Introduction to the National Incident Management System

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SESSION DESCRIPTION
Overview of the National Incident Management System and the importance of a coordinated approach to incident management. Session includes a discussion of the need to coordinate communications with different agencies, the Incident Command System, and the role parks can play in incident management and record keeping required by FEMA. It is suggested that attendees take ICS 100 and 200 on-line prior to attending this session.

This presentation was aimed at helping park professionals understand how to implement the Incident Command System in their organization. The presenter spoke of the history of the incident command system, and how it originated in the 1970’s after a series of wildfires caused millions of dollars of damage and the people who where there to help had no way of uniform communication. The creation of the National Incident Management System was intended to help meet the needs of incidents (such as fires, earthquakes, tornadoes) as well as events (parades, concerts, fairs) and to allow personnel from different agencies to meld together and work as one team. ICS involves use of standardized language for ease of communication, an organizational structure which is modular from the top
down to help with allocation of resources and to ensure that no more than 7 subordinates are reporting to a supervisor. With ICS there is unity of command and integrated communications. The presenter outlined the specific duties of the incident commander as well as the roles of operations, planning, logistics, resources and finance and administration.

SESSION LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand the benefits and limitations of incident command standards and strategies, and how they can be used effectively in emergency and unique situations.
- Describe the many components of successful incident response plans, including agency preparedness, appropriate leadership models, necessary employee training, pre-planning and practice.
Incident Command System

What do you have in place?

- Policies, Procedures
- SOP’s or SOG’s
- Mutual Aid Agreements
- Training

ICS OVERVIEW

Background and development
ICS as the standard for emergency management across the country
Interdisciplinary and organizationally flexible
Application of ICS

The Incident Command System (ICS)

Is a standardized, on-scene, all hazard incident management concept.

An incident is an occurrence, either caused by humans or natural phenomena.

An event is a pre-planned activity.

History of ICS

Developed in the 1970’s following a series of devastating wildfires in California

Property damage ran into the millions
History of ICS Cont.

Weaknesses

Lack of Accountability

Chain of Command

Communications

No common management structure

FIRESCOPE

- Fire
- RESources of
- California
- Organized for
- Potential
- Emergencies

NATIONAL INTERAGENCY INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NIIMS)

- Developed by the wildland community to provide a common system
- Includes six agencies

On February 28, 2003 President George W. Bush issued the following:

HSPD 5 Management of Domestic Incidents

- Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 (HSPD-5) directed the Secretary of Homeland Security to:
  - Develop and administer a National Incident Management System (NIMS).
  - Develop the National Response Framework

NIMS TIMELINE

- Fiscal year 2005 marks the beginning of a requirement for government leaders to begin putting in place practices and policies for NIMS
- Fiscal year 2006 will be a year for determining what works and what needs to be improved
- After fiscal year 2007, DHS officials decide that if local officials have not fully implemented NIMS, federal emergency preparedness funding will not be granted to that state or locality
National Incident Management System (NIMS)

Provides a systematic, proactive approach to guide departments and agencies at all levels of government, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector to work seamlessly to prevent, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of incidents, regardless of cause, size, location, or complexity, in order to reduce the loss of life, property and harm to the environment.

ICS is a tool box

Application for the use of ICS

Fires
Natural disasters
Human and animal disease outbreaks
Search and rescue missions
Hazardous materials incidents
Terrorist incidents
Events

ICS Components

- Standardization
  - Common terminology
- Command
  - Establishment and transfer of command
  - Chain of command and unity of command
  - Unified command
- Planning/Organizational Structure
  - Management by objectives
  - Incident Action Plan (IAP)
  - Modular organization
  - Manageable span of control

- Facilities and Resources
  - Comprehensive resource management
  - Incident locations and facilities
- Communications/Information Management
  - Integrated communications
  - Information and intelligence management
- Professionalism
  - Accountability
  - Dispatch/Deployment

Standardization: Common Terminology

- Using common terminology helps to define:
  - Organizational functions.
  - Incident facilities.
  - Resource descriptions.
  - Position titles.
Use of Plain English
– Communications should be in plain English or clear text.
– Do not use radio codes

Even if you use radio codes on a daily basis, why should you use plain English during an incident response?

Common Terminology: Example
Which is the example of common terminology?

A. This is Unit 1, we have a 10-37, Code 2.

B. Unit 1, the flood waters are rising and we need additional resources for sandbagging.

Interoperability Saves Lives
• Jan. 13, 1982: Air Florida Flight 90 crashed into the 14th St. Bridge in Washington, DC, during a snowstorm. More than 70 people lost their lives. Police, fire, and EMS crews responded quickly to the scene but discovered that they couldn’t coordinate their efforts because they couldn’t talk to each other by radio.
• Sept. 11, 2001: When American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon, 900 users from 50 different agencies were able to communicate with one another. Response agencies had learned an invaluable lesson from the Air Florida tragedy.

Interoperability makes sense. It’s a cost-saver, a resource saver, and a lifesaver.

MODULAR ORGANIZATION
• ICS organizational structure develops in a modular fashion.
• Top-down development of ICS.
• IC is always staffed.
• Four other major functions can be staffed as needed.
• ICS organizational structure is based on the needs of the incident.

Modular Organization (1 of 2)
Modular organization:
– Develops in a top-down, modular fashion.
– Is based on the size and complexity of the incident.
– Is based on the hazard environment created by the incident.
Modular Organization (2 of 2)

With modular organization:
- Incident objectives determine the organizational size.
- Only functions/positions that are necessary will be filled.
- Each element must have a person in charge.

ICS Management: Span of Control

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

Accountability (1 of 2)

• The following principles must be adhered to:
  - Check-In. All responders must report in to receive an assignment in accordance with the procedures established by the Incident Commander.
  - Incident Action Plan. Response operations must be coordinated as outlined in the IAP.

Accountability (2 of 2)

- Span of Control. Supervisors must be able to adequately supervise and control their subordinates, as well as communicate with and manage all resources under their supervision.
- Resource Tracking. Supervisors must record and report resource status changes as they occur.

Priorities

• #1: Life Safety
• #2: Incident Stabilization
• #3: Property Preservation

Unity of Command

Under unity of command, personnel:
- Report to only one supervisor.
- Receive work assignments only from their supervisors.

Don’t confuse unity of command with Unified Command!
Integrated Communications

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

Incident Commander

Upon arriving at an incident, the first person arriving, or the higher ranking person in a group will establish command.

In some situations or agencies, a lower ranking but more qualified person may be designated as the Incident Commander.

Incident Commander Responsibilities

The Incident Commander:
- Activities and functions.
- Need for staff.
- Incident objectives.
- Directs staff to develop the Incident Action Plan.
- Ensuring incident safety.
Incident Action Plan

• Every incident must have an Incident Action Plan (IAP) that:
  – Specifies the incident objectives.
  – States the activities to be completed.
  – Covers a specified timeframe, called an operational period.
  – May be oral or written—except for hazardous materials incidents, which require a written IAP.

Chain of Command

Chain of command is an orderly line of authority within the ranks of the incident management organization.

Dispatch/Deployment

• At any incident:
  – The situation must be assessed and the response planned.
  – Managing resources safely and effectively is the most important consideration.
  – Personnel and equipment should respond only when requested or when dispatched by an appropriate authority.

Transferring Incident Commanders

• Transfer of command requires:
  – A transfer of command briefing for the incoming Incident Commander.
  – Notification to all personnel that a change in command is taking place.

Unified Command

Unified Command:
  – Enables all responsible agencies to manage an incident together by establishing a common set of incident objectives and strategies.
  – Allows Incident Commanders to make joint decisions by establishing a single command structure.
  – Maintains unity of command. Each employee only reports to one supervisor.

Unified Command Cont.

Unified command can be utilized for both incidents and events
Incident Locations & Facilities

Established by the Incident Commander based on the requirements and complexity of the incident.

- Incident Command Post
- Base
- Staging Area
- Camp

Operations

Planning

Logistics

Resources: Service & Support

ICS resources include:

- **Service 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)

Finance / Administration
Summary

ICS is a tool box
Utilize the tool (s) you need
No need to empty the tool box
The one tool that is always used is the Incident Commander (IC) or also referred to as “Command”.

FEMA
• NIMS on-line training
• www.fema.gov
• At the search, type in “nims training” enter
• Click education and training, scroll down to National Incident Management System (NIMS) click,
• Scroll down to the various IC training modules

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Thank you for attending
Drive Safe