

Incident Command System (ICS)

A photograph of a large, dark, funnel-shaped tornado in a field under a cloudy sky. The tornado is positioned in the center-left of the frame, with its dark, swirling funnel extending from the base of a large, billowing cloud. The surrounding landscape is a green field with a line of trees in the background. The sky is filled with various shades of gray and white clouds, with some sunlight breaking through the upper right.

Incident Command System (ICS)

- **Describe the role, responsibility and command considerations for the following:**
 - Operations Section
 - Planning Section
 - Logistics Section
 - Finance and Administration Section



What Is ICS?

- The Incident Command System:
 - Is a standardized, on-scene, all-hazard incident management concept.
 - Allows its users to adopt an integrated organizational structure
 - Matching the complexities and demands of single or multiple incidents



What Is an Incident?

- An incident is:

... an occurrence, either caused by human or natural phenomena, that requires response actions to prevent or minimize loss of life, or damage to property and/or the environment.



Overall Priorities

- Incident objectives are established based on the following priorities:
- **#1:** Life Saving
- **#2:** Incident Stabilization
- **#3:** Property Preservation



Regulatory Agencies

- **Recognize in a catastrophic event life saving measures will be a priority.**
- **Regulatory standards still apply during emergency and disaster events:**
 - Division of Facility Services
 - Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)
 - Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (EMTALA)
 - Fire Marshall Having Jurisdiction
 - Environmental Protection Agency
 - Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)
 - Medical and Nursing and Allied Health Practice Boards

Purpose of ICS

- **Using best practices, ICS ensures**
 - Safety of responders and others
 - Achievement of tactical objectives
 - Efficient use of resources

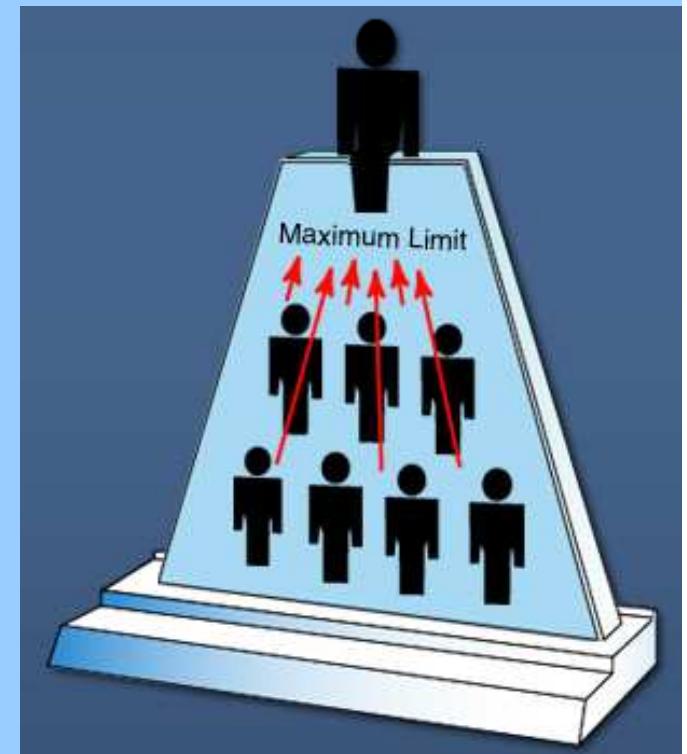
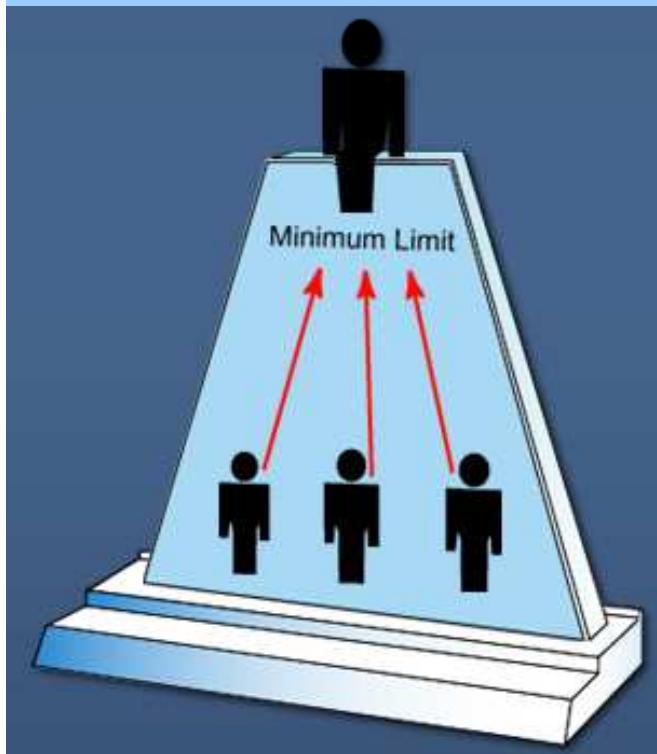


ICS Principles

- Emergencies require certain tasks or functions to be performed.
- Every incident needs a person in charge.
- No one should direct more than 7 others.
- No one should report to more than 1 person.
- If the number of reporting elements is not within this range, expansion or consolidation of the ICS organization may be needed

ICS Management: Span of Control

- ICS span of control for any supervisor:
 - Is between 3 and 7 subordinates
 - Optimally does not exceed 5 subordinates



ICS Principles

Everyone should:

- Know common terminology before an emergency.
- Make use of common terminology to refer to the situation.
- No codes should be used unless absolutely necessary.
- When codes are necessary, ensure the staff know them in advance.

Why Plain English?

What does EMT mean?

- EMT = Emergency Medical Treatment
- EMT = Emergency Medical Technician
- EMT = Emergency Management Team
- EMT = Eastern Mediterranean Time (GMT+0200)
- EMT = El Monte, CA (airport code)
- EMT = Electron Microscope Tomography
- EMT = Email Money Transfer

Practical Problems in Information Exchange

- You don't have a way to receive information
- You don't have a way to send information
- You don't know to whom information should be sent
- You don't know whether the information you have is accurate
- You can't inventory/control/safeguard the information you do have

Common Terminology

- Using common terminology helps to define:
 - Organizational functions.
 - Incident facilities.
 - Resource descriptions.
 - Position titles.

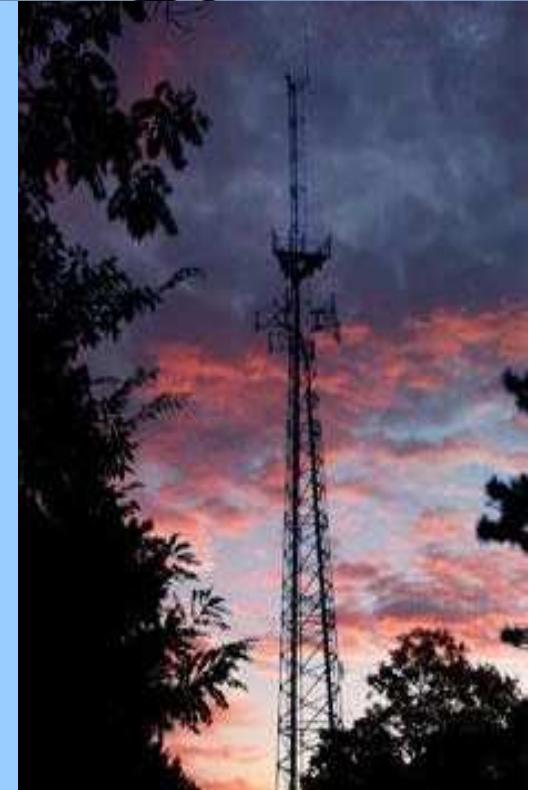


Common ICS Terminology

- Organizational Functions:
 - Operations, Intelligence, Logistics, and Finance.
 - Functions pre-designated and named for the ICS.
- Resources:
 - Refers to the combination of personnel and equipment used in response and recovery.
- Facilities:
 - Common identifiers used for those facilities in and around the incident area which will be used during the course of the incident. These facilities include the command center, staging areas, etc.

Communication

- NOAA radios
- Families
- Staff
- Memorandums of Understanding
- Receiving facility
- Consider Agreements with local HAM Radio Operators



Communication



Systems will rapidly become overloaded
and the ones you use on a daily basis will
FAIL!

Integrated Communications

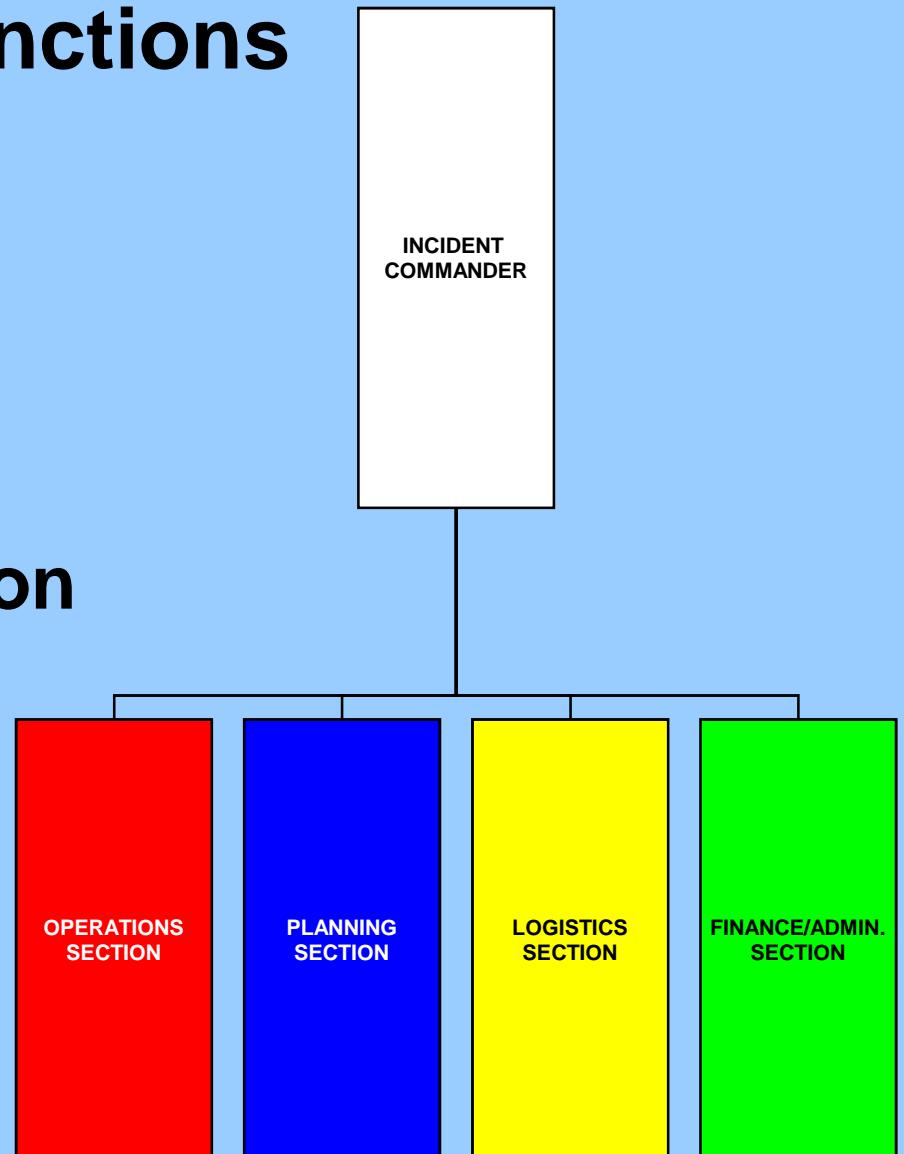
- Incident communications are facilitated through:
 - The development and use of a common communications plan.
 - The interoperability of communication equipment, procedures, and systems.

Before an incident, it is critical to develop an integrated voice and data communications system (equipment, systems, and protocols).



ICS Management Functions

- **Five management functions**
 - Command
 - Operations
 - Planning
 - Logistics
 - Finance/Administration



Modular Organization

- ICS's organizational structure is modular.
- As the need arises, functional areas may be developed.
- Several branches may be established.
- Structure based upon the needs of the incident.
- One individual can simultaneously manage all major functional areas in some cases.
- If more areas require independent management, someone must be responsible for that area.

5 ICS Management Functions

- Identify the critical functions that have been pre-identified for each type of incident
- Not intended that every position will be activated for each incident or event
- Positions are assigned to personnel only as indicated by an assessment of the scope and magnitude of the incident or event

Resources: Tactical & Support

- ICS resources include:
 - **Tactical Resources:** Personnel and major items of equipment used in the operation
 - **Support Resources:** All other resources required to support the incident (e.g., food, communications equipment, or supplies)



ICS Management: Command

- **Command**
 - Sets the objectives
 - Devises strategies and priorities
 - Maintains overall responsibility for managing the incident
- **The Incident Commander**
 - Is the only position always filled in on an incident regardless of its nature
 - May be able to accomplish all five management functions alone on small scale incidents
 - On larger incidents the Incident Commander may appoint other Staff personnel to assist as the situation and resources warrant

Command Center Information Flow



ICS Management: Operations

- **Operations**
 - Conducts the tactical operations
 - Carries out the plan using defined objectives
 - Directs all needed resources



ICS Management: Planning

- **Planning**

- Collects and evaluates information for decision support
- Maintains resource status
- Records and tracks resident movement
- Maintains documentation for incident reports



ICS Management Planning - Documentation

- Documentation of response to event is often uncoordinated and is generally the weakest link
- Many decisions may go undocumented



ICS Management: Logistics and Finance/Administration

- **Logistics**
 - Provides support, resources, and other essential services to meet the operational objectives
- **Finance/Administration**
 - Monitors costs related to the incident
 - Provides accounting, procurement, time recording, and cost analyses

??? Questions ???



Thank You!

