

***Baker Fire
Incident Review
Incident ORC- #13089330
October 6, 2013 @ 1010***

Introduction

At 1010 hours, on October 6, 2013, ECC was notified of a mulch pile fire with no extension into the wildland. Due to the current weather conditions at the time, and our dispatch level, the determination was made to start an IA response to the incident at 1010 hours. An additional report was called in to the ECC, reporting that the fire had grown to approximately ¼ acre. ECC staff balanced the call to a High Vegetation Fire response (with the exception of the State Aircraft). At approximately the same time, units enroute to the fire reported on the radio that there was a header building in the area.

The first arriving unit (E315) established the Baker IC and reported that they had a 50' x 100' spot fire that was isolated to the mulch pile with a threat to the surrounding vegetation.



At approximately 1040 hours, the IC reported that the fire had spread to another mulch pile, downwind of the first pile, and asked for a Type III Engine Strike Team.

At 1043 hours, B3 assumed the Baker IC. At 1049 hours, M31 reports that they have numerous spot fires now into the vegetation outside the mulch pile, and at 1052 hours the IC

requested the fixed-wing air assets. The ECC forwarded the request to South Ops (Cal-Fire).

The objectives for this incident were to keep the fire North of Silverado Canyon, East of Santiago Canyon, South of Blackstar Canyon, and West of Baker Canyon. These objectives were met throughout the entire incident. Throughout the first operational period, additional overhead, engines, hand crews, water tenders, and both fixed-wing and rotor-wing aircraft were ordered to meet these objectives.

At 1150 hours, OCFA Type 3 Incident Management Team was requested to assist with management of the incident and logistical support for resources assigned. Incident Base was established at a church approximately one mile from the incident's location. The fire was declared 100% contained at 0800 hours on October 10, 2013.

Areas of Success:

- Initial BC challenged ECC as to the dispatch call type (IA vs. VEGH) - this contributed to early staffing of overhead and specialty resources
- Well established control objectives and trigger points
- Early recognition of the potential for an OCFA IMT
- Positive working relations with CALFIRE and USFS
- ICP set up at Fire Station 15
- Quick ordering of supplies by Logistics
- Great teamwork amongst IMT members and non-team members
- Team notification via text/e-mail was easily received and concise
- Team arrived at ICP quickly and ready to work
- Resources were tracked effectively and clearly displayed at the ICP
- Situation was well displayed in a timely manner
- Plans Section provided quality IAP's, maps and facilitated operational briefings
- CALFIRE reps were on scene early and helpful in decision making
- OCFA Finance was notified and brought in to work with IMT in a timely manner and invited to all IMT meetings and briefings



Areas for Improvement:

- Initial dispatch level of “IA” was inadequate given weather conditions at the time
- SOLAR VHF communications plan was not implemented at time of dispatch
- A tactical dispatcher was not utilized in the DOC when the DOC was activated
- Hesitation on having the IMT assume command of the incident
- Lack of communication as to “if” or “when” the IMT took the incident
- Some uncertainty as to who had the IC
- Excess resource ordering for the scope of the incident
- Rumor of the OCFA DOC refusing resource orders caused confusion at the incident
- Resource orders were placed without the knowledge of the IA IC
- Logistics’ Section was understaffed at the onset of the incident to properly run and maintain an Incident Base
- Inefficient spending by Logistics’ Section, specifically on meals
- Emergency Activity Report (EAR) submittal was incomplete – significant follow-up was required

Recommended Follow-up Actions:

- Plan and hold an AAR meeting involving all 3 IMTs to help facilitate learning IMT performance
- Invest in scenario training for the IMTs so the lessons learned may be practiced
- Ensure that “keeping cost commensurate with values at risk” is included and maintained as a management objective
- Once the ORDM is on scene, all orders need to be routed through the ORDM
- Complete repairs and place into service the new command trailers
- Ensure that ICs attend all meetings and engage with CALFIRE and USFS AREP regarding cost sharing
- Provide further education on cost sharing of an SRA/LRA incident
- Clarify pay procedures for Administrative Managers called out for major incidents
- At any future wildland fire on SRA and/or FRA lands, all parties, including CALFIRE and/or USFS, should discuss finance issues (cost share) daily
- Check for CALFIRE/USFS contract availability for major purchases
- Bring Purchasing Section in early (maybe along with Finance) to support Logistics
- Consider assigning FS54 personnel to the incident until the following morning to assist with Base set-up and movement of IMT cache
- Have a ROSS Pre-order built into ROSS for “incident support”
- Provide sufficient manpower to the incident during DEMOB to ensure all equipment is returned and accounted for prior to the incident being closed
- Make sure all of our systems have been updated (Alert OC)
- Establish a notification process for Administrative Fire Captain response in the event of a major emergency
- Reinforce the use of the RAMP
- Reiterate that the DOC Director is a support role for the incident
- Ensure a reliable line of communication between the IC and the DOC is established in order to communicate resource needs and situation status
- Reinforce that the IC needs to provide the DOC regular incident updates to ensure overall department coverage and staffing needs are being addressed

The Cost Share Agreement:

The Baker Fire was unified in the early stages of the incident, and equitable agreement was reached to divide the expenses of the incident. Periodic meetings were held throughout the duration of the incident to maintain and adjust the initial agreement.

Upon conclusion of the Baker Fire incident, the Unified Incident Commanders met to identify a concise, but inclusive, format to illustrate the overall costs of the incident. There was a subsequent meeting after the incident with the Unified Incident Commanders, ECC, Finance Manager, and the Incident Plans and Logistic Chiefs.

Ultimately the following document was created and mutually agreed upon and signed by the Incident Commander (Michael Moore) and CAL Fire Agency Representative (Kevin Gaines):

COST SHARE AGREEMENT
Orange County Fire Authority
and
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
CAL FIRE

The following is the cost share agreement between the above named agencies as it was negotiated for the following incident.

INCIDENT NAME: Baker Fire

INCIDENT NUMBER BY AGENCY: (ORC) CA-ORC- 089330

INCIDENT START DATE AND TIME: October 6, 2013 1010 hours

JURISDICTIONS: Orange County Fire Authority (LOCAL); Orange County Fire Authority (SRA) CAL FIRE - Riverside Unit

INCIDENT CAUSE: Under investigation

COMMAND STRUCTURE: Unified Command

Start Date/Time: October 6, 2013 1010 hrs.

End Date/Time: October 10, 2013 2000 hrs.

COST SHARE PERIOD:

Start Date/Time: October 6, 2013 1010 hrs.

End Date/Time: October 10, 2013 2000 hrs.

INCIDENT COMMANDER: Michael Moore, Orange County Fire Authority

AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE: Kevin Gaines (CAL FIRE)\

UNIFIED ORDERING POINT: Orange County

COST SHARE AGREEMENT: for the Baker Fire

Agency Representatives participating in development of this cost share agreement.

Michael Moore, ORC, Incident Commander

Kevin Gaines, CAL FIRE, Agency Representative

This cost share agreement between Orange County Fire Authority, (ORC) and State of California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) was prepared under the following guidelines:

1. In accordance with the Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement between the contract counties and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection/ CAL FIRE.
2. All costs including regular and overtime costs originating from orders placed by and for the incident that can be reasonably obtained and estimated for the cost share period will be included in this agreement and will be shared on the basis of the ICs/ARs' mutual agreement.
3. Costs for non-expendable property purchases by each agency will be charged direct to that agency and will not be shared.
4. Costs incurred by cooperators not engaged in joint fire suppression activities will not be included as a part of this cost share agreement.
5. Agency specific costs will not be shared.
6. Responsibility for tort claim costs or compensation for injury costs will not be a part of this agreement. Responsibility for these costs will be determined outside of this agreement.
7. Shared costs will be based on the ICs/ARs' mutual judgment and agreement as to threat, incident objectives, and resources assigned for each agency's area of responsibility.
8. The Orange County Fire Authority will incur the cost of the resources identified in ROSS and agreed upon by the parties listed above. These resources are identified in Exhibit A (attached).
9. All meal costs including water, Gatorade and ice were purchased for the incident by Orange County Fire Authority. As agreed upon by the IC/AR, CAL FIRE will be invoiced for 50 percent of these costs.
10. All hotel costs were purchased by Orange County Fire Authority for the incident. As agreed upon by the IC/AR, CAL FIRE will be invoiced for 100 percent of these costs.
11. All fuel costs were purchased by Orange County Fire Authority for the incident. As agreed upon by the IC/AR, CAL FIRE will be invoiced for 50 percent of these costs.
12. Cal Fire agrees to incur the cost of 400 containers of Class A Foam.
(S-43, S-88, S-89)

This agreement is our best judgment of agency cost responsibilities for state mission in Orange County for the "Baker Fire."

Michael Moore
Division Chief, Orange County Fire Authority
Baker Fire Incident Commander

Date:

Kevin Gaines
Assistant Chief, CAL FIRE
Riverside Unit
Agency Representative

Date:

Date of this finalized agreement: _____