
Introduction to the Incident Command System (ICS)

What is ICS?

ICS:

- Is a standardized, on-scene, all-hazards incident management concept.
- Enables a coordinated response among various jurisdictions and agencies.
- Establishes common processes for planning and management of resources.
- Allows for integration within a common organizational structure.

Why ICS?



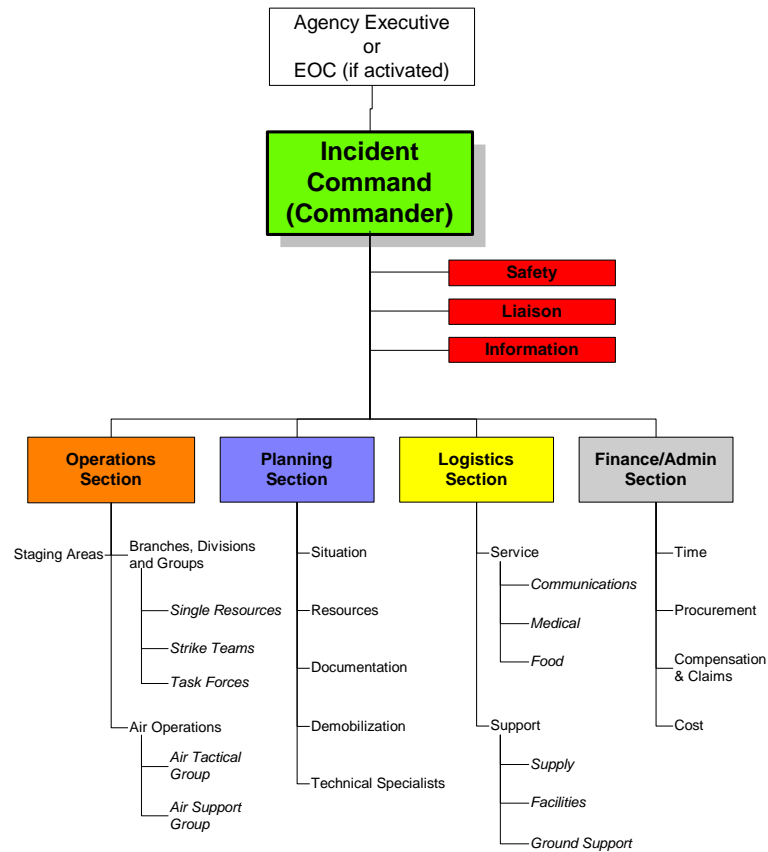
History of ICS

- Southern California wildfires
- Terminology not standardized
- Organization could not expand/contract
- Communications not standardized
- No action planning
- No designated facilities

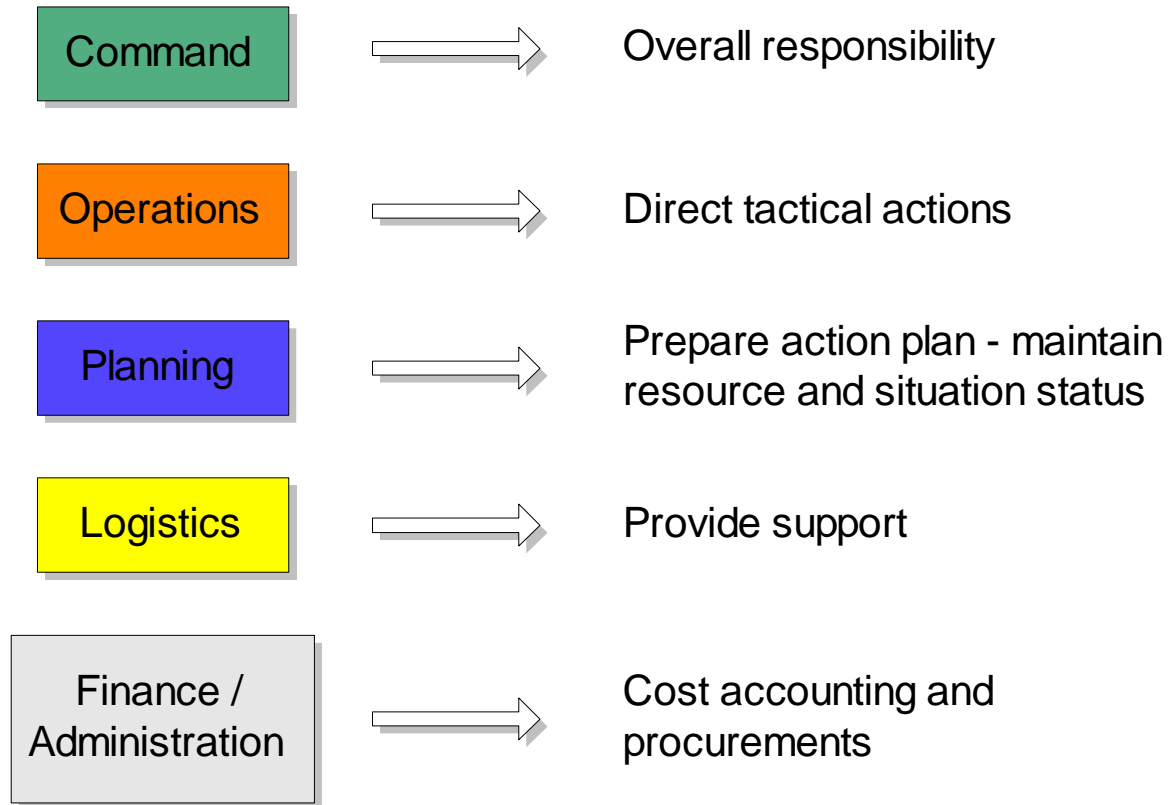
ICS Applications

- Natural hazards
- Technological hazards
- Human-caused hazards
- Planned events

ICS Organization Chart



ICS Management Functions



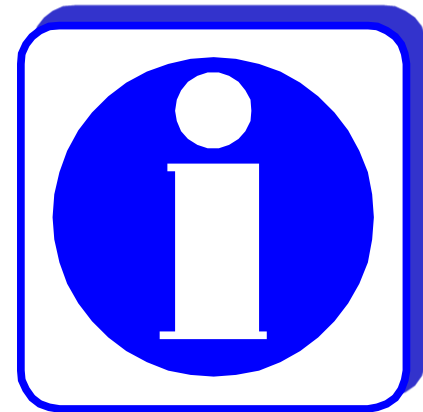
The Command Staff



Safety
Officer



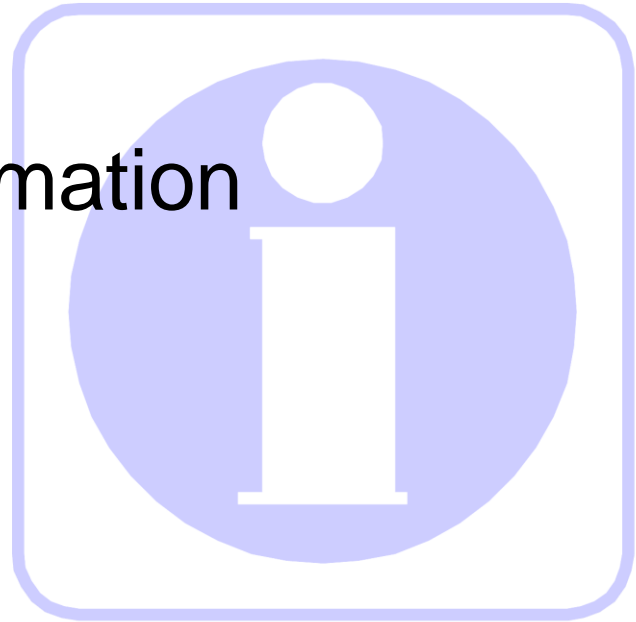
Liaison Officer



Information
Officer

Information Officer

- One per incident.
- Central point for information dissemination.



Safety Officer

- One per incident.
- Anticipate, detect, and correct unsafe situations.
- Has emergency authority to stop unsafe acts.



Liaison Officer

- Contact point for representatives of assisting and cooperating agencies.
 - Assisting agency – provides tactical or service resources.
 - Cooperating agency – provides support other than tactical or service resources, e.g., Red Cross, Employment Office, etc.

Operations Section

- Directs and coordinates all incident tactical operations.
- Organization develops as required.
- Organization can consist of:
 - Single Resources, Task Forces, and Strike Teams
 - Staging Areas
 - Air Operations
 - Divisions., Groups, Branches

Planning Section

Photo courtesy of L. Osachoff



- Maintain resource status
- Maintain situation status
- Prepare Incident Action Plan
- Provide documentation service
- Prepare Demobilization Plan
- Provide technical specialists

Planning Section

May be organized into four positions:

- Resources Unit
- Situation Unit
- Documentation Unit
- Demobilization Unit

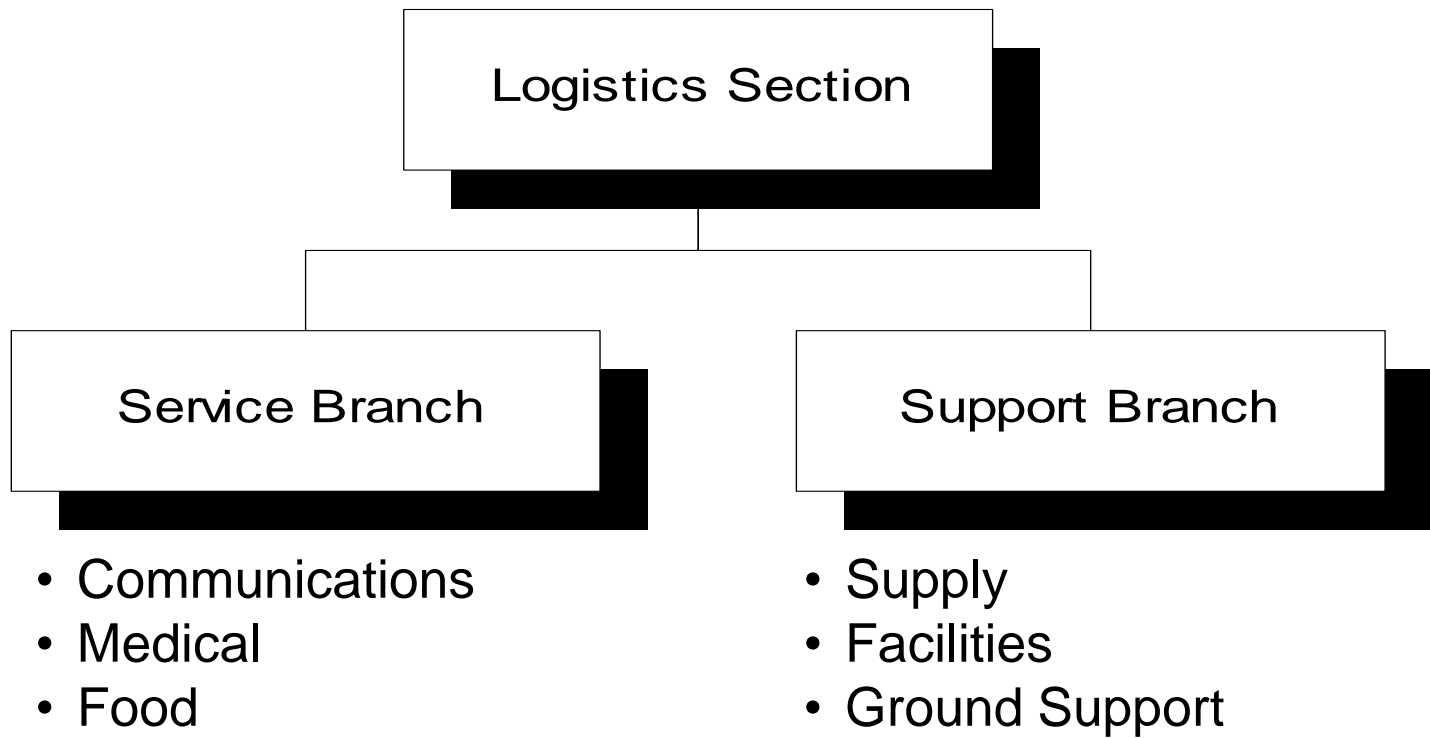
Logistics Section

- Provides services and support to the incident or event
- Six principal activities
- Two-branch structure if needed

Major Logistics Section Activities

- Ordering, obtaining, maintaining, and accounting for essential personnel, equipment, and supplies.
- Providing communication planning and resources.
- Setting up food services for responders.
- Setting up and maintaining incident facilities.
- Providing support transportation.
- Providing medical services for injured personnel.

Logistics Branch Structure



Finance / Administration Section

- Monitors incident costs
- Maintains financial records
- Administers procurement contracts
- Performs time recording

Incident Action Plan

- Every incident requires an Action Plan
- May be oral or written, IC's decision
- Based on goals and objectives
- Guides the operation

In ICS, Common Terminology is applied to:

- Organizational elements
- Position titles
- Resources
- Facilities

No Codes!

Why Plain Language?

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

ICS Integrated Communications

1. Communication Systems
2. Frequency and Resource Use Planning
3. Information Transfer Procedures

Communications Networks that may be Required

- Command net
- Tactical nets
- Support net
- Ground-to-air
- Air-to-air

Resource Management in ICS

- Single Resources
 - Includes personnel and equipment
- Strike Team
 - Combination of same kind and type
- Task Forces
 - Combination of single resources

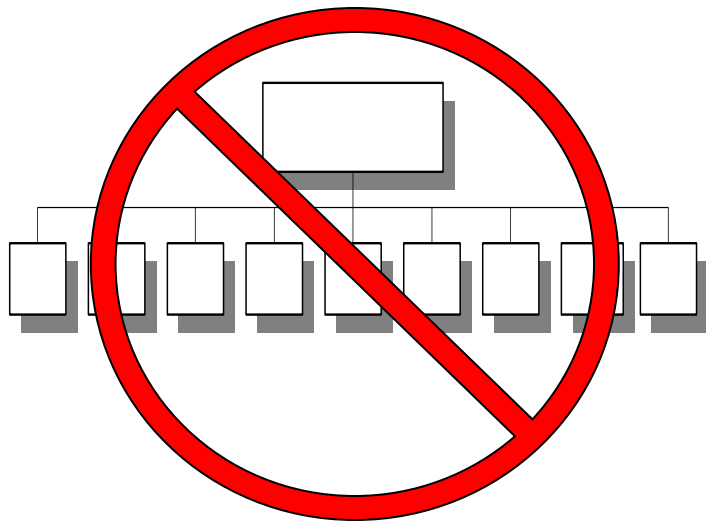
Resource Status Conditions in ICS

- Available
- Assigned
- Out of Service

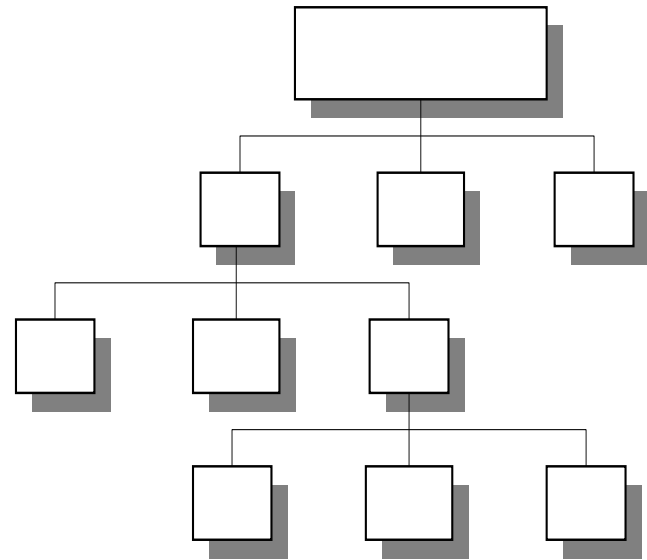
Personnel Accountability is Maintained through the use of:

- Check-in Lists (ICS Form 211)
- Resource Status Keeping Systems
- Unity of Command
- Division / Group Assignment Lists
- Unit Logs

Span of Control

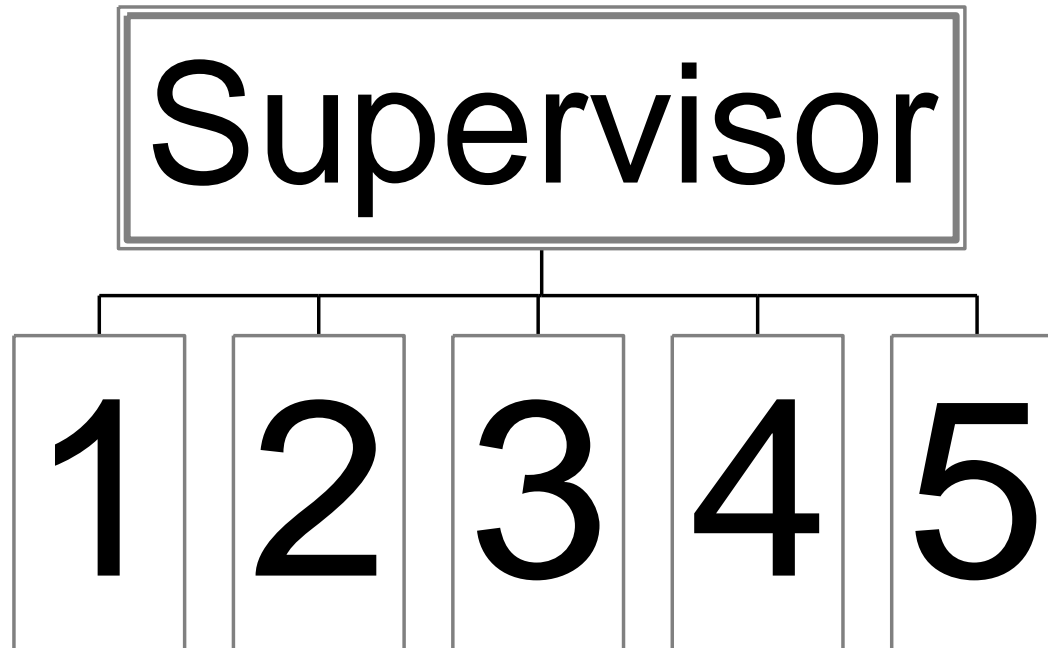


**Ineffective and
Possibly Dangerous**



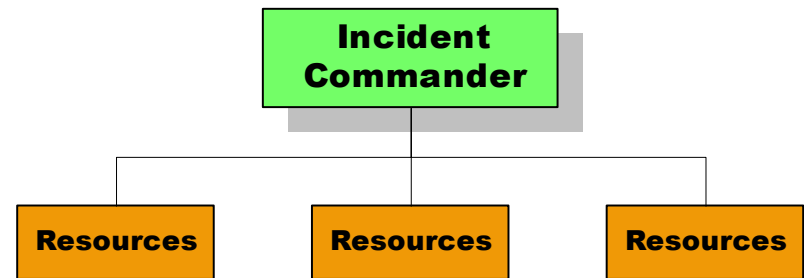
**Effective
Span
of Control**

Optimum Span of Control is One to Five



Initial Response

- Agency first on scene
- Four “C’s”
 1. Command
 2. Control
 3. Communicate
 4. Coordinate



Establishing Command

- “Dispatch, Engine 2 is on scene at Westwood lake. Have all responding units report to the north parking lot. Engine 2 is now Westwood Command”
- “ Roger, Westwood Command”
- Dispatch informs other agencies

Establishing Command

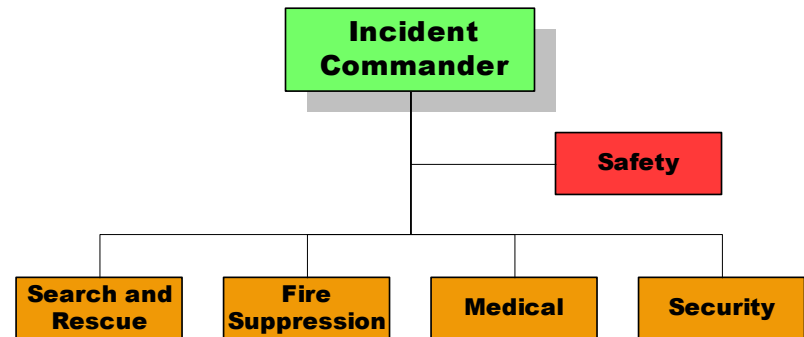
1. Assume, announce, and position Command
2. Rapidly evaluate the situation
3. Initiate, maintain, and control communications
4. Identify objectives, develop action plan, and assign companies/personnel

Establishing Command (cont'd.)

5. Develop incident management organization
6. Provide objectives, strategies, tactics
7. Review, evaluate, and revise incident action plan
8. Provide continuity, transfer, and termination of command

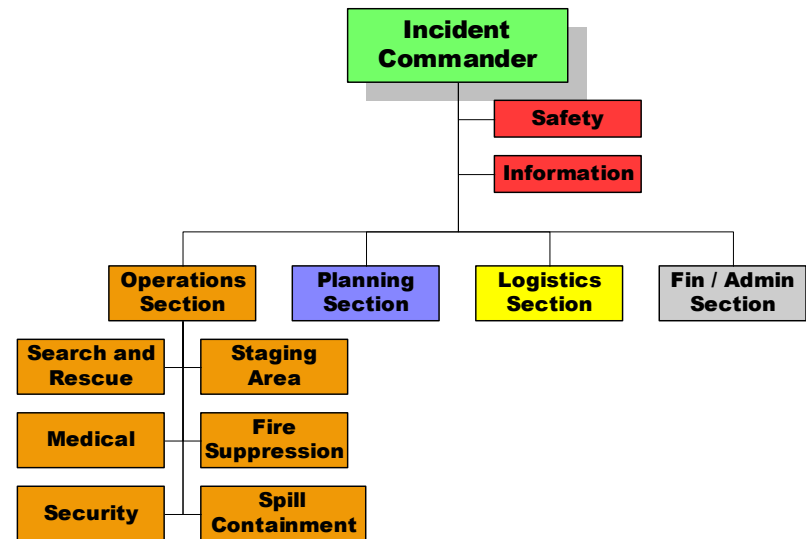
Expanding Incident

- As resources arrive, organization develops
- Hazardous operation, IC not able to effectively monitor safety conditions



Large Incident Operations

- Objectives set
- Incident Action Plan
- Support needed for organization



Staging Area

- Locations to place available resources
- Several staging areas may be used
- Manager reports to IC or Operations Section Chief
- May be relocated



Photo courtesy of L. Osachoff

Guidelines in Developing the ICS Organization

- Establish the Incident Command Post
- Determine organization needs
- Consider needs for Command Staff
- Monitor and maintain span of control
- Demobilize organizational elements when possible
- Avoid combining organizational positions

A Higher Ranking Person Arriving at an Incident will:

- Assume Command, or
- Maintain Command as is, or
- Reassign Command to a Third Party

Reasons to Transfer Command

- A more qualified person assumes command.
- A jurisdictional or agency change in command is legally required or makes good management sense.
- Normal turnover of personnel on long or extended incidents.

Transfer of Command Checklist

- ✓ Appropriate ICS terminology is used
- ✓ Incident Command Post is established
- ✓ Face-to-face transfer of command
- ✓ Briefing by outgoing Incident Commander
- ✓ New Incident Commander assumes command
- ✓ Appropriate notifications are made

Transfer of Command Briefing

- Situation Status
- Objectives and priorities
- Current organization
- Resource assignments
- Resources en route and / or ordered
- Facilities established
- Communications Plan
- Prognosis, concerns – related issues

Common Responsibilities

- Bring specialized supplies
- Follow check in procedure
- Use clear text on radio
- Obtain briefing from immediate supervisor
- Acquire work materials; locate and set up work area
- Organize and brief subordinates assigned to you
- Brief your relief
- Complete forms/reports
- Demobilize according to plan

The End

Questions?