

## ***After Action Review (AAR) Rainbow Family Gathering 2009***

The purpose of the AAR is to identify both successes and challenges that can be used as a learning tool for others. Given the success of the 2009 Rainbow Gathering we want to take the time to thoroughly understand and document our learning for future events. Please give this some thought from your vantage point and answer the five questions listed below. An example from fire is also attached below.

We will have a video conference on July 23<sup>rd</sup> from 1:30 – 3:30 MDT to complete this After Action Review. Laurie Thorpe, Acting Director will facilitate the call and we'll discuss each question listed below. Individuals may also complete the questions in writing and submit their comments to Judy Yandoh at [jyandoh@fs.fed.us](mailto: jyandoh@fs.fed.us) by July 30. Judy will consolidate comments and summarize in an After Action Review Report for agency use.

### **Agenda**

**Facilitator:** Laurie Thorpe, Acting Director for Recreation, Heritage and Wilderness

**Note Taker:** Judy Yandoh, Regional Special Uses Coordinator

### **Introductions and agenda review**

**Welcome and Opening Comments:** Corbin Newman, Regional Forester

### **Questions and Discussion**

1. What were some successes at the Gathering that others may learn from? **Please explain.**
2. What were some of the most difficult challenges faced and how were they overcome? **Please explain.**
3. What changes or additions are recommended for managing future Gatherings?
4. What issues were not resolved to your satisfaction and need further review? Based on what was learned, what is your recommendation for resolution?
5. What are the top three things you would recommend for agency action to ensure successful future Gatherings?

**Closing Comments:** Corbin Newman

## *An Example from Fire*

### *After Action Review (AAR) Rollup Lessons Learned Center*

The purpose of the AAR Rollup is to identify both successes and challenges on an incident that can be used as a learning tool for others. The lessons learned in the rollup will also be used to improve training curriculums. Issues and trends that are identified may have Information Collection Teams assigned to them in the future for further analysis and resolution.

Everyone, Type 1- 5 Incident Commanders, Area Commanders, Fire Use Managers, Burn Boss, Crews and Single Resources, Agency Administrators, are requested to complete an AAR Rollup for each wildfire, wildland fire use, prescribed burn or all risk incident they participate in. Don't make others "reinvent the wheel" when you may already have a part of the solution that you could share.

**Incident Name and Type: Ham Lake Fire Type I      Dates of Assignment May 9-19, 2007**

**Unit or Jurisdiction(s): Superior National Forest      Geographic Area: Eastern**

**Report Submitted by: Clark Noble/Paul Broyles      Phone Number: 208-387-5226**

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

- A. The ease of sharing resources across the border with Canada. They use ICS and are enthusiastic in the desire to work out a system of resource sharing in both directions. The key to this is to have agreements in place so that the necessary coordination and requirements are in place and understood (for example, for our people to cross we needed to have the manifest with birth dates on it).
- B. The use of Verizon's emergency cell tower/service. The establishment of communications was necessary and the service is provided free by Verizon.
- C. Taking the ICS-215 small version that Operations had completed and cutting out the unused columns, then scanning it into a computer, printing it on a plotter, and using it for the large ICS-215 during planning meetings saved a large amount of time for Operations and Resources. The product was also just the way Operations had written it without transposition errors.
- D. The Cook County (Minnesota) Evacuation Plan could be used as a model for much of the rest of the country.

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

- A. There was a vast lack of local knowledge of the area on the part of the Incident Management Team. The Forest allowed us to keep and use a number of people with the insight to what the local conditions and expectations were and how to operate in this area.
- B. Information got the key points from the preceding team's debriefing that pointed out the need for obtaining info from several places, and the need to keep the local area, the region and the fire

itself informed, doing this by growing the organization to fit the needs of several satellite points of information. (MIFC, Eastern Area, Forest, EOC were all points needing/wanting info.)

- C. Flat usable space was very limited to accommodate the ICP and Base camp, thus they had to be separated. This was inconvenient and added logistical problems, but was accomplished. There were provisions made for satellite sleeping areas in various places to mitigate the issue.
- D. Telephone communications with our counterparts on the Canadian side of the fire were very difficult. To overcome this we flew up/had meetings, set up the use of the ftp site to exchange and post information, and used the team's email account.

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

- A. Add an international component to the S520/620 simulation.

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

- A. Make sure that teams and crews know that there are requirements for water safety training in these areas so that the needs can be planned and met early in the incident.
- B. The curriculum for DHS/FEMA IS-700 and -800 are good but need to begin much earlier in the program. (Actually, this one will be met when all responders obtain this training when they are supposed to in their careers, vs. having to "play catch up" with existing responders.)