Incident Command System

Overview

Incident Command System

● On-scene incident management
  – Standard terminology
  – Modular, flexible and adaptable
     • Adjusts to incident size and complexity
  – Multiple agency cooperation
     • Efficient and effective management
     • Multiple sites or jurisdictions

ICS Structure

● Top-down structure
● Five management functions
  – Incident Command
  – Logistics
  – Operations
  – Planning
  – Finance and Administration

Incident Commander

● Incident Commander
  – Overall responsibility for incident
    • Sets incident objectives
    • Determines strategies
    • Establishes priorities
  – Only position that is always staffed
    • Responsible until delegation
● Command Staff
● General Staff

Command Staff

● Safety Officer
  – Monitors safety conditions, practices and procedures
● Liaison Officer
  – Primary contact for supporting agencies
● Public Information Officer
  – Provides information to stakeholders

General Staff

● Operations
● Planning
● Logistics
● Finance and Administration
Operations Section

- Perform operations to meet incident goals
- Develop tactical assignments and organization
- Direct all tactical resources

Planning Section

- Collect, evaluate and disseminate information pertaining to incident
- Maintain status of resources
- Prepare and document Incident Action Plan

Logistics Section

- Provide support, resources and all other services needed to meet incident objectives
  - Personnel
  - Materials
  - Facilities
  - Services

Finance/Administrative Section

- Monitor cost associated with incident
- Provide accounting, procurement, time recording and cost analyses

Incident Action Plan

- Plan of incident goals
  - Required for each incident
  - Provides direction
  - Preferably written
  - Most basic plan outline
    - What needs to be done?
    - Who will do it?
    - How to communicate?
    - Injured personnel procedures

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Leadership Titles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organizational Level</th>
<th>Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Incident Command</td>
<td>Incident Commander</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Command Staff</td>
<td>Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Staff Sections</td>
<td>Chief</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Branch</td>
<td>Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Division or Group (Operations Section)</td>
<td>Supervisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit (Other Sections)</td>
<td>Leader</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strike Team/Task Force</td>
<td>Leader</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Span of Control

- Individuals or resources one can supervise
  - Vital to effective incident management
  - 1:5 is ideal
    - 1:3
      - Shrink response
    - 1:7
      - Expand response

Unified Command

- Incidents involving multiple agencies
  - More than agency or political jurisdiction
- Goals
  - Develop incident objectives
  - Facilitate information flow
  - Eliminate redundancy

Area Command

- Oversees multiple Incident Command Posts
  - Multiple incident sites
  - Large, complex incidents

ICS Facilities

- Incident Command Post
  - Primary command functions
- Staging Area
  - Resources await assignment
  - Possibly multiple sites
- Base
  - Logistics and administration
- Camp
  - Food, water sleeping and sanitary areas
On the Incident Scene

- Incident command established
- Command post identified
- Call up ICS staff as needed
- Information to responders/stakeholders
- Incident Response Plan
  - Utilize local plans
  - Assessments & documentation
  - Evaluation

Additional Information

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) On-line Training
  - [http://training.fema.gov/IS/](http://training.fema.gov/IS/)
    - ICS-100.a; ICS-200.a; ICS-700.a
- FEMA NIMS Basic: The Incident Command System
  - [www.fema.gov/pdf/nims/NIMS_basic_incident_command_system.pdf](http://www.fema.gov/pdf/nims/NIMS_basic_incident_command_system.pdf)

Acknowledgments

Development of this presentation was by the Center for Food Security and Public Health at Iowa State University through funding from the Multi-State Partnership for Security in Agriculture.

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