

Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center

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To: Brian McManus, Chair NWCG

From: Paula Nasiatka, Center Manager

Subject: 2008 Annual Summary of Accomplishments, Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center (LLC)

Below are key accomplishments made by the Center for the interagency wildland fire community. The 2008 Lessons Learned Center Operational Plan, derived from our Strategic Plan, is also attached for your review.

>Center staff made approximately 5,500 contacts at meetings, conferences, workshops, seminars and wildfire academies around the country. Another 100 contacts were made at an international wildland fire meeting in Athens, Greece where an LLC staff presentation was made on organizational learning and high reliability organizing.

>Scratchline newsletters on *U.S. and Australia Wildland Fire Lessons Learned* and *Dispatch Operations on the Fireline Lessons Learned* were researched and published. Three Learning Curve newsletters on Incident Management Team lessons learned were researched and published.

>Five Information Collection Teams (ICT) in progress or completed:

- Rx Fire Escapes Lessons Learned – Lessons learned through the lens of high reliability organizing from 10 significant interagency escapes and near misses from 2003-2006 (in cooperation with National Fuels Group.)
- 2007 Southern California Wildfires Lessons Learned - ICT interviewed approximately 100 individuals regarding WUI lessons since the 2003 Firestorm.
- High Reliability Organizing (HRO) Implementation Case Studies – One national park, one national forest and Southwest incident management teams illustrate how units and teams are implementing the HRO principles on the ground.
- 2008 Northern California Lightning Event – Units and teams were interviewed to collect lessons and effective practices from this four month event.
- Georgia HRO Implementation - Numerous personnel and teams were interviewed regarding their progress in implementing HRO since the 2005 Managing the Unexpected workshop.

>Advances in Fire Practices (on www.wildfirelessons.net) spotlighted useful fire science, linked fire managers to researchers and enhanced the Instructor's Corner.

>The Incident Reviews database on the main web site (www.wildfirelessons.net) now contains 918 incident reviews, investigations and reports. Over 63,994 users viewed incidents in this database during the year. This database is maintained in cooperation with the NWCG SHWT.

>The on-line community center (www.myfirecommunity.net) now has 376 neighborhoods with over 6,800 registered members.

>The IMT Center web site (www.IMTcenter.net) now has 85 Type 1, 2 and 3 teams, NIMO, FUMT and fire prevention teams using the site as their primary web pages for the teams and their public audiences.

>The Lessons Learned Center cosponsored the *Northeast High Reliability Organizing in Wildland Fire* workshop in October 2008 with The Nature Conservancy and the Northeast Region of the National Park Service. Approximately 60 people attended from 13 states.

> Four short educational videos were completed as part of the *Firefighter: Remember This* series: Devils Den, St. Sebastian Burnover, Madison Arm Entrapment and Woodview Burnover. NWCG SHWT members served as subject matter experts for these productions.

>10 interagency leaders involved with the TriData Safety Awareness Study were interviewed as part of a four part series on the 10 year anniversary of the study. A four part video podcast series (*Introduction, Successes, Challenges and Looking to the Future*) was produced in cooperation with the NWCG SHWT.

>70 Deep Smarts (business wisdom) videotaped interviews were completed with key experts in fire use, prescribed fire, fire behavior and the 1988 Yellowstone Fires. Twenty of these *Learning from the Experts* video podcasts, with learning points, are on the website.

>Two full length video learning products were completed for the community: *The I-90 Tarkio Staff Ride* and *Lessons Learned in Managing Naturally Ignited Fire*. The second knowledge tool was done in cooperation with the NWCG Fire Education Working Team.

>The FACES of the 2005-2006 Oklahoma and Texas Wildfire fatalities project began with preliminary data collection. The interviews and analysis will take place in 2009.

>The Center completed a High Reliability Organizing research project for IMTs in cooperation with Karlene Roberts of UC Berkeley and French firefighters.