

Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center

www.wildfirelessons.net

February 23, 2016

To: John Glenn, Chair, National Wildfire Coordinating Group

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

Subject: 2015 Annual Summary of Accomplishments, Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center (LLC)



Our Mission
*is to promote learning
in the wildland fire service
by providing useful and relevant
products and services that help
to reveal the complexity and risk
in the wildland fire
environment.*

We Continue to Strive to Meet Our Mission

Throughout 2015, the Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center (LLC) staff continued to strive to meet the intent of its overriding mission statement. These efforts included maintaining and updating the LLC's Incident Review Database (IRDB): <http://www.wildfirelessons.net/irdb>. The intent of this database as a single collection point is to improve safety, performance, efficiency and organizational learning throughout the entire wildland fire community. During 2015 we added new reports relating to 98 different incidents.

Other LLC advances included utilizing a current field ops person as a detailer, experimenting with email "outreach" campaign improvements, and performing a Dude Fire Staff Ride "Follow Along" on Facebook.

Annual Incident Review Summary

In addition, once again last year we produced and published the annual Incident Review Summary which analyzes and summarizes new entries in the Incident Review Database: <http://bit.ly/2014ReviewSummary>. This report's overall intent is to provide topics for crew training and discussions. Here is an example from last year's Incident Review Summary:



**"The Home Unit should have a policy in place to provide support from home."
[Rim Fire Burn Injury FLA](#)**

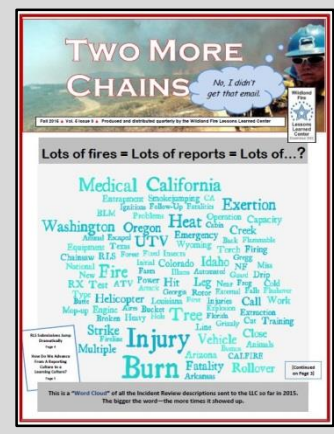
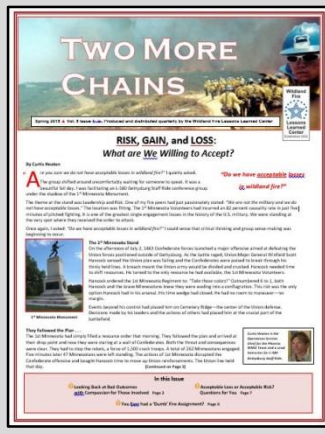


Take a look at these two short reports:

<http://bit.ly/HospitalLiaison2014>

<http://bit.ly/RimFireBurnInjury>

- Write down your crew procedures for a hospital visit.
- Plan for hospital trips both at the home unit and on the road.
- Get specific.
- Talk with folks who have been through this to help identify past problems/solutions.
- Make a list of steps (who to contact, what to ask for, etc.). Put it in a format you can text or email when it's needed.



Two More Chains Continues to Share and Analyze Information

In 2015, 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 2015, 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 Rides:

- ❖ Esperanza Staff Ride Development and Delivery Support.
- ❖ Yarnell Hill Staff Ride Development Project Support.
- ❖ South Canyon Staff Ride Support.
- ❖ Dude Fire Staff Ride Delivery Support.

Assistance and Support

The LLC staff assisted with the following efforts and projects:

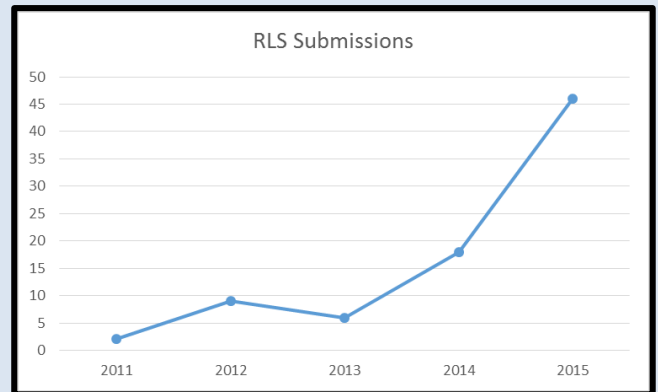
- ❖ Region 8's effort to develop an "Unplanned Event Job Aid".
- ❖ The "Facilitated Learning Analysis Group Improvement Team".
- ❖ The "Twisp River Status Report".
- ❖ The "2015 Risk Summit" held at the National Advanced Fire and Resource Institute.
- ❖ FLA instructing and support.
- ❖ National Fire Management Leadership instructing.
- ❖ Arizona Wildfire Academy instructing.

Presentations

The LLC staff made personal presentations to:

- ❖ The National Short Haul Operations Subcommittee.
- ❖ The Interagency Emergency Medical Subcommittee.
- ❖ The National Incident Commander/Area Commander Meeting.
- ❖ The Southwest Regional Engine Academy.
- ❖ The California Risk Management Workshop.
- ❖ Both 2015 Learning from Unintended Outcomes Workshops.
- ❖ The 2015 National Fire Management Leadership (FML) Course.
- ❖ Multiple local Fire Refreshers.

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 made a substantial increase during 2015.

The wide variety of the RLS's we received and shared last year included firsthand lessons on: drip torch burn injuries, blasting hazard trees, mop-up risks, assignment refusal, backhauling equipment off of fires, and stump hole leg burns.

Getting Lessons from the Field

- ❖ The LLC staff solicited input from fire personnel at meetings, workshops, and presentations on the fireline.
- ❖ The LLC staff met with fire managers from Australia to share information.
- ❖ The Rapid Lesson Sharing submissions that the LLC received and shared.

Assisting Operations During the 2015 PL-5 Fire Season

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

- ❖ Fireline Task Force Leader in Northern California for 14 days.
- ❖ Collecting Rapid Lesson Sharing lessons onsite from incidents in Region 6 for four weeks.
- ❖ Assisting Predictive Services with Fire Weather Briefings, Forecasts, and Monthly and Seasonal Outlooks at the National Interagency Coordination Center for 14 days.
- ❖ Serving as an acting unit FMO for 28 days during June and August.

The LLC Continues to Assist with Incident Reviews

Throughout 2015, the LLC staff assisted with a wide variety of incident reviews, including:

- ❖ [Rough Fire Medical Extraction Lessons Learned Review](#)
- ❖ [Mud Lake Complex Review Facilitated Learning Analysis](#)
- ❖ [Freezeout Ridge Fire – Tree Strike and Emergency Longline Extraction Facilitated Learning Analysis](#)
- ❖ [Cold Brook Escaped Prescribed Fire Facilitated Learning Analysis](#)
- ❖ [Gregg Creek Broken Leg Extraction Facilitated Learning Analysis](#) (LLC staff member served as Lead Facilitator)
- ❖ [Engine 346 Roll-Over Facilitated Learning Analysis](#)
- ❖ [After Action Review of Chainsaw Personal Injury – Kisatchie National Forest](#)
- ❖ [Crooked Creek Fire Chainsaw Incident Facilitated Learning Analysis](#)

The LLC staff also assisted with the following reports:

The Pacific Northwest 2015 Fire Season Timeline – How Fuel Treatments Helped Suppression Efforts on the 2015 Pacific Northwest Fires (website page with link to this report: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/r6/fire-aviation>); the [San Juan Fire Fuel Treatment Effectiveness Report](#); and the *Canada and United States Mobilization Discussion – Planning for Sharing Wildland Fire Resources During a Challenging Fire Season* report.

LLC YouTube Channel Receives 189,003 Video Views in 2015



During 2015, the LLC's always-growing [YouTube Channel](#) welcomed an additional 676 subscribers, for a total of 2,176 subscribers to our channel. In 2015, our YouTube videos received a total of 189,003 views, for an estimated total of 1,083,659 minutes watched. The average duration for minutes viewed per visit last year was 5 minutes and 44 seconds.

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

Our Facebook Likes Grow By 1,922



During 2015, the LLC's [Facebook](#) page had a total of 5,147 Likes—an additional 1,922 Likes from 2014. Our average Facebook post reached 1,871 people.



LLC Twitter Followers Increase

During 2015, 908 new people began following the LLC on [Twitter](#), for a total of 4,153 Twitter followers. We also sent out 206 Tweets, for a total of 1,093 Tweets.