

Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center

www.wildfirelessons.net, www.myfirecommunity.net, www.imtcenter.net and www.youtube.com/user/WildlandFireLLC



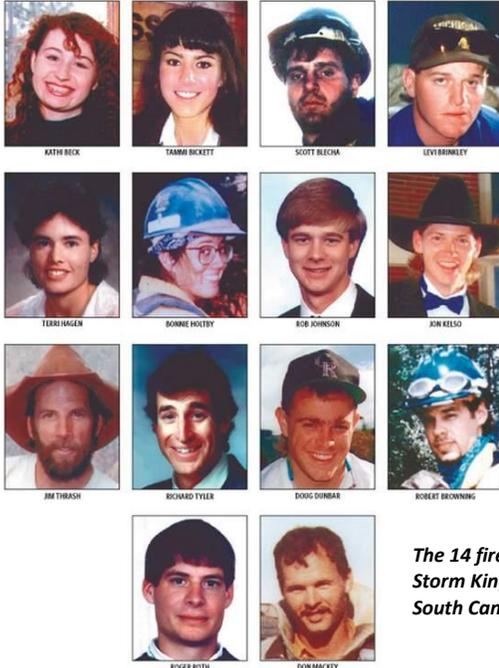
February 1, 2013

To: Aitor Bidaburu, Chair, National Wildfire Coordinating Group

From: Brit Rosso, Center Manager

Subject: 2012 Annual Summary of Accomplishments, Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center (LLC)

STORM KING 14



The 14 firefighters who lost their lives on Storm King Mountain on the 1994 South Canyon Fire.

LLC Key Accomplishments in 2012 for the Interagency Wildland Fire Community

The year 2012 marked the Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center's (LCC) tenth year of operation. This milestone became an opportunity to remember and reflect on how our LLC journey began. We should never forget the 1994 South Canyon Fire that killed 14 wildland firefighters and the ensuing "TriData" interagency safety study that recommended a permanent "lessons learned" program be established for wildland firefighters:

[\[http://www.wildfirelessons.net/documents/WFSAS Part 3 Appendix A.pdf\]](http://www.wildfirelessons.net/documents/WFSAS_Part_3_Appendix_A.pdf).

In response, in 2002, the interagency Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center was developed to focus on improving safe work performance and organizational learning for *all* wildland firefighters. As this 2012 LLC Accomplishment Report reflects, we continue to strive—through a variety of relevant products, services and community assistance—to meet these critical goals for this country's wildland firefighters.

Products and Services

From *Two More Chains* to Rapid Lesson Sharing

During this past year, the LLC continued producing the second year of *Two More Chains*, the popular quarterly publication dedicated to sharing relevant information with this country's wildland firefighters:

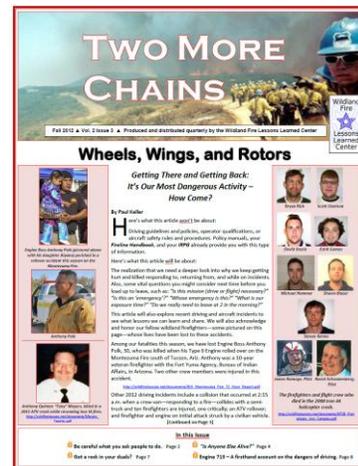
<http://wildfirelessons.net/Additional.aspx?Page=TwoMoreChains>.

During 2012, *Two More Chains* reached more than 33,000 readers. Also during 2012, the LLC's **Rapid Lesson Sharing** communication tool continued to expand its service. Launched in 2011, this convenient tool provides a quick

method for firefighters to get their lessons back out to the field. These "lessons" include: successes, challenges, close-calls—any valid insight into operating more efficiently or safely. We've received **RLS's** from firefighters on everything from a drip torch malfunction, to insights on driving at night, and preparing for an incident within an incident.

RLS's are posted and available at:

<http://wildfirelessons.net/HotTips.aspx>



Do you have a Rapid Lesson to share?

Click this button:

Share Your Lessons

“Firefighter: Remember This” Videos

During 2012, the LLC continued to produce and post its popular “Firefighter: Remember This” videos. [“You See a Hazard Tree – Now What Do You Do?”](#) became the latest video released in this series. To date, this video has received more than 4,000 views. Our [“We Will Never Forget You – Remembering Andy Palmer”](#) video continued to receive broad viewership, with more than 8,000 views in 2012. To date, more than 13,000 viewers have watched this production that is available—along with all the “Firefighter: Remember This” videos—on the LLC’s YouTube channel:

www.youtube.com/user/WildlandFireLLC.

Successful Transition from My Fire Videos to YouTube 64,000 Video Views in 2012

Last year marked the LLC’s successful transition from MyFireVideos.net to our new YouTube channel. This move to YouTube has now increased our capability to provide high resolution (better quality) video products to our customers in a well-organized and easy-to-negotiate content menu/playlists.



Our always-growing YouTube channel currently provides 223 videos. Featured playlists include: “Learning from Incidents,” “Learning from the Experts,” “Fatality Case Studies,” and “Vintage Fire Training Films.” Since January 2012, we’ve had more than 64,000 video views.

New LLC videos produced in 2012 include two more presentations—featuring [Dave Campbell](#) and [Stu Hoyt](#)—in our “Looking Back – Moving Forward” series; and [“Burn Boss Story – Lessons from the Twin Prescribed Fire Escape”](#).

Success Story

NWCG Dutch Creek Protocol and the IRPG – An Innovative LLC Solution

As part of the LLC’s priority focus on the needs of the firefighter in the field, the LLC developed a special (paste-on) “sticker” with the nine-step NWCG Dutch Creek Communication Protocol process to be directly inserted onto page 49 of the current IRPG. During 2011 and throughout 2012—in response to requests from firefighters across the country—we distributed more than 90,000 of these stickers.

This sticker situation triggered multiple discussions in which several firefighters pointed out that the actual nine steps/process could be improved upon. A small interagency group was formed to enhance the process and provide a new and improved medical response protocol to be included in the next IRPG. Another LLC/Firefighter Success Story!



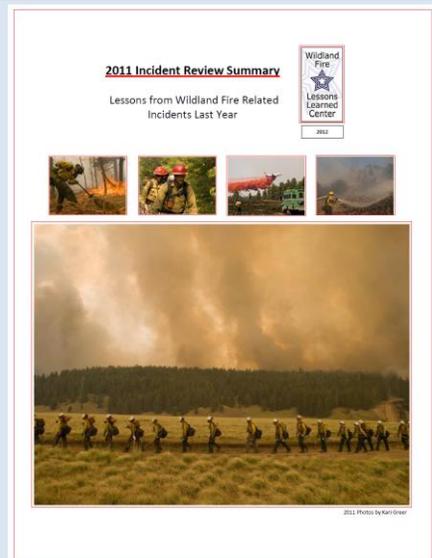
Injured firefighter is carried out of the Circle Meadow Prescribed Fire. Image is from the Lessons Learned Review on this incident, one of the many incident reviews LLC staff helped with in 2012.

The LLC Continues to Assist with Incident Reviews

Throughout 2012, the LLC staff assisted with a wide variety of incident reviews, including:

The [Circle Meadow Prescribed Fire Broken Ankle LLR](#) (see photo on left); the [Sunflower Fire Hazard Tree Felling Accident FLA](#); the [Box Creek Prescribed Fire FLA](#); the [North Schell Escaped Prescribed Fire FLA](#); and the [Reading Fire Review](#).

In addition, in 2012, the LLC staff also helped with the following reports: [Wallow Fire Fuel Treatment Effectiveness on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation](#); and the [Southern Region Prescribed Fire Review](#).



Incident Review Summary

In early 2012, the LLC introduced the annual **Incident Review Summary**—for 2011. This undertaking marks the first time such a comprehensive annual incident review document has ever been developed for the wildland fire community. The LLC’s website statistics reveal this is a popular tool that is receiving widespread readership. Work is currently underway for a **2012 Incident Review Summary**.

http://wildfirelessons.net/documents/2011_LLC_Incident_Reviews_Report.pdf

Continued Collaboration

The LLC's ongoing collaboration with WFSTAR, NWCG Leadership Subcommittee, and the NWCG Training Branch, strengthens our efforts to communicate and collaborate with our partners.

This is accomplished by having LLC staff serve on both the Leadership Subcommittee and the WFSTAR advisory group—as well as through quarterly conference calls with NWCG training staff. This effort has successfully eliminated parallel and conflicting efforts and encouraged the beneficial sharing of resources on significant collaborative efforts.

Getting Lessons Directly to the Field

During 2012, the LLC staff assisted with a variety of speaking engagements and getting lessons directly to operators in the field through multiple venues. These presentations included:

- ❖ Four operational Fire Refreshers.
- ❖ Two Arizona BLM operations meetings.
- ❖ One University of Arizona lecture – Introduction to Wildland Fire, School of Renewable Natural Resources.
- ❖ One National Hotshot Steering Committee presentation.
- ❖ One FLA Workshop presentation.
- ❖ One California Interagency Safety Officer's Workshop.
- ❖ One presentation at Kern County Fire's "Leading and Learning" Conference in Bakersfield, Calif.

Getting Lessons from the Field

*Throughout 2012, the LLC continued to obtain lessons from the field. Besides the new **Rapid Lessons Learning** tool, the LLC also sent video teams to obtain lessons from field personnel involved on the Las Conchas Fire and the Whitewater-Baldy Complex.*

LLC Social Media Accounts Use Continues to Increase

In 2012, the LLC's Facebook page continued to increase in popularity with 32,375 total users reached. We also received 616 more "Likes" to various postings on our Facebook page in 2012. Each day last year, 1,700 people engaged with our Facebook page. In addition, during 2012, 590 people were sharing stories about our Facebook page every day. The LLC staff also posted 687 items onto our Facebook page last year. At the close of 2012, we also had 1,300 people following the LLC on Twitter.

The LLC's mobile application allows users to view two "feeds": our "What's New" feature where new, nationally significant documents are posted; and the LLC YouTube channel. Users receive nearly instant notification when a new document is posted to "What's New" or when a new video is posted to the LLC YouTube channel. In addition, the app also allows users to monitor new postings to the Wildland Fire Leadership Development Blog, also with nearly instant notifications.

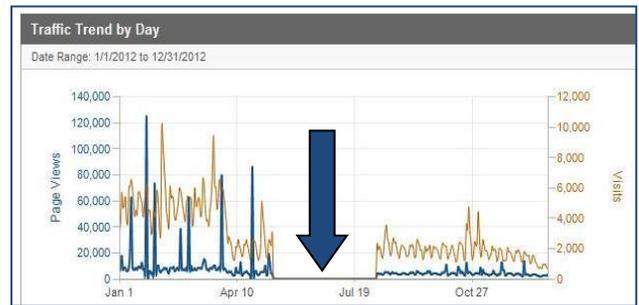
Advances in Fire Practice

In 2012, the LLC's Advances in Fire Practice branch hosted—in combination with the Joint Fire Science Program and the International Association of Wildland Fire—19 webinars attended by a total of 3,095 people.

Last May, the webinar "*Wildland Firefighter Heat Illness Awareness and Prevention*" had the highest attendance of any previous LLC webinar. A total of 417 people viewed the webinar live, while another 319 people watched a recording of the webinar. Feedback from the audience confirmed that the presenters provided important and new information to field personnel—just before the fire season began to pick up.

All of our AFP webinars are recorded—available at: <http://wildfirelessons.net/Additional.aspx?Page=PreviousWebinars>.

In addition, during 2012, AFP continued to produce fire science articles, with topics ranging from the role of firebrands in home ignitions to the increased use of mobile technologies in fire management.



Flat Line Says It All

Unfortunately, for three months—from May 11 to August 6 in 2012—the LLC's website visitor/user statistics program failed. Our hosting service accidentally deleted the information. As illustrated on our web traffic graph above, that flat line (see arrow) means: absolutely no visitor/user data was ultimately recorded for this extended time period. Therefore, all of the LLC's website visitor/user statistics for 2012 are vastly under reported.

All LLC Websites See Visitor Increases Throughout 2012 [Please see 'Flat Line' Box above]

www.WildfireLessons.net

During 2012, we had a total of 822,000 visits to the LLC's main website. Once at this website, people viewed a total 2.1 million pages of the LLC's various documents/products.

www.MyFireCommunity.net

We welcomed 86 new groups—for a total of 650 groups—in 2012 to this popular LLC website that provides a variety of "neighborhoods" in which 9,188 individual interagency members of the wildland fire community—an increase of 743 members from last year—work together on projects of mutual interest that join everyone from hotshots and smokejumpers to fire behavior groups.

www.IMTcenter.net

The LLC's continually growing Incident Management Team site welcomed 10 new Incident Management Team websites during 2012. This popular and convenient online "Team Center" site hosted 152 teams, including Area Command Teams, National Incident Management Organization Teams, IMT Types 1-4, fire prevention teams, and state teams.