

# Review of the Incident Command System

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# Objectives

- Discuss the three purposes of the Incident Command System (ICS)
- Outline the five management functions
- Describe the four Command Staff positions
- Define ICS terminology
- Describe the six steps of the incident planning process

# What is ICS?

- **ICS**

- Is a standardized & integrated organizational incident management concept
- Matching the complexities and demands of single or multiple incidents
- Not hindered by jurisdictional boundaries

# Purpose of ICS

ICS ensures

1. Safety of responders and others
2. Achievement of tactical objectives
3. Efficient use of resources

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## Requirements for Use of ICS

- National Incident Management System
- Local regulations

# History of ICS

- Weaknesses in incident management before ICS
  - Lack of accountability
  - Poor communication
  - Lack of a planning process
  - Overloaded Incident Commanders
  - No method to integrate interagency requirements
- ICS provides an organized system to manage incidents and addresses these weaknesses

## Basic Features of ICS (1)

- Common terminology
- Modular organization
- Management by objectives
- Reliance on an Incident Action Plan (IAP)
- Chain of command and unity of command
- Unified Command
- Manageable span of control

# Basic Features of ICS (2)

- Predesignated incident locations and facilities
- Resource management
- Information and intelligence management
- Integrated communications
- Transfer of command
- Accountability
- Mobilization

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# ICS Management Organization

- Management system not an organizational chart
- The ICS organization does NOT correlate to the administrative structure of the agency
- Normal roles may not be assumed in ICS

# ICS Management Organization

## Principal tenets

Every incident requires certain management functions

- Problems are evaluated
- A plan developed to correct/address the problem
- Implement corrective actions
- Assign necessary resources

# ICS Management Functions

## Five management functions

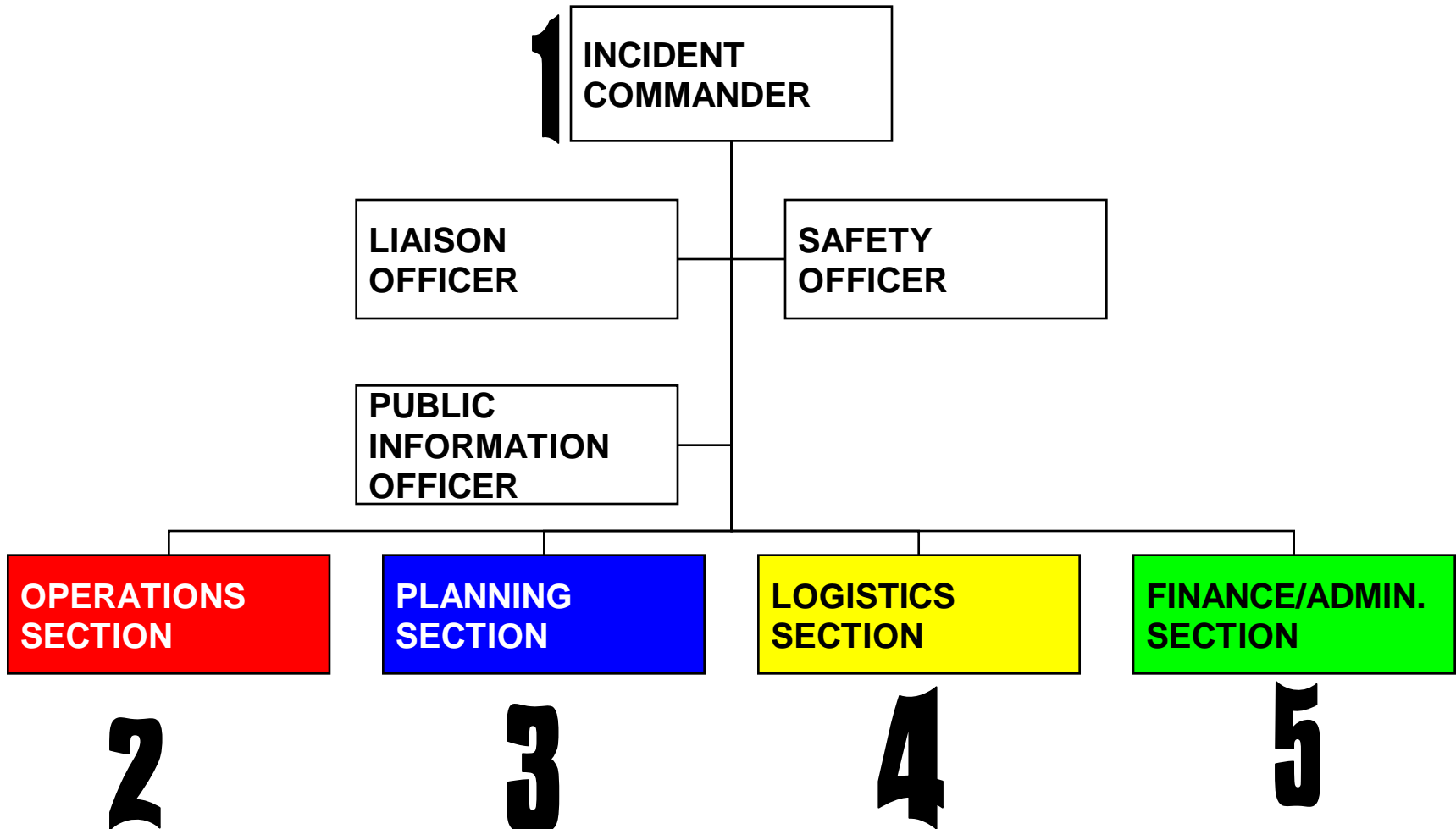
1. Command
2. Logistics
3. Planning
4. Finance/Administration
5. Operations

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# ICS Management Functions



# ICS Management Command

## Command

- Sets the objectives, strategies and priorities
- Maintains overall responsibility for managing the incident
- the only position always filled in on an incident regardless of its nature

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# ICS Management Command

1

**Operations** *The person in charge is the Chief*

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

# ICS Management Command

- 2** • **Planning** The person in charge is the Chief
  - Collects and evaluates information for decision support
  - Maintains resource status
  - Prepares documents such as the Incident Action Plan
  - Maintains documentation for incident reports

# ICS Management Command

- 3** • **Logistics**
  - Provides support, resources to meet the operational objectives

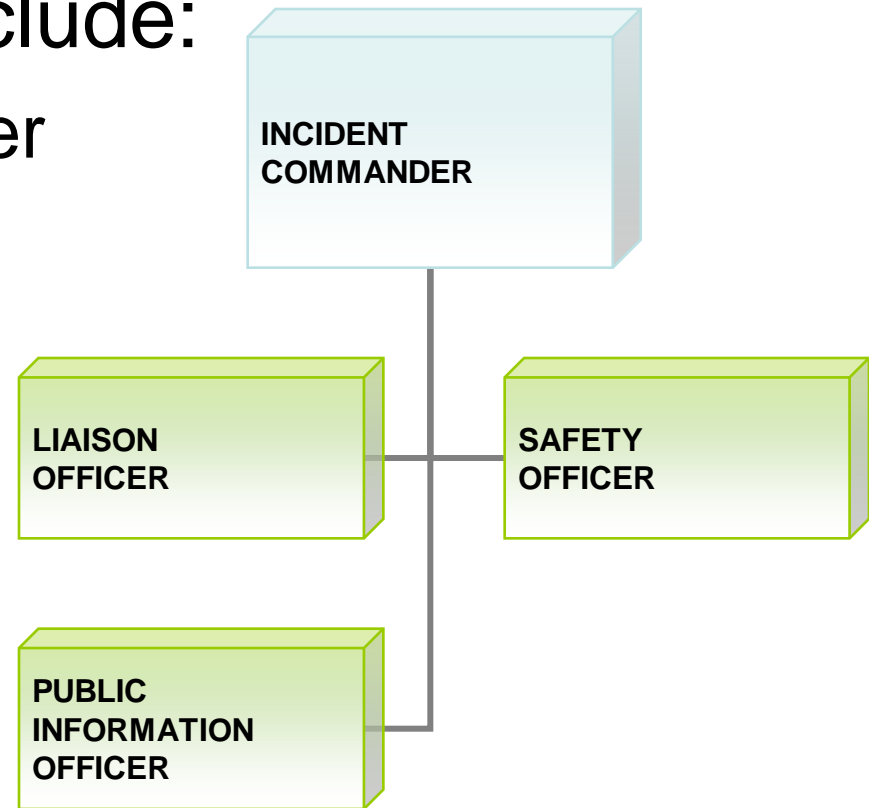
- 4** • **Finance/Administration**
  - Monitors costs related to the incident
  - Provides accounting, procurement, time recording, and cost analyses

The person in charge is the Chief



# ICS Command Staff

- The Command Staff include:
  - Public Information Officer
  - Safety Officer
  - Liaison Officer



# ICS Command Staff

- **Public Information Officer**
  - Advises the Incident Commander on information dissemination and media relations
  - Obtains information from and provides information to the Planning Section
  - Obtains information from and provides information to the community and media

# ICS Command Staff

- **Safety Officer**
  - Advises the Incident Commander on issues regarding incident safety
  - Works with the Operations Section to ensure the safety of field personnel
  - Ensures safety of all incident personnel

# ICS Command Staff

- **Liaison Officer**
  - Serves as a point of contact for agency representatives supporting the operations
  - Provides briefings to and answers questions from supporting agencies

# ICS Terminology

Unified command  
Sections  
Divisions  
Groups  
Branches  
Task Forces  
Strike Teams  
Single Resources  
Transfer of command

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# Six Steps in Incident Planning

1. Understanding policy and direction
2. Assessing the situation
3. Establishing incident objectives
4. Determining strategies to achieve the objectives
5. Providing tactical direction and ensuring that it is followed
  - Example: The correct resources assigned to complete a task and their performance monitored
6. Providing necessary back-up
  - Assigning more or fewer resources

# Why Unified Command???

- Enables all responsible agencies to manage an incident
- Establish a common set of incident objectives and strategies
- Allows Commanders to make joint decisions by establishing a single command structure
- Maintains unity of command
- Establishes a clear chain of command
- Provides a common structure
- Eliminates duplication

# Sections

- **Organizational levels with responsibility for a major functional area of the incident**
  - **Operations**
  - **Planning**
  - **Logistics**
  - **Finance/Administration**
- **The person in charge is the Chief**



# Divisions and Groups

- **Divisions**
  - Divide an incident geographically
  - Is led by a Supervisor
- **Groups**
  - Established based on the needs of an incident.
  - Labeled according to the job that they are assigned
  - Managed by a Supervisor
  - Work wherever their assigned task is needed and are not limited geographically

# Branches and Units

- **Branches**

- **Established if the number of Divisions or Groups exceeds the span of control**
- **Have functional or geographical responsibility for major parts of incident operations**
- **Managed by a Branch Director**

- **Units**

- **Organizational elements that have functional responsibility for a specific activity**

# Task Forces

- **Task Forces are a combination of mixed resources with common communications**
- **Operate under the direct supervision of a Task Force Leader**

# Strike Teams

- **Strike Teams are a set number of resources**
  - **Of the same kind and type**
  - **With common communications**
  - **Operate under the direct supervision of a Strike Team Leader**

# Single Resources

- **An individual(s) or piece of equipment with its personnel complement; or,**
- **A crew or team of individuals with an identified supervisor**

# Transfer of Command

- **Moves the responsibility for incident command from one Incident Commander to another**
- **Must include a transfer of command briefing**
  - **Oral**
  - **Written**
  - **Both oral and written**

# ICS Supervisory Titles

Organizational Level	Title	Support Position
<b>Incident Command</b>	<b>Incident Commander</b>	<b>Deputy</b>
<b>Command Staff</b>	<b>Officer</b>	<b>Assistant</b>
<b>General Staff (Section)</b>	<b>Chief</b>	<b>Deputy</b>
<b>Branch</b>	<b>Director</b>	<b>Deputy</b>
<b>Division/Group</b>	<b>Supervisor</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Unit</b>	<b>Leader</b>	<b>Manager</b>
<b>Strike Team/Task Force</b>	<b>Leader</b>	<b>Single Resource Boss</b>

Thank you