

Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center

www.wildfirelessons.net

February 10, 2014

To: Dan Smith, Chair, National Wildfire Coordinating Group

From: Brit Rosso, Center Manager

Subject: 2013 Annual Summary of Accomplishments, Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center (LLC)



Banner across top of the new LLC home webpage.

LLC Key Accomplishments in 2013

Include Transitioning to a New Website Platform

In September 2013—after months of preparation—the LLC upgraded and improved its three traditional websites into one single, overarching—more user-friendly—platform: www.wildfirelessons.net. Our new website takes advantage of current technology that didn't exist for social collaboration and content management sites back when the original LLC websites were built. This transition to one website also represents a reduction in overall operating costs.

Our comprehensive website upgrade now provides a new “Connected Community” platform that enables the LLC's online customers—including all of

our former “My Fire Community” website users and all incident management teams previously hosted at “IMTCenter.new”—to better connect, collaborate, and share information and resources. Upgrades and

advancements for the Center's online customers include an improved search function as well as enhanced security. Our new website platform is hosted and maintained by [Higher Logic](#), a nationally recognized industry leader in web services and products that specializes in collaboration software applications and social networking.

Planning for Medical Emergencies

Prior to each operational period, Incident Commanders, supervisors, and all wildland firefighters need to ask and be able to answer the following three questions:

1. What are we going to do if someone gets hurt?

- Are there personnel on your crew/division/or fire that can provide medical support?
- What type of equipment is available to treat and transport injured personnel?

2. How will we get them out of here?

- Could you get an injured firefighter to a road or to a Helispot?
- How many personnel and what kind of equipment would you need to get an injured firefighter out?

3. How long will it take to get them to a hospital?

- Where is the closest hospital?
- Will you use air or ground transportation?
- Could conditions change and affect the transportation timeline?
 - Smoke/clouds/nightfall
 - Fire behavior
 - Mechanical failures

All operational activities should be based on answers to these questions. If the answers are insufficient, stop, reassess and consider alternate strategies and tactics.

New LLC Logo:

They are Forever Looking Down on Us

The 14 firefighters who lost their lives on Storm King Mountain on the 1994 South Canyon Fire are represented by the 14 stars on the new LCC logo, unveiled in early 2013 to commemorate the LCC's 10th (2012) anniversary. Their 14 stars surround the larger star, representing the wildland fire community. They are forever looking down on us. We will never forget.



Significant Contributions to the new IRPG and the 2014 Red Book

Over the course of 2013, the LLC—working in conjunction with various other groups—made two significant recommendations that were incorporated into the 2014 Incident Response Pocket Guide (IRPG):

- 1) “The Three Questions” to be asked prior to every operational period—vital in planning for medical emergencies [see box on left] (on page 2 in the new IRDB); and
- 2) The 9-line medical evaluation report for initial patient assessment for medical emergencies in the field [see top of next page] (on page 108 in the new IRDB).

In addition, the “Rapid Lesson Sharing” field communication and learning tool launched by the LLC in 2011 became an “established review type” in

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[Chapter 18 Reviews and Investigations](#) in the 2014 Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations (Red Book).

The [Rapid Lessons Sharing \(RLS\)](#) communication tool provides 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.

To date, the LLC has received RLS’s from firefighters on everything from a drip torch malfunction to insights on driving at night, the importance of clear text communication on medical incidents, safety measures associated with falling roadside hazard trees, lessons from multiple bucket strikes on an incident, and special tips from a close-call grizzly bear encounter on a fire.

3. **INITIAL PATIENT ASSESSMENT:** Complete this section for each patient. This is only a brief, initial assessment. Provide additional patient info after completing this 9 Line Report. See page 100 for detailed Patient Assessment.

Number of Patients:	Male/Female	Age:	Weight:
Conscious?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO = MEDEVAC!	
Breathing?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO = MEDEVAC!	
Mechanism of Injury: What caused the injury?			
Lat./Long. (Datum WGS84) Ex: N 40° 42.45' x W 123° 03.24'			

4. **SEVERITY OF EMERGENCY, TRANSPORT PRIORITY**

SEVERITY	TRANSPORT PRIORITY
<input type="checkbox"/> URGENT-RED Life threatening injury or illness. Ex: Unconscious, difficulty breathing, bleeding severely, 2°-3° burns more than 4 palm sizes, heat stroke, disoriented.	Ambulance or MEDEVAC helicopter. Evacuation need is IMMEDIATE .
<input type="checkbox"/> PRIORITY-YELLOW Serious injury or illness. Ex: Significant trauma, not able to walk, 2°-3° burns not more than 1-2 palm sizes	Ambulance or consider air transport if at remote location. Evacuation may be DELAYED .
<input type="checkbox"/> ROUTINE-GREEN Not a life threatening injury or illness. Ex: Sprains, strains, minor heat-related illness	Non-Emergency. Evacuation considered Routine of Convenience .

9-line medical evaluation for initial patient assessment in the 2014 IRPG.

Getting Lessons Directly to the Field

During 2013, the LLC staff assisted with a variety of speaking engagements and getting lessons directly to operators in the field through multiple venues, including:

- ❖ Strong involvement in the preparation, planning, and implementation/instruction at the two national FLA Workshops “Learning from Unintended Outcomes”.
- ❖ Five operational Fire Refreshers—Coronado NF, Saguaro NF, Kaibab NF, Grand Canyon NP, and Dixie NF.
- ❖ Presentations to three academies—Southwest Engine Academy, Arizona Wildfire Academy, and Great Basin Engine Academy.

The LLC Continues to Assist with Incident Reviews

Throughout 2013, the LLC staff assisted with a wide variety of incident reviews, including:

- ❖ [Yarnell Hill Fire Investigation Report](#)
- ❖ [Schoolhouse Fire ATV Fatality Final Report](#)
- ❖ [Big Meadows Medevac LLR](#)
- ❖ [Runaway Engine FLA](#)
- ❖ [Work Capacity Test Compartment Syndrome Incident Facilitated Learning Analysis](#)
- ❖ [Monument Springs Fatality Facilitated Learning Analysis](#)
- ❖ [Whitewater-Baldy Complex Fire Burned Area Emergency Response – Facilitated Learning Analysis](#)

In addition, the LLC staff helped to produce these two reports: 1) [Fire Management Lessons Learned – Evolving Fire Management Programs – on the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests of Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky and Sequoia National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monument of California](#); and 2) [Restoring and Maintaining Resilient Landscapes Through Planning, Education, Support and Cooperation on the San Carlos Apache Reservation – A Historical, Cultural, and Current View](#).

The LLC was also instrumental in producing these two videos: 1) [Success Story: The Five Rights – Managing Risk on the Whitewater-Baldy Complex Fire Complex. How Did They Do It?](#) and 2) [Opening the Door – The 2012 Cramer Fire Virtual Staff Ride](#).

Advances in Fire Practice

In 2013, the LLC’s [Advances in Fire Practice \(AFP\)](#) branch hosted—in combination with the Joint Fire Science Program and the International Association of Wildland Fire—14 webinars attended by a total of 2,109 people.

Over the course of the year, our recordings of these webinars increased in popularity. Views—a total of 2,981—of these recordings topped the year’s “live” attendances. All webinar recordings are available at: <http://www.wildfirelessons.net/resources/advancesinfirepractice/webinars>

The February 2013 webinar “Debunking Social Myths in Wildland Fire” by Sarah McCaffrey, Research Forester with the U.S. Forest Service’s Northern Research Station, had the highest attendance of any LLC webinar of the year. A total of 338 people viewed the webinar live; another 623 people watched the webinar’s recording. This popular webinar has helped to create a great deal of discussion within the wildland fire community about how to reach the public with fire and fuels management messages.

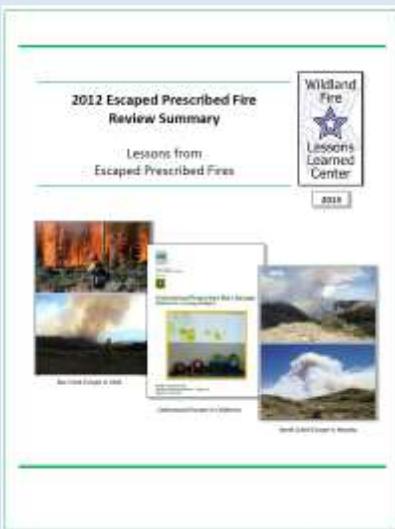
In addition, throughout 2013, the LLC’s Advances in Fire Practice webpage continued to provide articles in fire science—with topics ranging from new tools to predict fire behavior in beetle-kill forests, to a case study of new technologies used in Australian emergency management. Seven original articles were also published on the AFP webpage in 2013.

Two More Chains Reaches More Than 37,000 Readers

2013 marked the third year of producing the LLC's popular quarterly publication *Two More Chains*—committed to sharing relevant information with this country's wildland firefighters. Our [Summer Issue](#) was dedicated entirely to the 19 fallen Granite Mountain Interagency Hotshot Crew members.

During 2013, our internal website user statistics indicate that more than 37,000 readers viewed *Two More Chains*.

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



Escaped Prescribed Fire Review Summary

In 2013, the Center released the [2012 Escaped Prescribed Fire Review Summary](#). The first summary of this type since 2005 (Dether, 2005), this summary focuses on the “common themes” that emerged from these escapes. It targets these themes to three unique audiences: Prescribed Fire Implementers, Planners, and Agency Administrators. The summary is designed to be visually engaging and readable in approximately 15 minutes. It also points to several valuable resources that the LLC hosts.



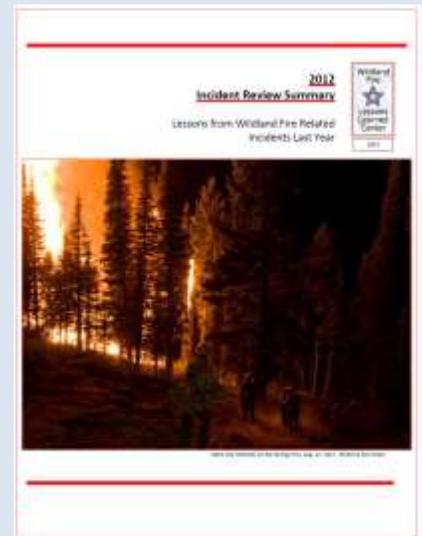
LLC YouTube Channel Receives 159,025 Video Views in 2013

Our always-growing [YouTube channel](#) now provides 313 videos. During 2013, we added 587 new subscribers to our channel—for a total of 925 subscribers. In 2013, our YouTube videos were viewed a total of 159,025 times.

[“Rock! – Firefighter Extraction Success Story”](#) was the latest video to be featured in the LLC's “**Firefighter: Remember This**” video series.

Released in March 2013, to date, more than 7,000 viewers have watched this production that is available—along with all the “**Firefighter: Remember This**” videos—on the LLC's YouTube channel:

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



Incident Review Summary

In early 2013, the LLC posted and released its second annual [Incident Review Summary](#) for calendar year 2012.

This annual summary publication marks the first time such a comprehensive annual incident review has ever been developed for the wildland fire community.

<http://bit.ly/2012Reviews>

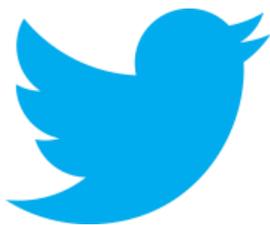


Find us on
Facebook

Focus Increases on Field-Generated Lessons and Sharing

During 2013, we increased our focus on field-generated lessons and sharing on our ever-popular [LLC Facebook site](#).

We are happy to report that during this past year, the LLC's Facebook page significantly increased all of its user statistics, including: total users reached, “Likes”, and items posted to our Facebook page. This venue is proving to be an effective interactive tool for reaching and communicating with the wildland fire community.



LLC Twitter Followers Increase

During 2013, another 1,058 people began following the LLC on [Twitter](#)—for a total of 2,358 Twitter “Followers”.

To date, the LLC has sent out more than 700 “Tweets”.