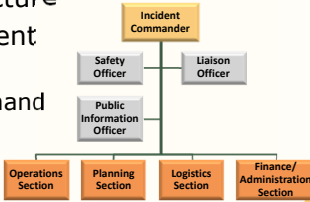# Incident Command System

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

Just In Time Training 2010   Incident Command System: Overview

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ICS Structure

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

Incident Commander — Safety Officer — Liaison Officer — Public Information Officer — Operations Section — Planning Section — Logistics Section — Finance/Administration Section

Just In Time Training 2010   Incident Command System: Overview
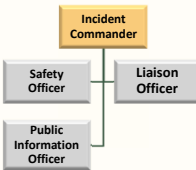

Incident Commander

- 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

Just In Time Training 2010   Incident Command System: Overview
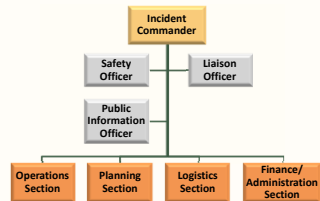

Command Staff

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

Incident Commander — Safety Officer — Liaison Officer — Public Information Officer

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General Staff

- Operations
- Planning
- Logistics
- Finance and Administration

Incident Commander — Safety Officer — Liaison Officer — Public Information Officer — Operations Section — Planning Section — Logistics Section — Finance/Administration Section

Just In Time Training 2010   Incident Command System: Overview

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Operations Section

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

Incident Commander
Operations Section
Branch
Division or Group
Strike Team
Task Force
Single Resource

Planning Section

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

Incident Commander
Planning Section
Resources Unit
Documentation Unit
Situation Unit
Demobilization Unit
Technical Specialists

Logistics Section

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

Incident Commander
Logistics Section
Service Branch
Communication Unit
Medical Unit
Food Unit
Support Branch
Supply Unit
Facilities Unit
Ground Support Unit

Finance/Administrative Section

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

Incident Commander
Finance/ Administration Section
Time Unit
Procurement Unit
Compensation Unit
Cost Unit

Sample Animal Health Incident Command System Organization

Incident Commander
Public Information Officer
Liaison Officer
Safety Officer
Operations Section
Planning Section
Logistics Section
Finance/ Administration Section
Branches
Resources Unit
Service Branch
Time Unit
Divisions or Groups
Demobilization Unit
Communication Unit
Procurement Unit
Strike Team
Situation Unit
Medical Unit
Compensation Unit
Task Force
Documentation Unit
Support Branch
Cost Unit
Single Resource
Supply Unit
Facilities Unit

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?
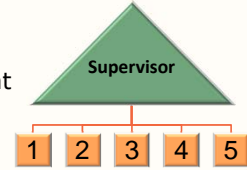   - Injured personnel procedures

Leadership Titles

Organizational Level	Title
Incident Command	Incident Commander
Command Staff	Officer
General Staff Sections	Chief
Branch	Director
Division or Group (Operations Section)	Supervisor
Unit (Other Sections)	Leader
Strike Team/Task Force	Leader

Just In Time Training 2010   Incident Command System: Overview

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

Supervisor

1 2 3 4 5

Just In Time Training 2010   Incident Command System: Overview
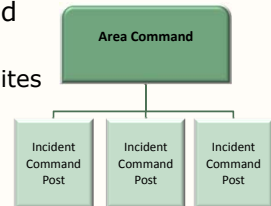
Unified Command

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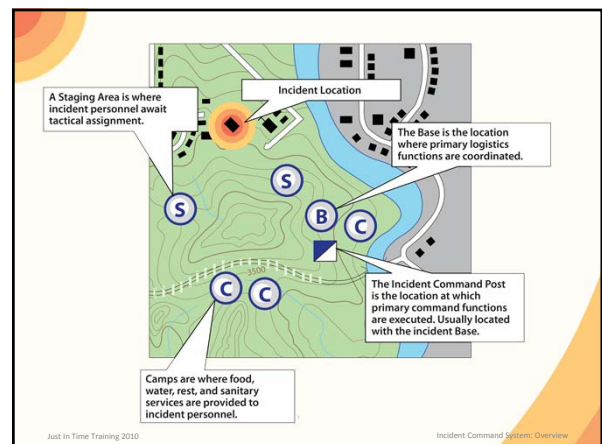 - Facilitate information flow
  - Eliminate redundancy

Just In Time Training 2010   Incident Command System: Overview

Area Command

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

Area Command

Incident Command Post | Incident Command Post | Incident Command Post

Just In Time Training 2010   Incident Command System: Overview

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

Just In Time Training 2010   Incident Command System: Overview

A Staging Area is where incident personnel await tactical assignment.

Incident Location

The Base is the location where primary logistics functions are coordinated.

The Incident Command Post is the location at which primary command functions are executed. Usually located with the incident Base.

Camps are where food, water, rest, and sanitary services are provided to incident personnel.

Just In Time Training 2010   Incident Command System: Overview

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/
  - 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
- **USDA National Animal Health Emergency Management System (NAHEMS) Foreign Animal Disease Preparedness (FAD PReP)**
  http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/emrs/nahems.shtml

Acknowledgments