

Unit 2: ICS Overview



FEMA



Unit Objectives

- Identify three purposes of the Incident Command System (ICS).
- Identify requirements to use ICS.



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.



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 to match the complexities and demands of single or multiple incidents without being hindered by jurisdictional boundaries.

ICS Purposes

Using management best practices, ICS helps to ensure:

- The safety of responders and others.
- The achievement of tactical objectives.
- The efficient use of resources.



History of ICS

Weaknesses in incident management were due to:

- **Lack of accountability.**
- **Poor communication.**
- **Lack of a planning process.**
- **Overloaded Incident Commanders.**
- **No method to integrate interagency requirements.**

The identification of these areas of management weakness resulted in the development of ICS.

Knowledge Review (1 of 2)

Instructions: Decide if the statement is TRUE or FALSE.

**ICS could be used to manage
a training conference,
charity fundraising event,
or emergency response
and recovery.**

Knowledge Review (2 of 2)

Instructions: Decide if the statement is TRUE or FALSE.

The study of previous incident responses found that failures likely resulted from a lack of resources.

Homeland Security Presidential Directives (HSPDs)

HSPD-5

Management of Domestic Incidents

HSPD-8

National Preparedness

Mandates

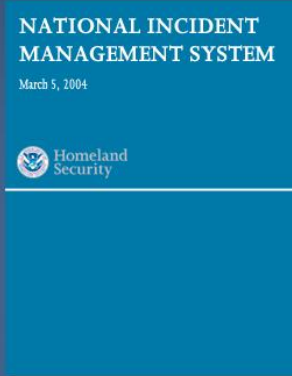
- **National Preparedness Goal**
- **National Incident Management System (NIMS)**
- **National Response Plan (NRP)**

National Preparedness Goal

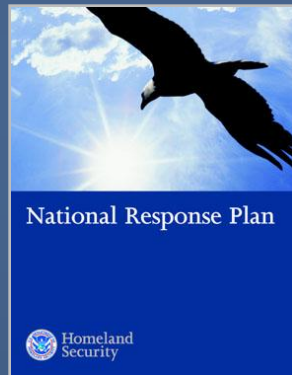
To engage Federal, State, local, and tribal entities, their private and nongovernmental partners, and the general public to achieve and sustain risk-based target levels of capability to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from major events to minimize the impact on lives, property, and the economy.



NIMS & NRP

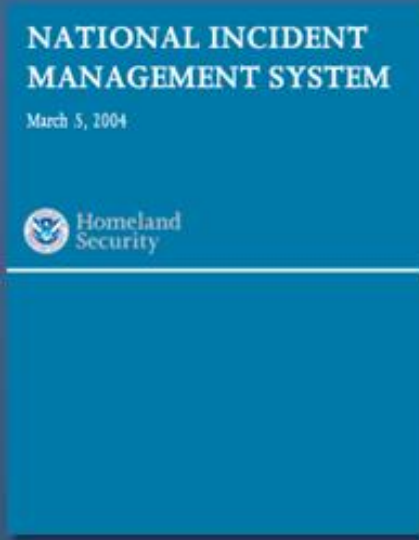


- **NIMS:** Standardizes incident management processes, protocols, and procedures for use by all responders. **Mandates use of ICS.**



- **NRP:** Establishes . . .
 - Federal coordination structures/mechanisms.
 - Direction for incorporation of existing plans.
 - Consistent approach to managing incidents.

NIMS Components & ICS



Command and Management

Preparedness

Resource Management

Communications and
Information Management

Supporting Technologies

Ongoing Management and
Maintenance

Incident
Command
System

Multiagency
Coordination
Systems

Public
Information
Systems

Additional Information: www.fema.gov/NIMS

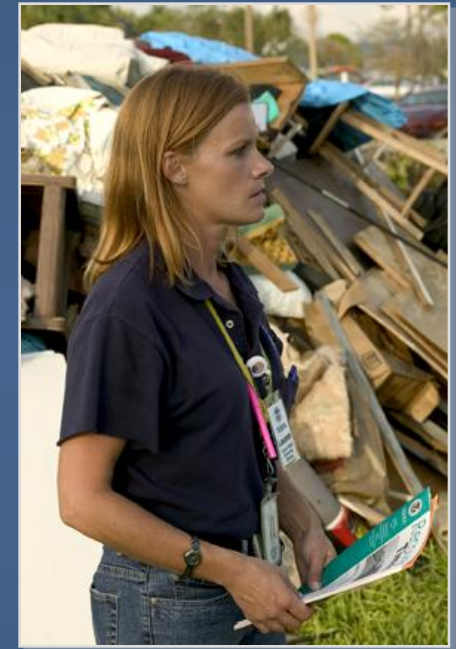
Other ICS Mandates

- **Hazardous Materials Incidents**
 - **Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) – 1986**
 - **Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Rule 1910.120**
- **State and Local Regulations**



ICS Benefits

- Meets the needs of incidents of any kind or size.
- Allows personnel from a variety of agencies to meld rapidly into a common management structure.
- Provides logistical and administrative support to operational staff.
- Is cost effective by avoiding duplication of efforts.



Activity: Management Challenges (1 of 2)

Instructions:

1. Working as a team, review the scenario presented on the next visual.
2. Identify the top three challenges for managing this incident. Write these challenges on chart paper.
3. Using what you have learned so far, describe how ICS could be used to address these challenges.
4. Select a spokesperson. Be prepared to present in 5 minutes.

Activity: Management Challenges (2 of 2)

Scenario: An unexpected flash flood has struck a small community. As a result:

- Homes, schools, and the business district have been evacuated.
- Critical infrastructure has been damaged including contamination of the water supply, downed power lines, and damaged roads.
- Perimeter control and security in the business district are needed.
- Mutual aid is arriving from several surrounding communities.

Summary (1 of 2)

Instructions: Answer the questions below.

- What are three purposes of ICS?
- What are the requirements to use ICS?



Summary (2 of 2)

ICS . . .

- Is a standardized management tool for meeting the demands of small or large emergency or nonemergency situations.
- Represents "best practices," and has become the standard for emergency management across the country.
- May be used for planned events, natural disasters, and acts of terrorism.
- Is a key feature of NIMS.