

*After Incident Report  
Lessons Learned Center*

**Incident Name:** Barry Point

**Dates of Assignment:** 08/15-24/12

**Unit or Jurisdiction(s):** Fremont-Wimena NF,  
Modoc NF, ODF

**Geographic Area:** PNW, R5 North  
Ons

**Report Submitted by:** Mike Morcom

**Phone Number:** (b) (6)

1. What was the most notable success at the incident that others may learn from?

**Social Media**

PNW2 implemented several new approaches to information dissemination and public outreach based on social media platforms. In addition to our web site, [www.pnw2.com](http://www.pnw2.com), which provides a backup to Inciweb for incident information, Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, and a Wordpress blog were accessed by public and media interested in the fire. Facebook and the blog were the most frequently used, with 885 Likes and over 50,000 unique views on Facebook and an average of 2,000 unique views per day on the blog. The Social Media effort had a direct effect on telephone calls, which totaled 127 during PNW2's time on the fire. In contrast to past incidents, the percentage of general public that called the information center was significantly lower, with the majority of calls coming from media and incident or agency personnel.

The use of social media depended on a PIO with exceptional social media skills and a Volunteer Operations Support Team (VOST), which provided additional support while monitoring all platforms and alerting PNW2 to any issues that might need to be addressed by the team. This was the first time that we are aware of that a VOST was fully utilized on a Type I incident. The VOST concept was also submitted by PNW2 after the Arapaho Fire earlier this season.

Additionally, PNW2 used Ustream to stream the day and night shift briefings to the Modoc National Forest in Alturas, CA as well as several cooperators from the CA side of the fire. The streaming made the hour-long drive from Alturas to Lakeview, OR unnecessary and lessened the incident exposure to driving risk. The briefing streams were also recorded on Ustream so agency personnel and cooperators could watch at any time.

### **New Format for Public Meetings**

PNW2 implemented a new strategy for public meetings on the Barry Point Fire. The agenda focused on a briefing by the Incident Commander, Operations, and the Meteorologist and then the meeting broke up so that the audience could go to several staffed stations to have individual questions answered. Stations included local forest practices, local law enforcement information on evacuations, general information, state forestry, and fire information. This alleviated the need to have an extended presentation from numerous partners and cooperators. For the general briefing, there were no questions taken from the audience, thus prohibiting grandstanding or angry comments.

### **Expanded Dispatch**

Expanded dispatch for the Barry Point Incident was outstanding. The entire group was knowledgeable, courteous, and professional. Their outstanding support was critical in the success of PNW2. Their efforts translate directly to efficiency, comfort, and safety of the firefighter. Juanita Johnson was a delight to work with. Her leadership and knowledge is apparent. This is one of the best expanded dispatch organizations this team has worked with in a long time.

### **Communications with Agency Administrators.**

Agency Administrators provided leaders intent, attended briefings, and communicated concerns well to ensure that a clear understanding of expectations was provided to the IMT Operations Section. The role of the Operations Liaison with local knowledge was invaluable to the Section. We recommend that this position be utilized on all incidents. Having experienced Agency Administrators to provide mentoring and coaching to lesser experienced Agency Administrators was very positive and allowed them to have a role in incident decision making without the normal overload associated with a Type 1 complexity fire.

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

### **Dutch Creek Protocols**

PNW Team 2 protocol for implementing the NWCG Dutch Creek direction is to collect ground locations of proposed medivac sites from line personnel on day 1, then verify those that will be used as helicopter landing spots on day 2. By day 3, and thereafter, we have a pre-planned medivac map in the Incident Action Plan, along with the emergency procedures listed in Block 8 of the Incident Medical Plan. On the Barry Point Fire, we found it difficult to meet this protocol timeline with ground verified information during the first 2 days of our assignment for a variety of reasons. Our GIS staff assisted by using Google Earth to pin down accurate GPS coordinates and estimating drive times and flight times to medical facilities. We used the Google Earth information until we were able to verify the information by ground and air. It is our belief that Google Earth information could be used at the end of day 1 to have a preliminary pre-planned medivac

map available to ground resources earlier, with verification occurring on days 2 and 3, thus shortening the time in which protocols are in place.

### **Cost Share Agreement**

#### Challenge:

- The original Cost Share Agreement contained language that was not possible for an IMT to implement.

#### Notable Successes:

- We overcame the challenge by convening the Agency Administrators, Agency Representatives and Incident Business personnel to discuss the intent and mechanisms for tracking.
- After revision, data was tracked to comply with the intent of the Cost Share in a format that could be audited by the Oregon Emergency Service Department.
- ODF provided Agency personnel to review and audit Cost Share data on a regular basis. This clearly identified issues or errors that could be corrected while Operations and Air resources were still present and memory of events was clear.

#### **Recommendation:**

- For future Cost Share needs, we encourage the inclusion of Incident Business personnel from the respective agencies be included in the negotiations, or at a minimum, review the draft product prior to signature.

### **Local Resources**

#### Notable Successes:

- Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) embedded a financial assistant in the Finance Section of the IMT. This provided cross agency expertise which significantly reduced the amount of time and research into individual issues.
- Local resources were utilized in the Finance Section. This provided local knowledge as well as flexibility in work schedules. Where support was not needed full time, cost savings occurred.

3. What changes, additions or deletions are recommended to various training curriculums?

#### **Recommending ICPI Taskbook**

The Incident Contract Project Inspector (ICPI) is a new position in the Incident Command System. There is no Task Book and resources are currently utilizing the 2005 PNW Wildfire Coordinating Group Contract Representative Northwest (CRNW) Task Book. The CRNW Task Book's specific tasks do not reflect the expectations to perform the position. A Task Book needs to be created for the ICPI with accurate tasks to reflect the position.

#### **Recommending change or additional support to the FOBS Taskbook**

The Field Observer (FOBS) and Fire Effects Monitor (FEMO) taskbook contains some tasks that do not appear appropriate or consistent with the typical duties of a field observer resource. These tasks are numbered 10-13, 15, 19 and are all aimed at fire effects monitoring duties. Most of these are not commonly accomplished by FOBS personnel on wildland fire assignments. Additionally, many existing qualified FOBS are not familiar with the duties of a FEMO, and not comfortable with their ability to evaluate trainees in those tasks. Many of these tasks would be better evaluated on a prescribed fire by an individual with FEMO skills. Other options are to revise the task book or conversely to allow these items to be evaluated by a simulation of a wildland fire incident and provide a guide for the FOBS trainers to insure the trainee has an effective training/experience in completing the task.

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

#### **Coordinating with Landowners and Permittees**

Based on the number of affected permittees and landowners, closer coordination would have benefited the team and agency administrators. Local permittees and landowners can aid in firefighting efforts by providing valuable information, such as additional people in the area, lay of the land, access roads, road conditions, structures, livestock locations, fences, water sources and other information. Lack of coordination can lead to independent actions by permittees and landowners potentially creating difficult and unsafe situations for them and responding fire resources.

Resource advisors or other agency representatives are normally assigned to wildfires but work for the agency administrators. These individuals work closely with affected landowners but may or may not be closely tied in with team operations, planning and safety. They work to keep landowners and permittees informed on fire location, threats, and options for moving livestock.

PNW2 Liaison Officers on the Barry Point Fire worked closely with local, county and state officials. Meetings were held on a regular basis and information exchanged regarding any issues or concerns. For future assignments PNW2 should strongly consider establishing a local landowner liaison position to provide the same services extended to local government. This position should be assigned to the team and work directly for the Incident Commander. This position could be filled locally by a person that possesses knowledge of the community and landowners.

### **iPad Use on Incidents**

PNW2 was able to test one iPad on the Barry Point Fire. Information and Operations used the iPad at different times and both units are excited about the possibilities of the technology on future incidents. However, to meet the potential, the iPad must be configured properly. The primary concern is that there are no applications specifically for incidents. Using existing applications and trying to fit them to incident needs is not efficient. It takes a prior knowledge of available apps, some of which are not free. It would be beneficial to IMT's if incident and wildfire apps were developed, with a focus on Operations and Information to start. While those apps are being developed, a suite of existing apps should be identified, along with instructions on how best to apply them to incident use.

**Barry Point Fire  
Incident Management Team Closeout**

**Agenda**

**Saturday August 25, 2012 @0800 hours**

Introductions Deb Schmidt

Summary of lessons learned from PNW  
Team @'s assignment on this incident. Mike Morcom

Incident Safety Review Sam Phillips

Incident Commander's Closing  
Comments and Recognition Mike Morcom

Cooperator's Comments

Agency Administrator(s)  
Comments