

# Rapid Lesson Sharing

**Event Type:** Explosives in the  
Fire Environment

**Date:** August 13, 2015

**Location:** Cornet Fire



***When fire moves through an area reported to have explosives, how long should we wait before we go back in? Who clears it for re-entry?***

## **NARRATIVE**

Fire crews are notified that one of the homes in the path of this fire has an outside storage shed that contains blasting caps and dynamite.

The shed in question is taped off and entry is denied to all in the area. The shed's location is communicated to crews and overhead working in and around that area. The blasting caps are removed prior to fire impacting the structure.

### **Fire Crews Pulled Out**

The fire crews are pulled out of this community prior to the fire's arrival due to concerns with egress and lack of good safety zones. Sprinklers, pumps, and port-a-tanks are set up to provide some protection to the homes and are operating when the fire comes through.



*First, fire crews are notified that a storage shed in the fire's path contains blasting caps and dynamite. All hazardous materials are removed from this storage shed and appropriate mitigations are taken. But fire crews are not aware that another nearby building also contained dynamite.*



Crews return the area after the fire's passage. They are able to confirm the outbuilding which contained the dynamite was destroyed by the fire but there had not been any explosion.

Crews extinguish fire around homes and work until dark to reduce the risk of further loss. All resources are pulled out of the area after dark due to concerns of fire-weakened trees and rolling rocks.



Very early the next morning, personnel working nearby hear an explosion. Oregon State Police bomb technicians enter the community after daylight to investigate. OSP personnel confirm that the original dynamite had been burned up and did not explode. However, they discover a nearby similar storage building had exploded due to additional undiscovered dynamite.

## LESSONS

### **How will you handle your next report of explosives?**

- ✓ Explosives in the fire environment are no joke. The concern is very real.
- ✓ The crews did everything they could to mitigate the *known* hazard. How do you deal with an unknown hazard?



- ✓ When we get reports of explosives in an area with multiple buildings, should we assume we didn't find it all?
- ✓ When fire moves through an area reported to have explosives, how long should we wait before we go back in? Who clears it for re-entry?

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