

## **Training Report**

A Training Representative was part of the initial Serious Accident Review Team order on May 6, 2009. The representative was to request and review the training and qualifications of personnel from each of the department/agencies involved in the event. The training representative was also utilized as an Operations Subject Matter Expert during the initial review and information gathering.

Records were requested from ten different departments asking for the following information for portions of the Command and General staff, Strike Team Leaders, Company Officers / Engine Captains, and others directly involved.

- What are the individuals current Wildland Qualifications?
- When was this qualification attained?
- How many assignments has the individual been on as such?
- List of wildland courses attained and the year completed?
- Who was the sponsor of the course? Local, Federal/NWCG, Agency, Academy?
- Does the individual or agency have any specific structure protection courses - S-215, I-Zone drills, etc
- Does the individual have any CICCIS Certifications?
- Any other information that would be helpful to the team.

The response to this request was met by a wide variety of cooperation and or concern. The intent was not for punitive purposes, but as a learning tool and to develop some lessons learned and information for the final report. Some departments replied very quickly with complete records of all requested personnel. Some departments provided some of the requested information but either did not have it all, or did not provide it. Others had concerns and involvement from union representatives with the use of the Firefighter Bill of Rights which delayed the receipt of the records. One department had to have the City Attorney review the requested information before it was submitted.

The individual training records were received and information was placed in tables for easier review. Attached at the end of the Training Report (Exhibit-1) is an acronym list for position qualifications, training courses, and course numbers. The attached tables (Listed by department) contain the information gathered from the records. It is understood that other employee training may have been completed, and qualifications achieved, but documentation was not provided. The tables reflect the completed specific position, fire behavior and other relevant training and the agency certified Incident qualifications applicable to the incident assignment.

### **Findings – Training & Qualifications Documentation**

- Most employees had completed the required training for the position they were functioning in.
- Most, but not all employees were at least agency certified for the position they were functioning in and some of the local government agencies had CICCIS certification in addition.
- Not all employees from all departments have completed, or have not filed, the required NIMS training IS-700 and or IS-800.
- Most employees have good training records and have them properly filed.
- Some departments are using the IQS system while others are still on an individual agency data base. If departments were to utilize similar data bases, information and records would be easily reviewed and transferable between departments.
- Some Departments don't have documentation showing how and or when the grandfathering / historical recognition process for individual qualifications was accomplished.
- Some departments are not utilizing the CICCIS or a peer review process. Others use the process, but do not have the documentation on file.
- Good documentation of fire experience in addition to training and qualifications is lacking with some departments.
- Some departments are not issuing any type of Incident qualifications cards for out of area responses.
- Department Training Chiefs were able to use the request for records as a reminder to their employees of the importance of good record keeping and proper filing of the records.

### **Findings – Training Curriculum & References**

#### **The Incident Response Pocket Guide (IRPG)**

The IRPG is a standard reference for all firefighters in the wildland fire environment. The references, guidelines and Watch Outs that address fire within the Wildland-Urban Interface are a great tool to assist both firefighters and fire managers in decision making. These are excellent tools that can be utilized on every incident.

In addition to the Standard Firefighting Orders and the Watch Out Situations (10 & 18) and Lookouts, Communications, Escape Routes, and Safety Zones (LCES) The Incident Response Pocket Guide contains the following:

- Wildland-Urban Watch Outs – Exhibit F-1
- Structure Protection Guidelines – Exhibit F-2
- Structure Assessment Checklist – Exhibit F-3

## **S-215 Curriculum Fire Operations in the Wildland/Urban Interface**

S-215 is required training for single resource bosses (tractor/plow, dozer, engine, or crew) who are seeking certification as incident commander Type 4 (ICT4) and/or strike team leader (STLP, STDZ, STEN, STCR) as identified in the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG), Wildland and Prescribed Fire Qualification System Guide (PMS 310-1). S-215 is a 28 hour course designed to meet the training needs for incident commanders (Type 4), strike team leaders, and company officers confronting wildland fire that threatens life, property and improvements in the wildland/urban interface.

*S-215 is the national standard for Fire Operations in the Wildland/Urban Interface and has excellent guidance and information. A section in Chapter 5, Lesson A – Initial Operations and Site Preparation has a document called Structure Protection: Lessons Learned (Exhibit S-215 – 1). This document alone has valuable information that could be reviewed annually for units and or individuals with a potential to be assigned in the interface.*

### **Findings – Agency Standards for Wildland Urban Interface**

Agency policy regarding urban interface incidents, equipment, tactics and strategy differ greatly. The SART followed up with a request for agency policy regarding WUI fires and minimum hose size for deployment. Either some departments do not have a policy or did not reply with the request. Enclosed is the policy or direction from the agencies that replied. The questions sent to the agencies are as follows:

What is, or do you have a policy or SOP for:

- Standard or minimum diameter hose line for wildland fires?
- Standard or minimum diameter hose line for structural fires?
- Standard or minimum diameter hose line for WUI/Structure Protection fires
- Minimum or standard type nozzle or minimum flow for each of these type fires
- Minimum or standard diameter hose, nozzle type or minimum flow for engine protection?

### **CAL FIRE**

Fire Operations Handbook 7000, Section 7013.7.1, Placement of Apparatus, Hose Deployment, and Personnel Placement- (Exhibit CALFIRE-1)

### **USFS**

- Wildland Urban Interface Operating Principles- November 29, 2007, Exhibit USFS-1
- Wildland Fire Suppression Policy for Structure Protection- May 5, 2009, Exhibit USFS-2

- Forest Service Structure Exposure Protection Principles- April 14, 2009 Exhibit USFS-3

**Ventura City Fire Department:**

- Typical Structure Protection Procedures, Exhibit VEN-1
- Wildland Interface Pre-Fire, Exhibit VEN-2
- LCES, Exhibit VEN-3

**Santa Barbara City Fire Department:**

- WUI Response, Exhibit STB-1

**Ventura County Fire Department:**

- Operational Procedure, 5200, Watershed Fire Doctrine, Exhibit VNC-1
- County has an annual Strike Team Leader Refresher course for all STEN's that could be mobilized out of the response area.

Position on Jesusita Fire at the time of Incidents	Name Rank	Applicable Qualification for Position on Fire	Applicable Completed Course Work	Qualifications Standard / Missing Qualification or Training
STEN	Ron Leydecker Battalion Chief		S-290 S-330 S-339	PMS 310-1 & CICCIS / No Qualifications Provided Missing S-215
STEN(t)	Antoine McKnight Battalion Chief		S-290 S-215 S-330	PMS 310-1 & CICCIS / No Qualifications Provided, meets training requirements
STEN's Driver	Keenan Porche Firefighter		Only Agency Specific Training Provided	PMS 310-1 & CICCIS / No Qualifications Provided
FC	Robert Baker Captain		Only Agency Specific	PMS 310-1 & CICCIS / No

			Training Provided	Qualifications Provided
FAE	Mike Beltran Engineer		Only Agency Specific Training Provided	PMS 310-1 & CICCIS / No Qualifications Provided
FF	James Rix Firefighter		Only Agency Specific Training Provided	PMS 310-1 & CICCIS / No Qualifications Provided
FF	Hani Jejjoni Firefighter		Only Agency Specific Training Provided	PMS 310-1 & CICCIS / No Qualifications Provided
FC	James Ullrich Captain		Only Agency Specific Training Provided	PMS 310-1 & CICCIS / No Qualifications Provided
FF	Jess Beltran Firefighter		Only Agency Specific Training Provided	PMS 310-1 & CICCIS / No Qualifications Provided
FAE	Charles Hallman Engineer		Only Agency Specific Training Provided	PMS 310-1 & CICCIS / No Qualifications Provided
FF	Michael Maclaren Firefighter		Only Agency Specific Training Provided	PMS 310-1 & CICCIS / No Qualifications Provided
STEN	Greg Gibson Battalion Chief	STEN*	S-290 S-390 S-330 S-339	PMS 310-1 & CICCIS / Meets qualifications for STEN, Submitted Qualification Card is dated 2005
STEN(t)	Gerry Malais		S-215 S-330	PMS 310-1 & CICCIS / No Qualifications Provided
STEN Assistant	Ronald Spiers		Only Agency	PMS 310-1 &

			Specific Training Provided	CICCS / No Qualifications Provided
FC	Sergio Franco Captain		Only Agency Specific Training Provided	PMS 310-1 & CICCS / No Qualifications Provided
FC	Greg Peters Captain		Only Agency Specific Training Provided	PMS 310-1 & CICCS / No Qualifications Provided
FAE	Steve Schrobsdorf Engineer		Only Agency Specific Training Provided	PMS 310-1 & CICCS / No Qualifications Provided
FF	Matthew Corral Firefighter		S-290	PMS 310-1 & CICCS / No Qualifications Provided
FF	Patrick Mandich Firefighter		Only Agency Specific Training Provided	PMS 310-1 & CICCS / No Qualifications Provided
FC	Scott Quinlan Captain		Only Agency Specific Training Provided	PMS 310-1 & CICCS / No Qualifications Provided
FAE	Michael Wetzel Engineer		Only Agency Specific Training Provided	PMS 310-1 & CICCS / No Qualifications Provided
FF	Richard Diede Firefighter		Only Agency Specific Training Provided	PMS 310-1 & CICCS / No Qualifications Provided
FF	Gordon Wilson Firefighter		Only Agency Specific Training Provided	PMS 310-1 & CICCS / No Qualifications Provided

\*Indicates CICCS Certification