INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM
WHAT IS IT?

INCIDENT COMMAND

John C. Kraemer, PA, F-ABMDI
Director, Forensic Operations
Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner

DEFINITION

> "A management system designed to enable effective and efficient domestic incident management by integrating a combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications operating within a common organizational structure." - FEMA 2018
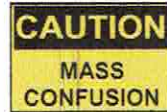
HISTORY

- ICS concept was created in 1968 at a meeting involving fire chiefs in Phoenix, Arizona.

- Adapted from management hierarchy of the U.S. Navy.

- ICS was first adapted and implemented in fighting wildfires in California and Arizona in the early 1970s.

Only YOU can prevent forest fires

Seriously. We've been defunded. It's just you now.

WILDFIRE INCIDENT FAILURES IDENTIFIED

- Unclear chain of command and supervision

- Lack of accountability

- Poor communication, conflicting terminology

- Lack of an organized planning process (IAPs)

- Freelancing of responders

CAUTION
MASS CONFUSION

ICS-A NATIONAL MODEL

- ICS-New York at the first attack on the World Trade Center in 1993.

- March 1, 2004-The U.S. Department of Homeland Security developed the National Incident Management System *(NIMS–per Homeland Security Presidential Directive-5)*

- Mandated federal, state, and local agencies work within a standardized approach to incident management.
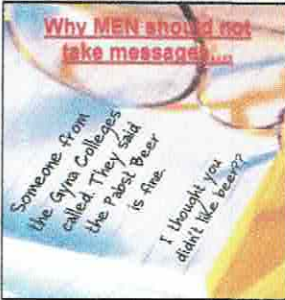
WHEN IS ICS USED?

- Hazardous materials incidents (federally required)

- Planned events (parades, concerts, political visits, etc.)

- Response to natural disasters

- Single and multiple agency law enforcement events (active shooter, search and rescue, etc.)

- MCIs/mass fatality incidents

PRINCIPLES OF ICS

- **Common Terminology**
  - "Tanker"-Urban vs. Wildland Firefighting

- **Modular Organization**
  - Top-down structure that can expand or contract

- **Unity of Command**
  - Personnel report to one designated supervisor

PRINCIPLES OF ICS

- **Unified Command Structure**
  - All agencies responsible develop common set of incident objectives and strategies

- **Manageable Span of Control**
  - Personnel one supervisor can manage effectively (3-7, 5 optimal)
  - Reduces "freelancing

- **Designated Incident Facilities**
  - Incident Command Posts (ICPs), Staging Areas

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT ENCOMPASSES:
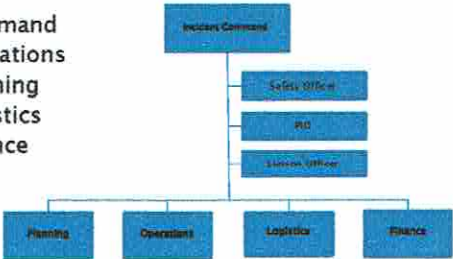
Establishing command

Ensuring safety of responders

Assessing incident priorities

Determining operational objectives

Developing the Incident Action Plan (IAP)

Maintaining manageable span of control

Authorizing release of information to the media

Keeping track of costs

INCIDENT COMMAND FUNCTIONS

- Establishes command

- Establishes the incident command post (ICP)

- Assesses incident priorities:
  1. Protecting life
  2. Incident stabilization
  3. Property conservation

- Maintains accountability for personnel

- Unified command structure

BASIC ICS STRUCTURE

- **Command**
- **Operations**
- **Planning**
- **Logistics**
- **Finance**

AS INCIDENT EXPANDS......

- **Command Staff Positions:**

  - **Safety Officer**
    - Monitors safety conditions and ensures safety of personnel on scene

  - **Public Information Officer (PIO)**
    - Coordinates and responds to media inquires

  - **Liaison Officer**
    - On-scene contact for other agencies assigned to the incident

PLANNING SECTION

- Collection, evaluation, and dissemination of information regarding an incident and status of resources.
- Creation of the Incident Action Plan (IAP)
  - Defines response activities and resource utilization for a specified time.

OPERATIONS SECTION

- **Carries out the response activities as described in the Incident Action Plan (IAP)**
  - Directs and coordinates all operations
  - Develops response goals and objectives with IC
  - Implements the IAP
  - Requests or releases resources, as needed

STRATEGY vs. TACTICS

LOGISTICS SECTION

- Provides facilities, services, materials, and personnel for a given incident.
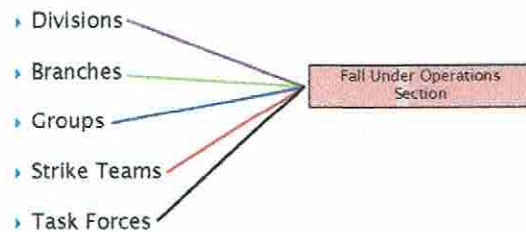 - Geared more towards supporting needs of incident responders

FINANCE SECTION

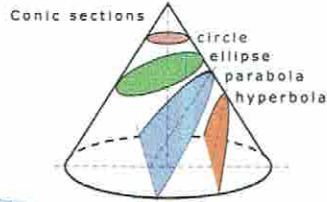- **Tracks incident costs and performs reimbursement accounting.**

ADDITIONAL ICS AREAS

- Divisions
- Branches
- Groups
- Strike Teams
- Task Forces

Fall Under Operations Section

SECTIONS

▸ Organizational levels that have functional responsibility for primary segments of incident management.
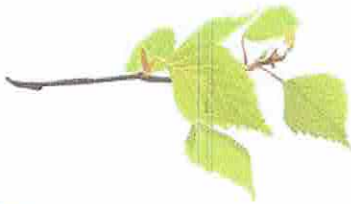
DIVISIONS

▸ Divides incident into geographical areas of responsibility.

BRANCHES

▸ Organizational level having functional, geographic, and jurisdictional responsibility in an incident.

GROUPS

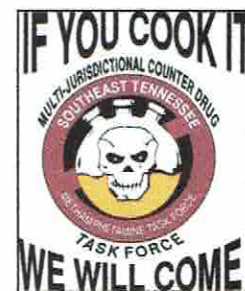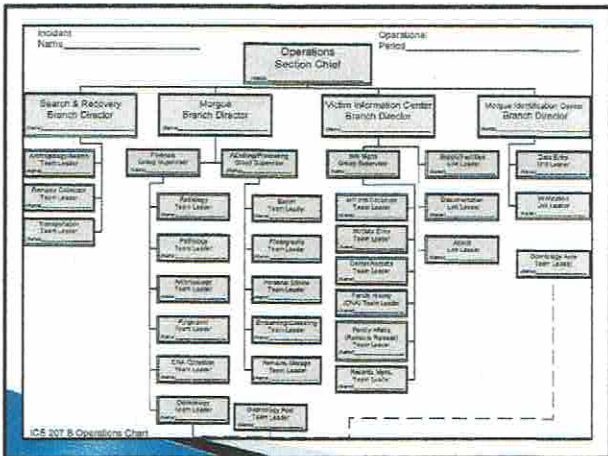▸ Organizational level for functional assignments/operations.
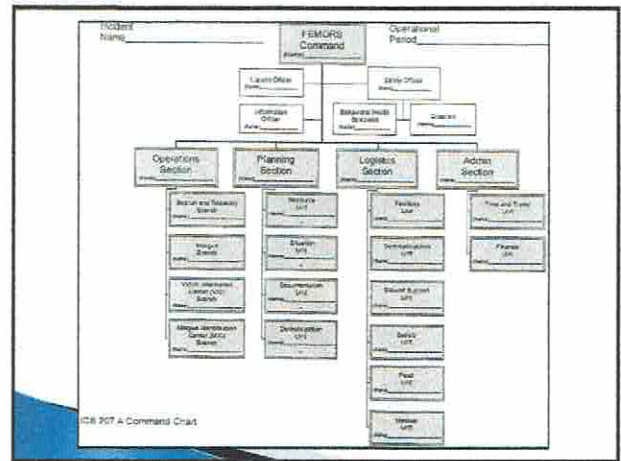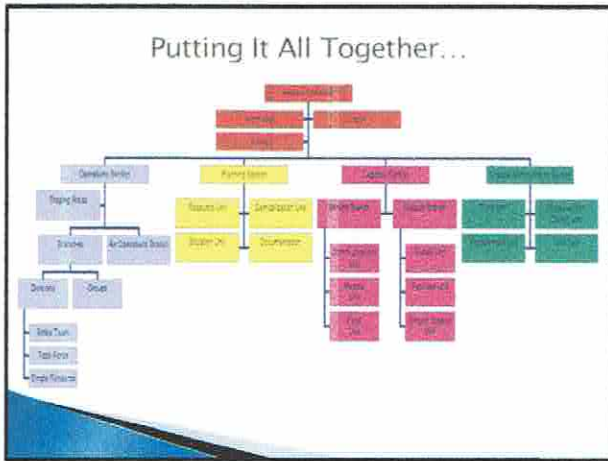
STRIKE TEAMS

▸ A group of resources of the same size and type.

TASK FORCE

▸ Single resources gathered for a single need.

Putting It All Together…

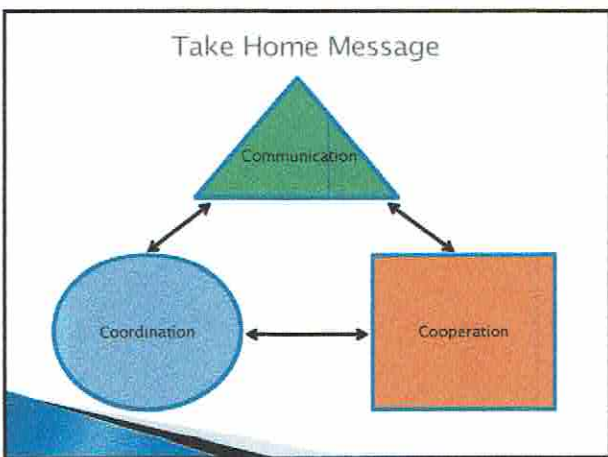
ICS 207 A Command Chart

ICS 207 B Operations Chart

ICS Humor

Hitler As Planning Section Chief

ICS 204 Form: Work Assignment List
ICS 205 Form: Incident Radio Communications Plan
ICS 207 Form: Incident Command Chart
ICS 215 Form: Operational Planning Worksheet
ICS 230 Form: Daily Meeting Schedule

DeMob Plan: Plan for demobilization of resources
DRCs: Disaster Recovery Center

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oPW9YXN-ECMhttps://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oPW9YXN-ECM

Take Home Message

ICS FINAL EXAM

ICS EXAM

1.) The Incident Command System (ICS) is a tool for:

A. Command, control, and coordination at an incident.

B. Interagency responses only.

C. Multi-Jurisdictional responses only.

D. Responses involving first-response personnel only.

ICS EXAM

2.) ICS can be used to manage all types of incidents.

A. True

B. False

ICS EXAM

3.) Federal law requires that ICS be used for all natural disasters.

A. True

B. False

ICS EXAM

4.) The ICS *General Staff* includes:

A. Branch, Division, Group, and Unit managers.

B. All managers of operational resources.

C. Planning, Operations, Logistics, and Finance Section Chiefs.

D. The Incident Commander and the Information Safety, and Liaison Officers.

ICS EXAM

5.) All incidents, regardless of size, will have an Incident Commander.

A. True

B. False

ICS EXAM

6.) In an ICS environment, the optimum span of control is:

A. Three

B. Seven

C. Five

D. Ten

10/29/18

ICS EXAM

7.) Which section is responsible for providing incident facilities?

A. Planning

B. Operations

C. Logistics

D. Finance

ICS EXAM

8.) Which section is responsible for documenting the status of resources, incident response, and developing the Incident Action Plan (IAP)?

A. Planning

B. Operations

C. Logistics

D. Finance

ICS EXAM

9.) The Incident Commander is responsible for all of the following **EXCEPT**:

A. Protecting life and property

B. Controlling resources assigned to the incident

C. Maintaining accountability

D. Coordinating a community-wide response

ICS EXAM

10.) In a mass fatality event, who is the *primary* Incident Commander with regards to coordinating care for the deceased?

A. Fire Chief

B. Police Chief

C. County Emergency Management Coordinator

D. County Medical Examiner

Thank You