



# Weston, Timber, and Gritty Gulch Fires

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Emergency Planning and Preparedness

National Security Technologies, LLC

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# Nevada National Security Site



- Formerly known as the Nevada Test Site
- 1,375 square miles in Nevada
- 1,000 square miles of undeveloped and undisturbed land

# Recent Fire History

## Non-Operational Emergencies

### Quick Fact:

Many of the 2008 fires were caused by range ordnance.

2007 14 Fires	2008 22 Fires	2009 17 Fires	2010 3 Fires
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Cafeteria Fire  
Nov. 15, 2006

Mid Valley Fire  
July 4–5, 2006

July 5–11, 2011  
Briley Fire

Timber Fire  
July 5–11, 2011

Weston Fire  
July 5–11, 2011

Gritty Gulch Fire  
July 12–14, 2011

## Operational Emergencies

# Wildland Fire Strategy

NNSS Fire and Rescue implements a strategy of

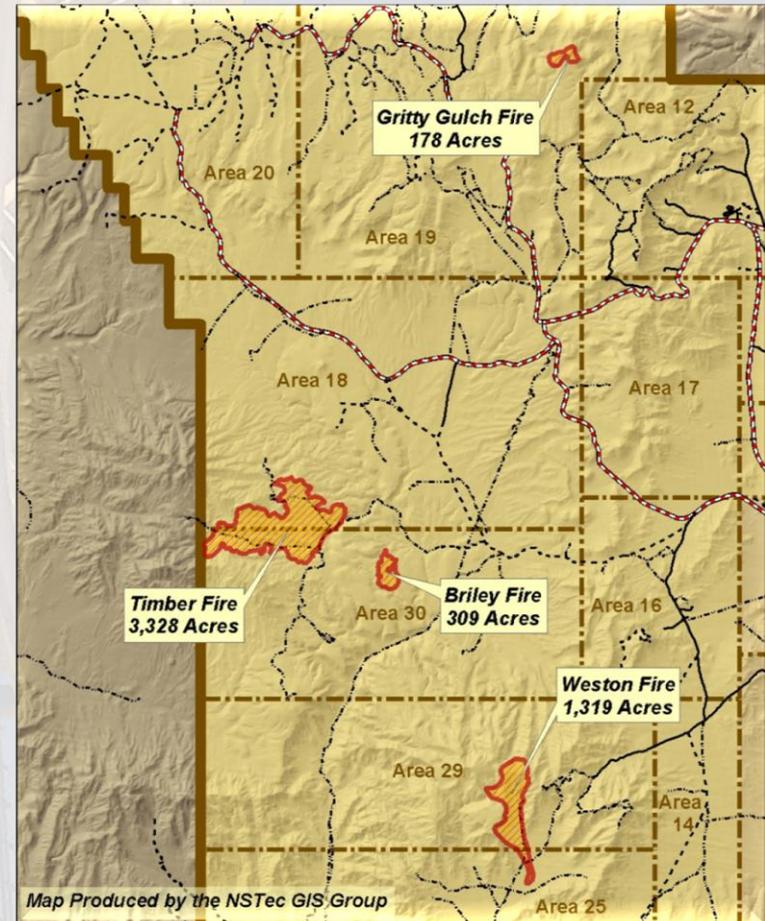
- Early Detection
- Rapid Response
- Aggressive Initial Attack



# NNSS Wildland Fire Operational Emergencies 2011

A group of four fires in four different geographical areas produced two back-to-back operational emergency declarations over a two-week period in July 2011.

- Briley, July 3, 2011
- Timber, July 5, 2011
- Weston, July 5, 2011
- Gritty Gulch, July 11, 2011



# Briley Wildland Fire

- Detected July 3, 2011, via wildland fire camera
- NNSS Fire and Rescue reconnaissance team responded
- Established Incident Command Post on July 4, 2011
- Firefighting operations continued into July 5, 2011, when two other wildland fires were discovered on the NNSS which created a need for additional resources



# Weston-Timber Wildland Fire Operational Emergency

- Wildland fires in multiple locations created the need for time-urgent response by offsite agencies
- Operational Emergency declared July 5, 2011
- Terminated July 11, 2011



# Gritty Gulch Wildland Fire

- Discovered and declared an Operational Emergency on July 12, 2011
- Fire in rough, remote terrain
- Known unexploded ordnance area
- Safe access was not possible by foot or vehicle
- Several fixed-wing air assets used
- Terminated July 14, 2011



# What We Coordinated

- Onsite response assets



- Offsite response assets

# Onsite Response Assets



NNS Fire and Rescue use all-terrain vehicles to get through tough terrain.

- NNS Fire and Rescue
- NNSA/NSO Emergency Operations Center
- NNS Emergency Management Center
- NNSA/NSO Joint Information Center
- NNS Operations Coordination Center
- Remote Sensing Laboratory—  
Nellis Aviation Section

# Offsite Response Assets

## Bureau of Land Management

- Heli-Tack Crew
- Single Engine Air Tankers
- Air Attack Command and Control Platform
- Planning Representatives

## U.S. Department of Forestry

- Type 3 Incident Commander
- Kern Valley Hot Shot Crew
- Del Rosa Hot Shot Crew
- Bear Divide Hot Shot Crew

## Federal Agency Liaisons

- Creech Air Force Base Fire Department
- Creech Air Force Base Emergency Management
- Nellis Air Force Base Emergency Management



# Best Practices

- Incident Action Planning
- Skeleton Crew Cadre in the Emergency Operations Centers
- Incorporation of Social Media in Joint Information Center operations
- Unmanned Aerial System Support in Wildland Firefighting Operations



# Incident Action Planning

- Incident action planning for multiple operational periods
- BLM Senior Fire Officer participated in Emergency Management Center operations
- Geographic Information System mapping to develop field assignments

**Incident Action Plan** Response Center - IAP 202  
Emergency Response Centers  
Incident Objectives/Response Priorities

Incident Name:	Lorem ipsum dolor	Date Prepared:	01/01/2012	Time Prepared:	0900	Rev #	0
Operational Period Date/Time:	Lorem ipsum	From:	01/01/2012	To:	01/12/2012		

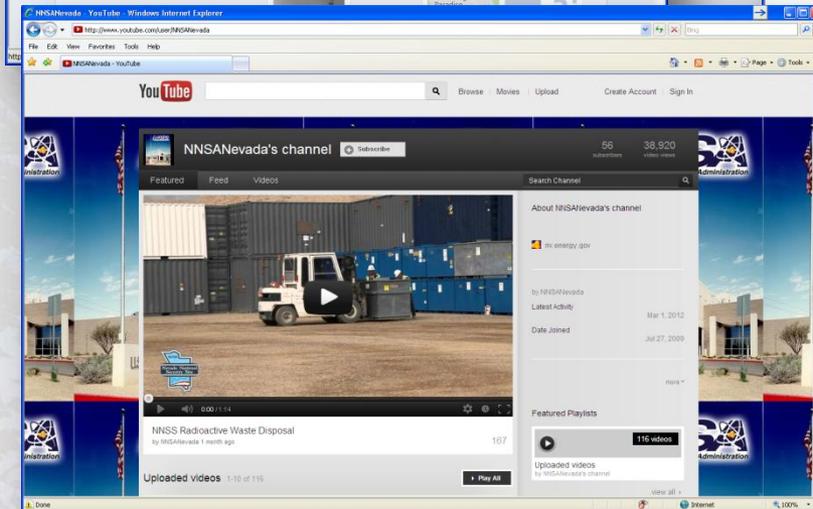
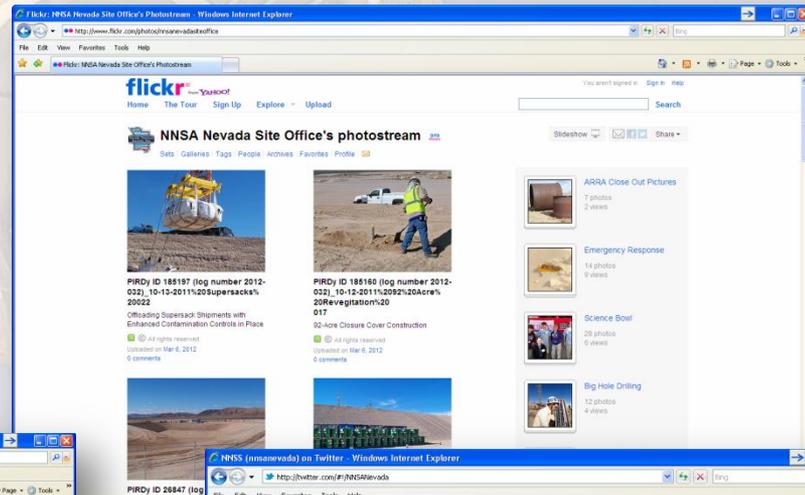
**Objectives for the Incident** (Include alternatives, as necessary)

<b>General Objectives:</b>
1. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut
2. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut
3. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut
4.
<b>Protective Actions</b>
1. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut
2. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut

# Emergency Operations Center Reduced Staffing

- Skeleton Crew included
  - Emergency Manager
  - Deputy Emergency Manager
  - Public Affairs Officer
  - Emergency Operation Center Support Staff
  - Emergency Operation Center Information Coordinator

# Social Media



# Unmanned Aerial System Support

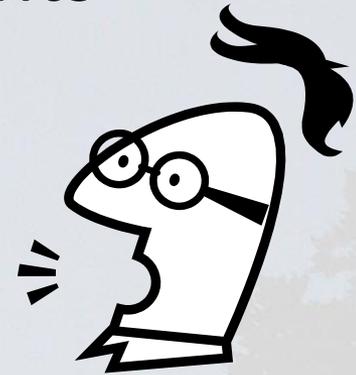
- Unmanned Aerial System Integration
  - Arial Reconnaissance
  - Slurry Drop Coordination
  - Enhanced Situational Awareness



Examples only;  
not event photos

# Surprises We Overcame

- Other wildland fires in the region affected our ability to obtain requested offsite resources
- Incident Notification and Update form was not created to cover multiple-day events
- WebEOC servers “refresh”



# Lessons Learned

- **Firefighter Meals**

- **Lessons Learned:** The field meal selections were not ideal for firefighters due to delivery issues in poor terrain and the types of lunches did not contain the high calories needed.
- **Suggestion:** Establish protocols so that when wildland firefighters respond to remote areas of the site, Meals Ready-to-Eat (MREs) or similar rations are included in the pre-deployment checklist.



# Lessons Learned



- **Communications**

- **Lessons Learned 1:** NNSS Fire and Rescue radios and BLM radios were incompatible, which made communications among response assets difficult.
- **Corrective Measure:** The radio frequencies were updated on NNSS Fire and Rescue radios to reflect changes to Southern Nevada BLM and U.S. Forest Service communication requirements.
- **Lessons Learned 2:** The Mobile Incident Command Vehicle (MICV) communication capabilities were limited.
- **Corrective Measure:** Currently, there is limited funding to upgrade the MICV with needed satellite communications. Hand-held devices are available.

# Lessons Learned

- **Emergency Response Organization Checklists**
  - **Lessons Learned:** Emergency Operations Center and Emergency Management Center checklists do not address all of the wildland fire-specific actions. The checklists are geared more toward facility incidents.
  - **Corrective Measure:** Checklists are being reviewed and updated.



# Lessons Learned

- **Facility Manager Integration**

- **Lessons Learned:** Balance-of-Plant facility managers were not involved in support operations, although they could have been used as subject matter experts (for infrastructure, etc.).
- **Corrective Measure:** Checklists are being reviewed and updated to address Balance-of-Plant facility manager notifications.



# A View From Within the Fire

## NNSS Timber Mountain Wildfire



NNSS Timber Mountain Wildfire - YouTube - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WdE1whgZEDY&feature=plcp&context=C4d3654BdVrhQa1PpF07zUyUu6P3LZT2HdosXMedvEjPQ8

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Suggestions

- 2011 China Hat ISDE Special Test #2 by rsunmer1b 1,934 views 1:23
- Magnolia, Tx wildfire 9/05/11 by hclmgn 262 views 6:57
- Texas Wildfires 2011 (Worst in TX history) by TheFireSpiter 26,913 views 6:11

0 likes, 0 dislikes

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# Summary

- The NNSS Fire and Rescue strategy of early detection has proven an invaluable practice in controlling wildland fires, which has reduced risks to infrastructure.
- Incident Action Planning in the response centers focuses on clear incident objectives tied to supporting the Incident Commander and addressing Balance-of-Plant needs.
- Public Affairs made good use of social media as an integrated tool for communicating with the media and public.
- Unmanned Aerial System support has strengthened wildland fire response capabilities on the NNSS, and we continue to collaborate with these agency partners through drills, exercises, and real-world events.

# Results

- Day-to-day operations of the site continued
- Employees, the media, and the public had access to event information
- Threatened assets were protected
- No loss of infrastructure



# Questions

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*Vision • Service • Partnership*

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