



Incident Command System



**Concepts
And
Principles**



Incident Command System

An ICS structure should include:

- **Common Terminology**
- **A modular organization**
- **Integrated Communications**
- **Unity of Command**
- **A unified Command Structure**
- **Consolidated IAP's**
- **A manageable Span of Control**
- **Designated Incident facilities**



Incident Command System

Common Terminology:

- **What is SOP, QRT etc**
- **Response Personnel should use common names for all personnel and equipment resources as well as facilities in and around the incident area**
- **Radio Transmissions should use clear text**



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A Modular organization:

An ICS develops according to the requirements of the incident. This development is in a modular fashion with other section added as needed

Integrated Communications Uses:

**A common communication plan;
Standard operating procedures;
Clear Text;
Common Frequencies;
Common Terminology**



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Unity of Command:

The concept by which each person within an organization reports to only one designated person

Manageable Span of Control:

This is defined as the number of individuals or units one supervisor can manage effectively. The optimal number ranges between three to seven



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A Unified Command:

This allows all agencies involved in the incident to be managed by establishing a common set of objectives and strategies. These agencies contribute to the process by:

- **Determining overall objectives**
- **Planning jointly for operational activities while conducting integrated activities**
- **Maximizing the use of all assigned resources**



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A Unified Command 2:

Under a unified Command, the following always apply:

- **The incident functions under a single coordinated IAP**
- **One Operations Section Chief has responsibility to implement the IAP**
- **One Incident Command Post is established**



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Consolidated IAP's describes:

- **Response goals**
- **Operational Objectives**
- **Support activities**

ICS requires written plans whenever:

- **Resources from multiple agencies are used**
- **Several Jurisdictions are involved**
- **The incident is complex (changes in shift or responders or equipment)**



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Incident Action Plan

- **Should be written rather than oral**
- **Prepared by the Planning Section**
- **Should cover all objectives and support activities**
- **Should include realistic measurable goals prepared around a time frame called an **operational period****
- **Operational period should be no longer than 24 hours**



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Designated Incident facilities Include:

- An **Incident Command Post** at which the Incident Commander, Command Staff and the general staff
- **Staging Area** at which resources are kept awaiting incident assignment



Incident Command System

Comprehensive Resource Management

- **Maximizes resource use**
- **Consolidates control of single Resources**
- **Reduces the Communications Load**
- **Provides Accountability**
- **Reduces Freelancing**
- **Ensures personnel Safety**



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Comprehensive Resource Management

All Resources are given one of the following status:

- ***Assigned:*** These are performing active functions
- ***Available:*** These are ready for assignment
- ***Out of Service:*** These are not ready for any of the above



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Thank You