2013 Incident Review Summary

Big Meadow Medevac LLR
I kept thinking: “I guess this is why we train on medical emergencies.”

Tassajara Chainsaw Cut

Contents

1. Introduction ........................................................................................................ 3

2. 2013 Report Types ............................................................................................. 4

3. Vehicle Accidents ............................................................................................... 5

4. Incident Activities and Outcomes ...................................................................... 6

5. Medical Incidents ............................................................................................... 8

6. Incidents by Stage of Attack ............................................................................. 9

7. Twenty-One Years of Entrapment Data ........................................................... 10

[For information on Fatalities please see the NWCG Safety Gram: http://www.nwcg.gov/branches/pre/rmc/safety-grams.htm]
Reading is not learning.
Do more than read this document.
Ask those around you what it means to them, tell them what it means to you.
Based on this information, identify one change you will make and practice it.

1. Introduction

The information in this report comes from 67 wildland fire incidents—from various agencies—submitted to and gathered by the Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center (LLC) during 2013. (Most of these reports have been posted to the LCC’s Incident Reviews Database.)

Topics for Training
Our intent is for this report to inform your upcoming training topics and discussions. Please put forth the effort to make this information relevant to those you work with on a daily basis.

When you’re out on the line,
or hiking to the trucks,
or doing PT . . .
where is the nearest AED?

Multiple 2013 incidents involved the successful use of Automatic External Defibrillators (AED). Does your crew have an AED?

In addition, there were multiple incidents that occurred during Physical Training (PT). Do you have an emergency plan for PT? Do you have detailed discussions about what exactly will happen if someone goes down on a trail run?

As you read through this report, look for ways to personalize these lessons. Constantly ask yourself:

How can I apply this information to my situation?
“I have been involved with three air ambulance rescues and can never get in contact with them... It’s too bad we can’t get that figured out.”

Weiser Complex FLA

2. 2013 Report Types

Where does the information in this report come from? The Lessons Learned Center collects information from reports by—and about—State, Local, Volunteer, Contract, and Federal resources.

![2013 Report Types Pie Chart]

Every percentage component in this report’s pie charts has been rounded to the nearest whole number, which often results in a total of just under or over 100 percent.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Report Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SAI</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24/72</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LLR</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FLA</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAL</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RLS</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2013 "Other" Reports Breakdown

- Custom: 15%
- USFA: 7%
- Media: 7%
- SafeNet: 7%
- SafetyGram: 7%
- Other: 4%

Every percentage component in this report’s pie charts has been rounded to the nearest whole number, which often results in a total of just under or over 100 percent.

Custom — A custom report created and submitted from the field
USFA — United States Fire Administration Fatality Notification (wildland only)
Media — News media
SafeNet — Selected SafeNet submissions
SafetyGram — Incidents listed in the SafetyGram (for which the LLC has no written report)
3. Vehicle Accidents

18 vehicle accidents.
27 percent of all incidents reported.
3 Fatalities.

Do you train on driving?

2013 Vehicle Accidents

- Off Incident: 28%
- On Incident: 33%
- UTV/ATV: 6%
- IA Response: 33%

“My mind was racing with all the repercussions of what could happen next...And I was also thinking of what could happen if I damaged this vehicle...Would I get in trouble?”

Runaway Engine FLA

Schoolhouse Mesa Fatality

Utah Water Tender Rollover

Howard Fire Bridge Collapse
4. Incident Activities and Outcomes

What were folks doing when an “incident” occurred?

This year it was all about **driving** and **chainsaws**.

![2013 Incidents by Activity](image)

“Every fire will eventually go out, but not every fire fighter goes home.”

187 Fire Write-Up

**Big Windy Fatality**
What was the outcome (the “incident”) triggering the report?

2013 Incidents by Outcome

Activity and Outcome

“We have a firefighter down; he was hit by a snag. We need a medical ship out here for evacuation, immediately!”

Saddleback Fatality Report

In 2013, you were more likely to get hit by a tree as a scraper than a sawyer!
5. Medical Incidents

During the 2013 fire season, 28 percent of all incidents were categorized as “Medical”.

Several of these incidents occurred during Physical Training, including three serious hospitalizations and one fatality.

Is your crew prepared to respond during PT?

2013 Medical Incidents Breakdown

- 42% Cardiac - Fatal
- 16% Cardiac - Survive
- 16% Rhabdo
- 16% Compartment Syndrome
- 5% Heat
- 5% Other

“Words matter. By consistently using standardized terminology you will lessen potential confusion during high stress incidents.”

Big Meadow Medevac LLR

Does an IV always = Medevac?
“The Chief of Medicine described William’s condition to his parents as ‘...a profoundly sick young man, who may not make it.’”

PT Rhabdo and Heat Stroke LLR

6. Incidents by Stage of Attack

For the first time since the LLC has been collecting this data (beginning in 2010), Extended Attack resulted in the most incident reports. This change is most likely the result of more detailed reports. In the past, a T-4 incident was automatically categorized as IA. As reports get more detailed, we see that many incidents occur on T-4 fires after the first operational period.

2013 Incidents by Stage of Attack

For the first time since the LLC has been collecting this data (beginning in 2010), Extended Attack resulted in the most incident reports. This change is most likely the result of more detailed reports. In the past, a T-4 incident was automatically categorized as IA. As reports get more detailed, we see that many incidents occur on T-4 fires after the first operational period.

2013 Incidents by Stage of Attack

- IA: 28%
- Extended: 42%
- RX: 6%
- Non-Fire: 24%

**THIS HAPPENED WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2013.**

Do you drive wet roads? www.photovisil.com
This year we took a look at 21 years of entrapment data (115 entrapments). The most striking revelation?

**1500 Hours**

That’s when entrapments happen. No surprise. But it does beg the question: Why are we the most engaged during the most dangerous times? Swing shift anyone?

What time of year?

**June, July, and August**

Again, no real surprise. But what do we do with this information? Does knowing these entrapment details change your decision process? Should it?

The other interesting piece of information: **Initial Attack**. IA is where more than half of entrapments occur.

What does this information mean? Has your crew talked about it?

When you get the call for a going fire at 1445 in early August . . . Will this information be in your briefing?

**Practice.**

“In retrospect, it would have been better to throw down stuff and leave. ...But dropping your pack is like a shelter deployment and you want to believe you’re not there yet”.  
*Aspen Fire Dozer Escape*