

NorCal Team 2

Bullards

Tahoe National Forest/CalFire-NEU

CA-TNF-1579

August 28, 2010 - September 2, 2010

AFTER INCIDENT REPORT (AIR)

In conjunction with the Lessons Learned Process, an After Incident Report (AIR) will be prepared at the conclusion of this incident. The Team will answer the three questions presented below. The final AIR will be presented to the host agency as part of the Team narrative package and closeout.

1. What was the most notable success at the incident (in relation to the deployment) that others may learn from?

Incident Commander

NC2: The relationships established with cooperating agencies (CAL FIRE and Local Government) prior to the incident provided the ground work for an excellent interagency operation. There was an obvious mutual respect and understanding of agency specific issues between CAL FIRE and the Tahoe National Forest. The investment in these relationships allowed the IMT to operate efficiently and safely and facilitated good communication throughout the incident.

CAL FIRE:

- UIC's were united and communicated well through-out Incident.
- ICs understood each agencies policies and procedures
- Dep. IC Tim Fike recognized that early on the incomplete team order needed to be addressed immediately. He pulled the team together and held a meeting to address the issue, so that internal team cohesion would not be affected.
- The IC's delegated workload to ensure that all needs of the team and Incident were met.
- The Team IC was responsive to the needs of the Local Forest and the CAL FIRE Unit. The entire team also recognized the importance of the long standing positive relationship of the USFS and CAL FIRE in the area and strived to ensure that was not compromised.

Operations

The cooperation between the Tahoe National Forest and the Nevada-Yuba-Placer CAL FIRE Ranger Unit was a key to the success of the incident. The integration and cooperation between the Team and CAL FIRE was seamless. The CAL FIRE IC and deputy offered recommendations and assistance in integrating CAL FIRE resources into the operational assignments and the 24 hour shift cycle.

Air Operations

The close coordination with the Tahoe National Forest Aviation Officer with local knowledge of the complex terrain and infrastructure in the Bullards Bar area assisted in the safe aviation operation. Her coordination in dealing with special missions for law enforcement and power company flights were beneficial for safe operations in the canyon.

Logistics

The Nevada County Fairgrounds facilities identified for the incident base camp allowed for a smooth setup and a functional base camp in a short amount of time. The working relationships with fairgrounds staff was in place when NorCal Team 2 arrived. These relationships were fostered by Darren Taylor, Logistics Support Liaison from California Incident Management Team #3, and eased the transition to NorCal Team 2.

Planning

The Tahoe NF assigned a qualified RESL to initiate check-in and tracking of resources right at the start of the incident. Her ability to capture resource information allowed for a more manageable transition and set –up of the Resources Unit.

Finance

The incident base allowed for co-locating CAL FIRE and NorCal Team 2 finance sections in the same area. This facilitated the sharing of information and resolving issues efficiently and effectively. Additionally, the Incident Business Advisor was able to set up in the incident base camp which assisted in resolving numerous issues.

2. What were some of the most difficult challenges faced and how were they overcome?

Incident Commanders

NC2: There was some confusion regarding the mobilization of NorCal Team 2. The concurrent order for both NorCal teams (NorCal 1 & 2) and the modified team

composition request likely played a role. NorCal Team 2 was not on two hour call and consequently delayed in delivering a current roster to NOPS. A team roster is on file with NOPS and current in ROSS and should be utilized “as is” in the future if an update is not readily available.

Excluding trainees from being mobilized with the team conflicts with conventional wisdom with regards to succession planning. Modified team configurations are not adequately identified in the California Mobilization Guide for GACC-level deployment and direction should be sought through CWCG.

CAL FIRE

- Incomplete Team- Order entire team. The whole team concept is just that. A Management Team is used to work together, draw and support each others strengths and weaknesses. When components of a team are not present, then that affects the entire team performance. This incident had extreme potential due to fire history and its location. With this in mind, the team needs to be loaded for success. With-out the entire team, this will not occur. There is also an understanding that external influences will always be present when these types of decisions are made. Success of the team needs to be overriding priority.
- GACC Ordered Resources - let the incident order the resources. The boots on the ground have the best understanding of the incident!
- Map symbology /accuracy - FOBS/DIVS/IR Intel downloaded early on to the GIS/Plans Section. Operations needs to understand that symbology on a map needs to reflect the current situation during briefings and meetings. The map is also used behind the scenes such as incident prioritization, FMAG, resource allocation, historical information, progression, cost share and criminal/civil litigation.

3. What issues were not resolved to your satisfaction and need further review? Based on what was learned, what is your recommendation for resolution?

Information

A Congressional (Herger) regarding timely dissemination of detailed information occurred. While the Forest PAO responded to the individual and Congressman's office, in the heat of battle, it may be difficult to provide all public information requests. In this case the individual wanted far more detail regarding assigned resources than is possible at an early stage of the fire. The recommendation is to develop a response that provides what information we can provide at the moment and offer to provide more detail as later as time allows.

