

Rapid Lesson Sharing

Event Type: Incident Structure Fire – ICP Yurt

Date: September 12, 2022

Location: Kootenai River Complex
Idaho Panhandle National Forest
Bonners Ferry, Idaho

IMT Members Wake Up in a Burning Yurt

Overview

Northern Rockies Team 4 is assigned to the Kootenai River Complex out of Bonners Ferry, Idaho. Incident Command Post (ICP) is at the local fairgrounds.

At approximately 0330 local time, one of nine yurts being used on the incident was set on fire by a suspected arsonist. Two individuals were asleep in the opposite end of the yurt. One woke up and was able to get the other out of the yurt.

One member entered their vehicle and honked the horn to gather help.

Various personnel responded. The Logistics Section Chief Type 2 (LOG2)

knew that there were three 10-pound fire extinguishers in the IMT trailer and retrieved them as well as an additional fire extinguisher from one of the buildings. Two extinguishers were used to suppress the fire. One yurt panel was consumed, and a hole was burned in a ceiling panel.

Law enforcement on scene took a suspect into custody.



Damage caused to the yurt by the suspected arson fire.

Lessons and Plans

- ❖ Consider how Incident Within an Incident (IWI) alert protocols for ICP personnel should be adapted for nighttime incidents.
 - A honking car horn/car alarm is often seen in our society as a mistake or a means of finding your vehicle. In this case it was a call for help.
 - This IMT's daytime IWI alert protocol is to use an air horn (learned on past incidents without cell service). This alert method will be used at night from now on.

- ❖ Think about structure fire response at ICP.
 - Only one responder had their cell phone handy. Calling 911 was not the first action in this IWI. (Nevertheless, once called, the sheriff and fire department arrived quickly.)
 - Ensure that yurts are fire-rated. This one was, but a structure made of different materials could have consumed more readily and spread quickly to other yurts, etc.
 - Fire extinguishers: Not all IMT members knew they had fire extinguishers for fires in ICP. In the future, they will ensure there is a 10-pound fire extinguisher for each yurt—20-pound extinguishers may be too heavy for some individuals. Communicate the location of the fire extinguisher to the yurt's occupants.
 - Dry chemical (ABC) fire extinguisher powder can cause significant issues in your computer or other devices. Recommend closing the lid and/or pack them up when not in use.
 - Are there hose bibs on site that can be used for fire response?



The "fire wagon" that this IMT will now always carry in its IMT trailer.
For more information, see the details below.

- ❖ Other firefighting equipment:

This IMT will develop a "fire wagon" to be carried in the IMT trailer and deployed on arrival. It will be located in a central location, its location labeled on the ICP map and communicated in the Incident Action Plan (IAP). This fire wagon will comprise:

▪ Collapsible wagon	▪ AED
▪ Three 10-pound fire extinguishers	▪ First aid kit
▪ Five lengths of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch hose with garden nozzle	▪ Fire blanket
	▪ Air horn
	▪ Square hose bib key

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