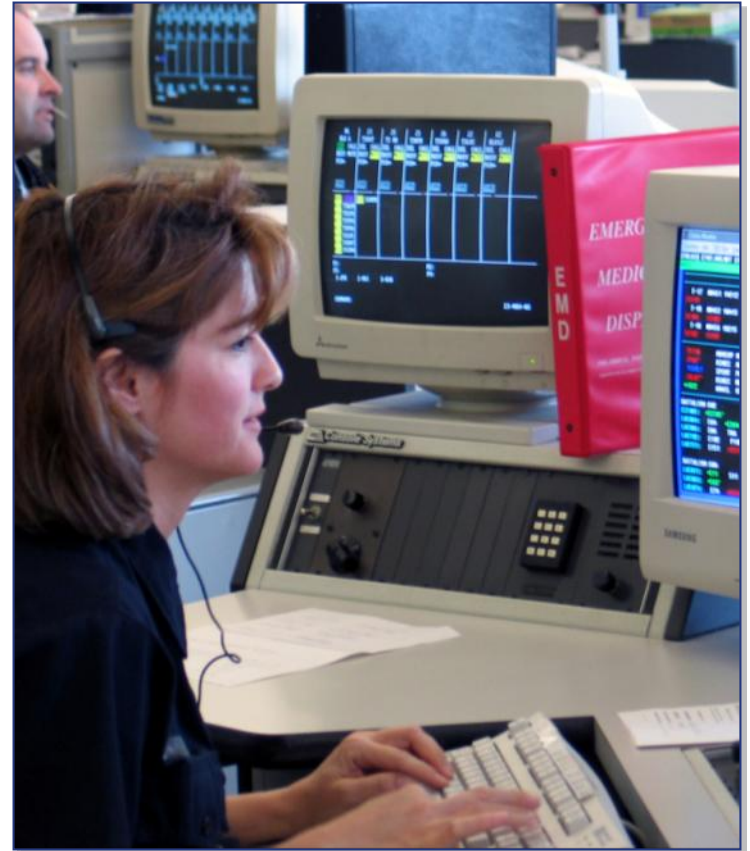


Unit 3: ICS Features and Principles



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Visual 3.1
ICS Features and Principles

Unit Objectives

- Describe the basic features of ICS.
- Select the correct terminology for ICS facilities.
- Identify common tasks related to personal accountability.

Unit List

- ✓ Course Overview
- ✓ ICS Overview
- ICS Features & Principles
 - Incident Commander & Command Staff Functions
 - General Staff Functions
 - Unified Command
 - Course Summary – Putting It All Together



ICS Features: Overview

- **Standardization**
 - **Common terminology**
- **Command**
 - **Establishment and transfer of command**
 - **Chain of command and unity of 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**



Common Terminology – No Codes!

Using common terminology helps define:

- Organizational functions.
- Incident facilities.
- Resource descriptions.
- Position titles.



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Why Plain English?

EMT = Emergency Medical Treatment

EMT = Emergency Medical Technician

EMT = Emergency Management Team

EMT = Eastern Mediterranean Time (GMT+0200)

EMT = Effective Methods Team

EMT = Effects Management Tool

EMT = El Monte, CA (airport code)

EMT = Electron Microscope Tomography

EMT = Email Money Transfer

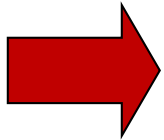


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ICS Features: Overview

- **Standardization**

- Common terminology



Command

- **Establishment and transfer of command**
- **Chain of command and unity of command**

- **Planning/Organizational Structure**

- Management by objectives
- Incident Action Plan (IAP)
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- **Facilities and Resources**

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- Integrated communications
- Information and intelligence management

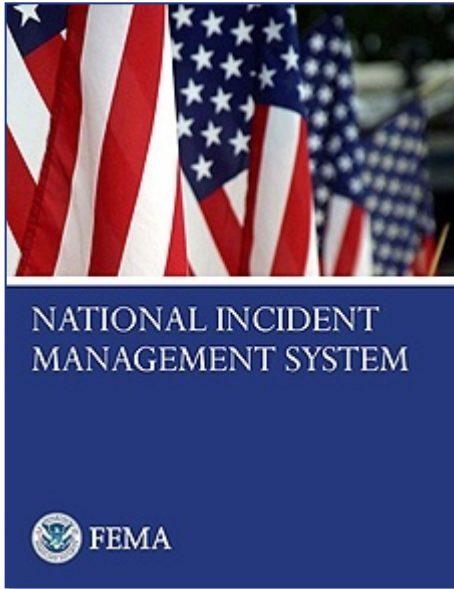
- **Professionalism**

- Accountability
- Dispatch/Deployment



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Command: Definition



Command: The act of directing, ordering, or controlling, by virtue of **explicit** statutory, regulatory, or delegated authority.

At an incident scene, the Incident Commander has the authority to assume command!



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Transfer of Command

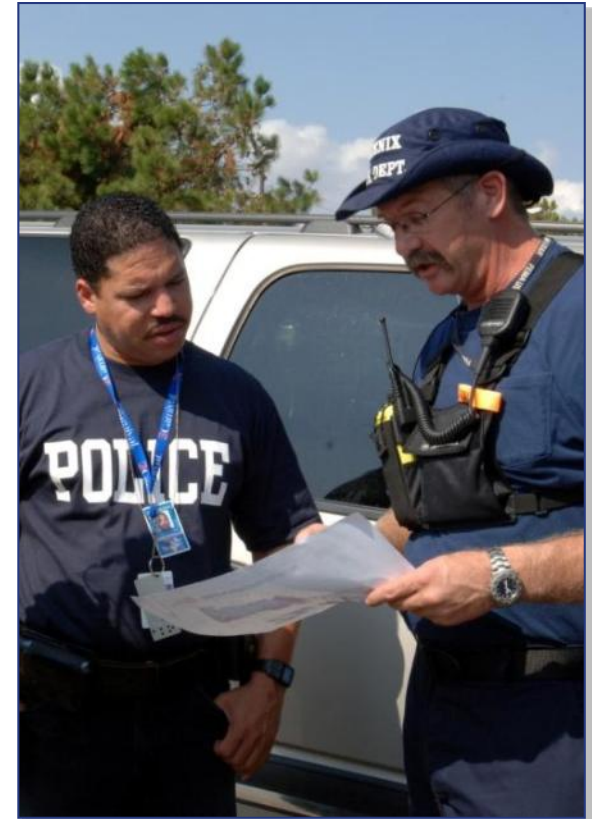
- Moves the responsibility for command from one Incident Commander to another.
- Must include a transfer of command briefing (which may be oral, written, or both).



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When Command Is Transferred

- A more qualified Incident Commander arrives.
- A jurisdiction or agency is legally required to take command.
- Incident complexity changes.
- The current Incident Commander needs to rest.



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Chain of Command

Chain of command:

- Is an orderly line of authority within the response organization.
- Allows incident managers to direct and control the actions of all personnel under their supervision.
- Avoids confusion by requiring that orders flow from supervisors.
- Does not prevent personnel from sharing information.



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Unity of Command

Under unity of command, personnel:

- **Report to only one incident supervisor.**
- **Receive work assignments only from the assigned supervisor.**



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Management by Objectives



Priorities for incident objectives are:

#1: Life Safety

#2: Incident Stabilization

**#3: Property/
Environmental
Preservation**

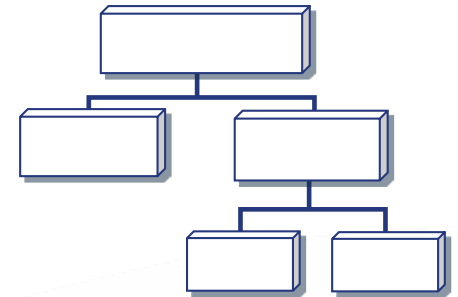


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ICS Organization

Differs from day-to-day organizational structures and positions by:

- **Using unique ICS position titles and organizational structures.**
- **Assigning personnel based on expertise, not rank. For example, a director may not hold that title when deployed under an ICS structure.**

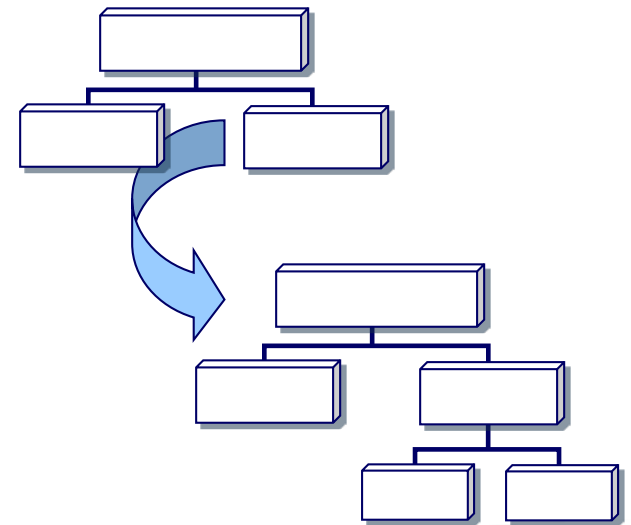


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Modular Organization

Incident command organizational structure is based on:

- **Size, type, and complexity of the incident.**
- **Specifics of the hazard environment created by the incident.**
- **Incident planning process and incident objectives.**



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Incident Action Planning

Every incident must have an Incident Action Plan (IAP) that:

- Specifies the incident objectives.
- States the activities.
- Covers a specified timeframe, called an operational period.
- May be **oral or written**.



Incident
Action
Plan



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Elements of an Incident Action Plan

Every IAP must have four elements:

- **What do we want to do?**
- **Who is responsible for doing it?**
- **How do we communicate with each other?**
- **What is the procedure if someone is injured?**



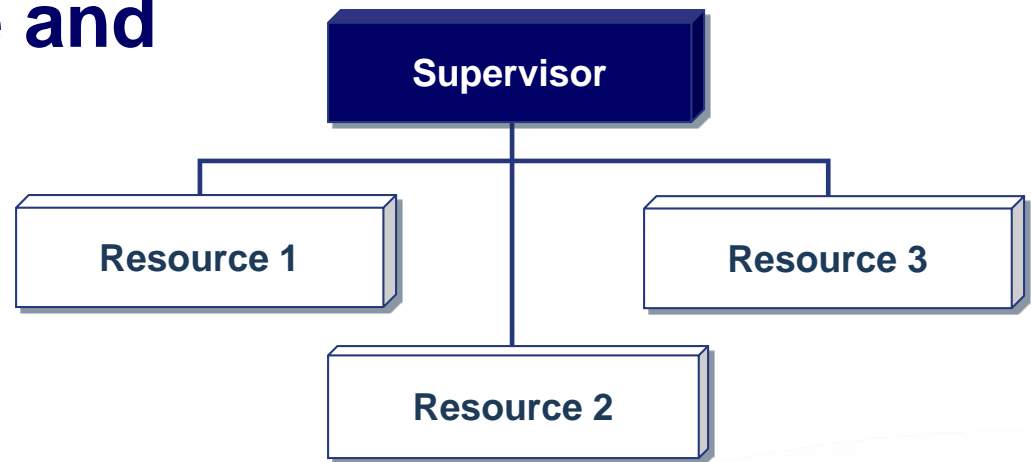
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Visual 3.21
ICS Features and Principles

Manageable Span of Control

Span of control:

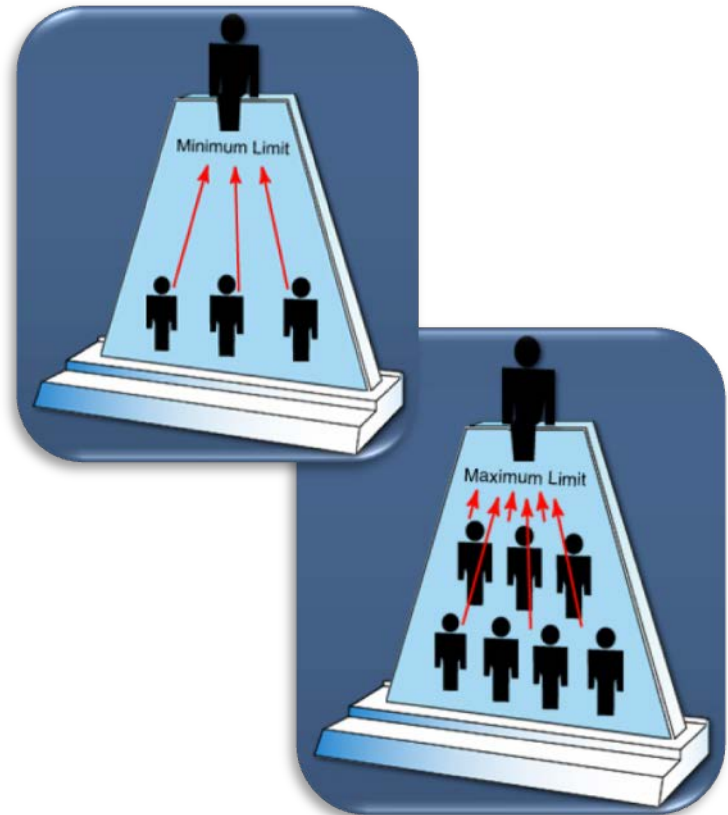
- Pertains to the number of individuals or resources that one supervisor can manage effectively during an incident.
- Is key to effective and efficient incident management.



ICS Management: Span of Control

ICS span of control for any supervisor:

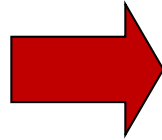
- Is between 3 and 7 subordinates.
- Optimally does not exceed 5 subordinates.



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Facilities and Resources

- **Comprehensive resource management**
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Incident Facility Map Symbols

**Incident
Command
Post**



**Staging
Area**



Base



**Camp,
Helibase,
and Helispot**



H-3



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Incident Facilities: Summary

- **A single Incident Command Post should be established on all incidents—even small ones!**
- **Incidents may require additional facilities (e.g., a call center).**
- **Areas may be predesignated incident facilities for the surrounding community (e.g., shelters, staging areas, helibases, medical centers).**



Resources: Definition

Resources are personnel and major items of equipment, supplies, and facilities available or potentially available for assignment to incident operations and for which status is maintained.

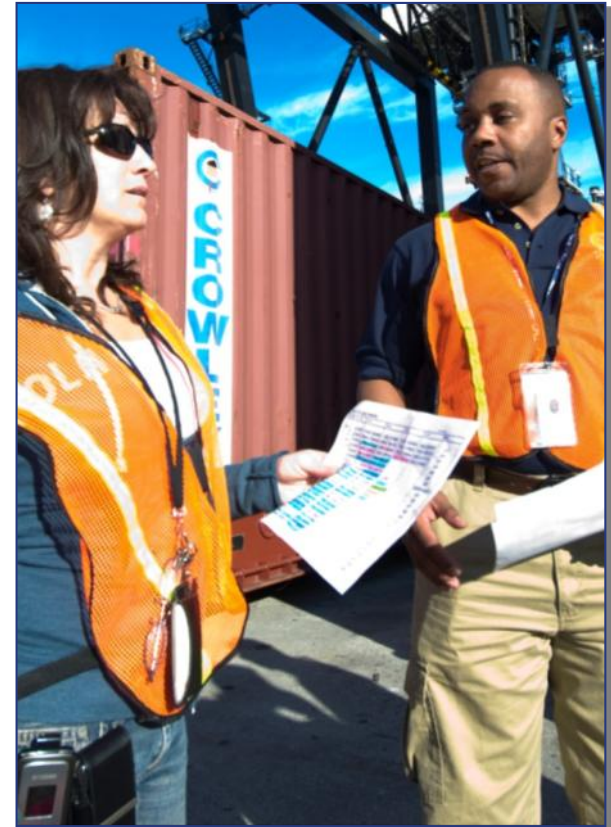


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Resource Management

Resource management includes processes for:

- Categorizing resources.
- Ordering resources.
- Dispatching resources.
- Tracking resources.
- Recovering resources.
- Reimbursing other organizations.



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Visual 3.31
ICS Features and Principles

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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).



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Accountability (1 of 2)

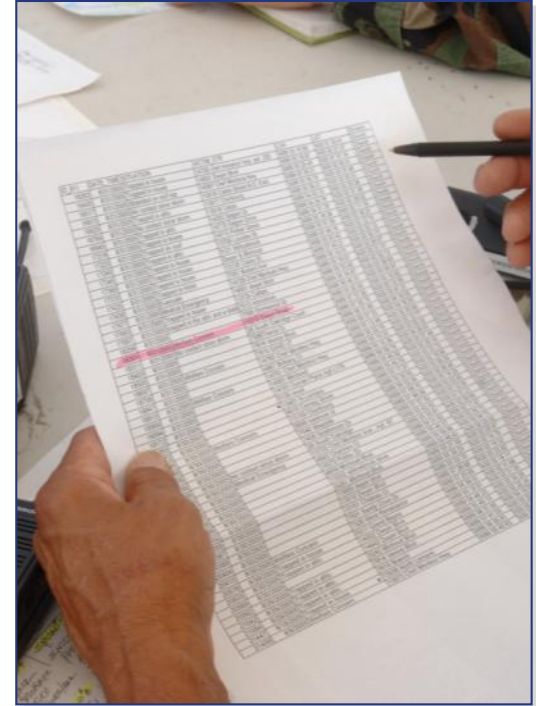
- **Check-In.** All responders must report in to receive an assignment in accordance with the procedures established by the Incident Commander.
- **Incident Action Plan.** Response operations must be coordinated as outlined in the IAP.
- **Unity of Command.** Each individual will be assigned to only one supervisor.



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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.

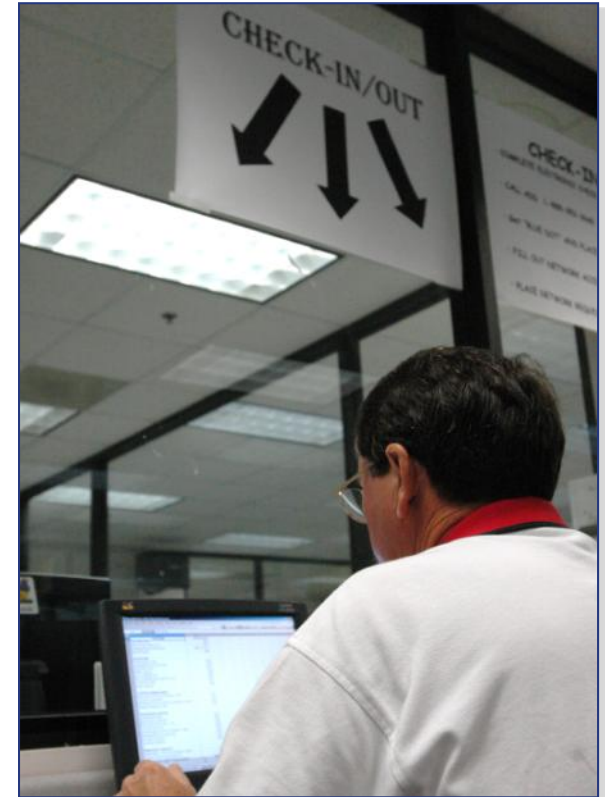


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Dispatch/Deployment

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.



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Visual 3.40
ICS Features and Principles

Summary (1 of 2)

ICS:

- Utilizes management features including the use of common terminology and a modular organizational structure.
- Emphasizes effective planning through the use of management by objectives and Incident Action Plans.
- Supports responders by providing data they need through effective information and intelligence management.



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Summary (2 of 2)

ICS:

- Utilizes the principles of chain of command, unity of command, and transfer of command.
- Ensures full utilization of incident resources by maintaining a manageable span of control, establishing predesignated incident facilities, implementing resource management practices, and ensuring integrated communications.



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