



Incident Command

Scope: Sacramento Regional Fire Departments

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References

- FIRESCOPE. *ICS 500 Structure Fire Operations*. 2015
- FIRESCOPE. *420-1 Field Operation Guidebook*. 2012
- SEMS. *Standardized Emergency Management System*. 2015
- NIMS. *National Incident Management System*

01. Guideline/ Policy

To provide for the effective management of personnel and resources operating at emergency incidents through improved command and control, while providing for the safety and welfare of personnel.

02. Procedures:

A simple to complex command and control philosophy shall be used for building an ICS based on the complexity of the incident

2.1 Responsibilities of Command

The Incident Commander is responsible for the overall management of the incident. The safety, welfare and accountability of personnel are taken into consideration when achieving the following incident priorities.

1. Life Safety
2. Incident Stabilization
3. Property Conservation
4. Environment protection

2.2 Functions of Command

The functions of command define standard activities that are performed by the Incident Commander to achieve the tactical priorities

- Assume and announce command
- Rapidly evaluate the situation (size-up)

- Establish and announce the incident command post
- Initiate, maintain and control the communications plan
- Identify the overall strategy, develop an incident action plan, and assign companies consistent with plans and standard operating guidelines
- Request appropriate resources, when necessary
- Ensure accountability of all resources
- Develop an effective ICS organization using divisions and/or groups to maintain the span of control
- Provide tactical priorities and strategic objectives
- Coordinate activities with other agencies and cooperators
- Continuously assess incident conditions and review, evaluate and revise the IAP as needed
- Provide for the continuity, transfer and termination of command

2.3 Risk Management

Risk management involves the identification and evaluation of risk, and the prioritization of actions followed by coordinated application of resources to minimize, monitor, and control the probability and/or impact of unfortunate events or to maximize the realization of opportunities. Risk management is based on the following priorities:

1. Activities that present a significant risk to the safety of responders shall be limited to situations where there is a potential to save lives
2. Activities that are routinely employed to protect property shall be recognized as inherent risk to the safety of responders, and actions shall be taken to reduce or avoid these risks
3. No risk to the safety of responders shall be acceptable when there is no possibility to save lives or property
4. In situations where the risk to responders is excessive, activities shall be limited to defensive operations

2.4 Establishing Command

The Incident Commander shall remain in command until command is passed, transferred or the incident is stabilized and terminated

- The first officer to arrive at the scene of an emergency is in command until there is a formal establishment of command
- The second arriving officer should establish command when appropriate and/or directed
- The Battalion Chief is expected to request command from the officer who established command (Captain may return to company)
- The Incident Commander shall identify and articulate the strategic objectives and tactical priorities
- The Incident Commander shall ensure that the tactics being performed on the fire ground are in-line with the tactical priorities and support the strategic objectives

2.5 Philosophy of Command

It will be the responsibility of the Incident Commander to develop an organizational structure utilizing the standard operating guidelines as soon as possible after arrival and implementation of initial control measures. The size and complexity of the organizational structure will be determined by the scope of the emergency:

- The Incident Commander should consider utilizing divisions and/or groups based on incident complexity
- If a company officer is assigned as a branch director or division or group supervisor, every effort should be made to replace that company officer with a chief officer/single resource officer as soon as possible
- Branches will be numeric/functional
- Divisions will be alpha/numeric
- Groups will be functional

2.6 Transfer of Command

Command is transferred to improve the quality of the ICS organization. The transfer of command process should include:

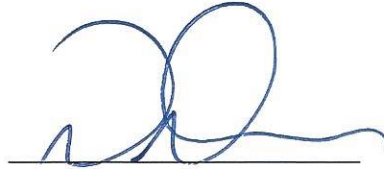
- Situation status and actions taken
- Incident objectives and priorities (IAP)
- Current organizational structure
- Resource assignments
- Resources en route and/or ordered/ needed
- Communications plan
- Prognosis, concerns and related issues
- Whenever a transfer of command takes place, it shall be communicated to all personnel assigned to the incident, including communications center

Signature Page

The undersigned Fire Chiefs approve the contents of this document



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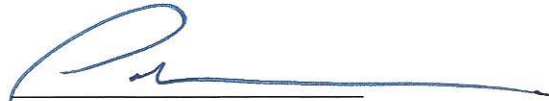
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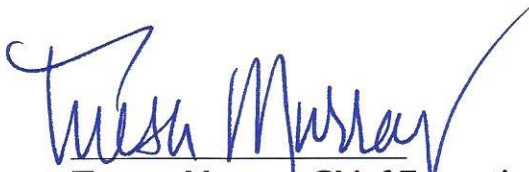
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