*unit 2:*

*Integration of THE National Incident Management System to Fireground Management*

*objectives*

*The students will:*

*1. State the purpose of the National Incident Management System (NIMS).*

*2. Identify the elements of NIMS that provide the template for managing incidents.*

*3. State the purpose of using the Incident Command System (ICS) effectively.*

*4. Identify the ICS positions and state their functions.*

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NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Overview

What is National Incident Management System?

* A comprehensive, nationwide, systematic approach to incident management, that includes the Incident Command System (ICS), Multiagency Coordination (MAC) System, and Public Information.
* A set of preparedness concepts and principles for all hazards.
* Essential principles for a common operating picture and interoperability of communications and information management.
* Standardized resource management procedures that enable coordination among different jurisdictions or organizations.
* Scalable, so it may be used for all incidents (from day-to-day to large-scale).
* A dynamic system that promotes ongoing management and maintenance.

What National Incident Management System is Not

* a response plan;
* used only during large-scale incidents;
* a communications plan;
* applicable only to certain emergency management/incident response personnel;
* only the ICS or an organization chart; and
* a static system.

National Incident Management System

It includes

* compliance;
* training;
* standards and technology; and
* resource management/Mutual aid--standardized procedures for resource management processes.

Command and Management

Command and management envision the most familiar (and easily implemented) part of   
NIMS--the ICS. Organizations must, as condition of the Federal preparedness assistance, take steps to begin institutionalizing the use of ICS during prevention and response efforts. Actions to institutionalize the use of ICS take place at two levels--policy and organizational/operational.

At the Policy Level

* Institutionalizing the ICS refers to government officials, i.e., governors, mayors, county and city managers, tribal leaders, and others.
* Adopt the ICS through executive order, proclamation, or legislation for the jurisdiction.
* Direct that incident managers and response organizations in their jurisdictions train, exercise, and use the ICS in their response operations.

At the organizational/operational level, evidence that incident managers and emergency response organizations are institutionalizing the ICS would include the following.

* ICS is being integrated into functional and system-wide emergency operations policies, plans, and procedures.
* ICS training is planned or underway for responders, supervisors, and Command-level officers.
* Responders at all levels are participating in and/or coordinating ICS-oriented exercises that involve responders from multidisciplines and jurisdictions.

using the incident command system effectively

Understanding How to Use the System

Organizational charts do not put out fires--well-managed firefighters do. ICS provides numerous subordinate positions for the Incident Commander (IC) to delegate responsibility and maintain span of control. Positions are to be used **if** they are needed. As additional resources become available, IC can reduce span of control and delegate. If incident is escalating, IC can establish organization to meet the growing problem.

Think of the ICS organization as a toolbox. You do not need every tool in your toolbox to change the spark plugs in your car; you use only those tools you need to do the job. The rest of the tools remain in the toolbox until there is a job for which they are needed.

The IC should delegate only those positions that will help do the job. Overdelegating can be as disastrous as not delegating. Some ICs fall into the trap of creating subordinate positions, with the result that no one is left to fight the fire. Understanding the system will let you know what positions will help and how to use them to the best advantage.

Importance of First-In Officer as Initial Incident Commander

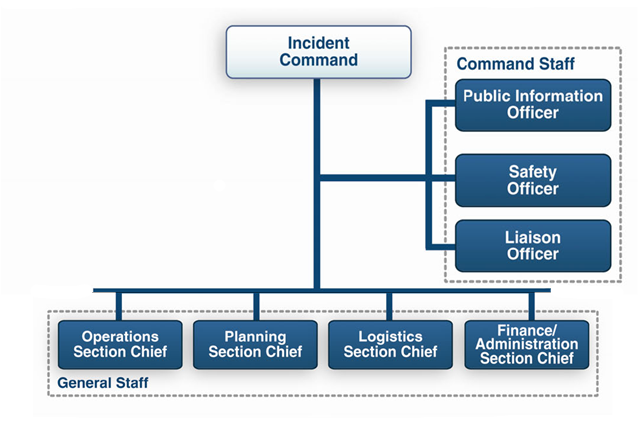
Every firefighter knows that "what starts well, ends well." How the first-in officer organizes the incident initially will affect the entire incident. It is important to recognize the scope of the incident. It is difficult to reposition equipment if it is not done properly on initial assignment. Changes to the initial action plan can cause delays, breakdown in coordination, and additional damage.

If initial response resources are well organized, it is easier to expand the organization if needed. Time is not wasted reorganizing original structure. Expansion of the system can be done in an organized, modular fashion.

The Company Officer's Role When Not the Incident Commander

The first-arriving Company Officer (CO) may act as the initial IC until Command can be passed, and then be assigned to a subordinate position. Officers not first in may be assigned to subordinate positions upon their arrival. Whether as initial IC or delegated to function in another ICS position, COs must understand the system if they are to do an effective job and the system is to work. A chain is only as strong as its weakest link. Coordination may be lost. Firefighter safety may be jeopardized.

OVerview Of INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM Positions



General Staff

Command

* responsible for overall management of the incident;
* establishes the objectives, strategy, and tactics for the incident;
* responsible for firefighter safety;
* ultimately responsible for success of incident activities;
* command role is filled by IC; and
* established at every incident.

Operations

* Accomplishes strategy that Command develops by meeting the tactical objectives.
* Directs all tactical operations.
* Assists in the development of the action plan.

another chart with incident command positions

Branches

Branches may be functional, geographic, or both, depending on the circumstances of the incident. Branches are established when the number of Divisions or Groups exceeds the recommended span of control. Branches are identified by the use of Roman numerals or by functional area.

Divisions/Groups

Divisions and/or Groups are established when the number of resources exceeds the manageable span of control of Incident Command and the Operations Section Chief. Divisions are established to divide an incident into physical or geographical areas of operation. Groups are established to divide the incident into functional areas of operation. For example, Incident Command may assign evacuation or mass-care responsibilities to a functional Group in the Operations Section.

Planning

* collects and evaluates information needed for action plan preparation;
* forecasts probable course of events; and
* prepares alternative strategies for changes or modifications to the action plan.

Finance/Administration

* responsible for required fiscal documentation; and
* provides financial planning and advice.

Command Staff

Command Staff positions are designed to provide aid and assistance to help the IC fulfill incident responsibilities and handle key incident activities that enable the IC to manage the incident better. They are not part of the line organization and do not count when determining the IC's span of control.

Logistics

Provides services and supplies to support tactical operations, such as:

* facilities;
* transportation
* supplies;
* equipment maintenance and fueling;
* feeding; and
* medical services for response personnel and responder rehab.

Intelligence/Investigation

The IC may assign the intelligence and investigation functions to other parts of the ICS organization. Intelligence and investigation must be appropriately analyzed and shared with personnel, designated by the ICS, who have proper clearance and a "need-to-know" to ensure that they support decision making. The intelligence and investigation functions can be assigned as

* a separate General Staff Section;
* the Command Staff;
* a Unit within the Planning Section;
* a Branch within the Operations Section;
* investigation provided for the collection, analysis, and sharing of incident-related intelligence; and
* embedded in several different places within the organizational structure.

-**As a Separate General Staff Section:**This option may be appropriate when a there is a significant intelligence/investigations component to the incident for criminal or epidemiological purposes or when multiple investigative agencies are involved. A separate Intelligence/Investigations Section may be needed when highly specialized information requiring technical analysis is both critical and time sensitive to lifesaving operations (e.g., chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear incidents) or when there is a need for classified intelligence.

*-***Within the Command Staff:**This option may be appropriate for incidents with little need for tactical information or classified intelligence and where supporting Agency Representatives are providing real-time information to the IC/Unified Command (UC).

-**Within the Planning Section:**This is the traditional placement for this function and is appropriate for incidents with little or no investigative information requirements nor a significant amount of specialized information.

-**Within the Operations Section:**This option may be appropriate for incidents that require a high degree of linkage and coordination between the investigative information and the operational tactics that are being employed.

Safety Officer

* Responsible for monitoring and assessing safety hazards or unsafe situations and developing measures for ensuring personnel safety.
* Should be appointed when IC cannot adequately monitor hazards or unsafe conditions.
* Keeps IC informed as to existing or potential safety hazards and offers suggestions on how to minimize risks.
* Can take immediate action to correct unsafe acts or remove personnel from threat of danger.
* Must inform IC and other affected supervisors of the corrective actions taken and why.
* Normal chain of Command is used if personnel are not in imminent danger.
* Must have requisite background and knowledge of the incident factors that could affect firefighter safety.
* At structure fire, should have knowledge of building construction and fire behavior.

Liaison Officer

* Responsible for providing the point of contact and coordination for assisting agencies not involved in command functions.
* Helps IC coordinate the efforts of assisting agencies and reduces risk of those agencies operating independently.
* Liaison Officer must determine whether Agency Representatives have decision making authority for their agencies.
* If representatives need to check with someone else to get a decision, get the name of the person with whom they are checking.
* Time can be wasted and coordination lost if representatives can't make decisions for their agencies.
* Liaison Officer's role helps each agency do what it does best, which increases effectiveness of resources and has positive impact on incident safety.

Public Information Officer

* The Public Information Officer (PIO) is responsible for the development of accurate and complete information regarding the incident and for serving as the point of contact for the media and other appropriate agencies requiring information direct from the incident scene.
* Gets incident briefing and updates from IC for release to the media.
* Establishes a press area away from IC and the Command Post (CP).
* Provides for tours and photo opportunities from a designated safe area.
* Arranges for media to speak with IC if incident conditions allow.