

Rapid Lesson Sharing

Event Type: Logistical Shortages on a Type 1 IMT

Date: July 4, 2021

Location: Beckwourth Complex; Portola, California

**“Unable to Fill (UTF)” is nothing new when it comes to ordering hotshot crews in July.
But what if you couldn’t get water on the line, or had to stand in line
for more than an hour to get a meal in camp?**

In early July, a very experienced Type 1 Incident Management Team, with well-established local contacts and vendors, experienced considerable delays in obtaining bottled water, Gatorade, and ice for firefighters on the line. They did have potable water available via the shower unit and potable water truck, but not all crews brought canteens to refill. This wasn’t the only logistical concern. Crews coming off the line were having to wait 1-2 hours for a meal in camp and another 1-2 hours for a shower.

There were many contributing factors that led to these shortages, including a lack of local delivery drivers and a lack of items on the shelves in local stores to purchase basic items. This was not the only Type 1 or Type 2 team to experience these logistical challenges so early in the season.

While some of the solutions to these logistical problems are “higher up in the system,” there are things that everyone can do to be better prepared.

**The bottom line is that you need to be self-sufficient in ways
you’ve not had to before this season.**

Lessons

Lesson 1: A good model for this type of self-sufficiency is often practiced by hotshot crews who are expected to be completely **self-sufficient for 72 hours**. This means that they pack water, food/MREs, batteries, toiletries, fuel, and anything else they might need to be self-sufficient for 72 hours.

Lesson 2: To support being self-sufficient for 72 hours, crews should consider requesting that their resource orders include a **chase truck** to transport this additional gear. This type of “chuck wagon” vehicle was originally used in 2020 to mitigate COVID-19 concerns. This should continue to be supported through 2021, as logistical shortages have been widely reported.

Lesson 3: To be able to stay self-sufficient, consider having a **purchase card** holder on your crew. But, be aware that even if your crew has a purchase card, there may not be anything on the shelves to buy.



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