had a total of 10,518 Likes—an increase of 3,278 Likes from 2016.



With 890 New Followers, Twitter Continues to Help Us Share Lessons

During 2017, 890 new people began following the LLC on [Twitter](#), for a total of 5,962 Twitter followers. We posted 138 Tweets in 2017.