



Unit2: ICSOverview



FEMA



Unit Objectives

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to:

- **Describe the background of ICS.**
- **Describe how ICS relates to NIMS.**
- **Identify how ICS can be used by healthcare organizations.**
- **Identify three purposes of ICS.**



Unit 2:
ICS Overview

Visual 2.2

ICS for Hospitals and Healthcare Systems

Benefits of adopting ICS:

- ***Greater Efficiency*** – ICS is designed to direct and coordinate efforts in a crisis situation
- ***Better Coordination*** with outside agencies – ICS is widely used in the emergency services community
- ***More Effective Communication*** – common terminology and titles facilitates interaction with responders

Video:ICS Overview

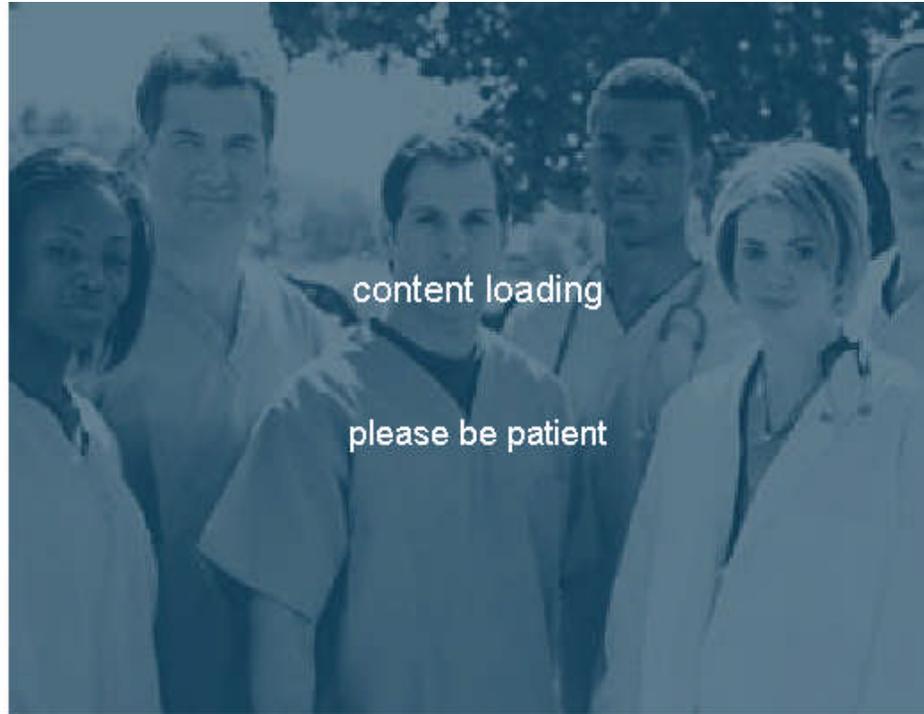
Unit 2:
ICS Overview

Visual 2.4

ICS Overview – Video Key Points

- An *incident* is an occurrence, caused by either human actions or natural phenomena, that requires response actions to prevent or minimize loss of life, or damage to property and/or the environment.
- ICS is flexible and easy to adapt to meet the changing requirements of any incident.
- The Hospital Incident Command System (HICS) is one example of how ICS can be adapted to suit particular disciplines.

Video:History of ICS



Unit 2:
ICS Overview

Visual 2.6

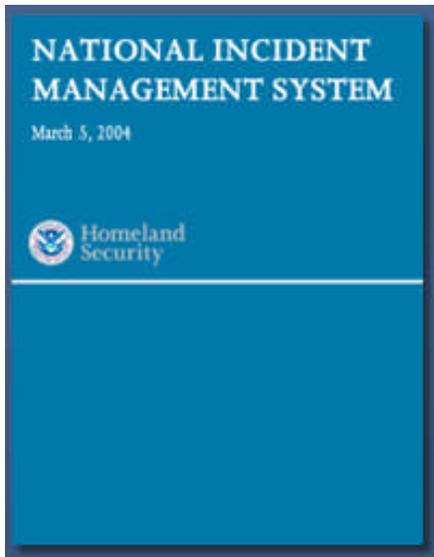
History of ICS – Video Key Points

Weaknesses in incident management were due to:

- **Lack of accountability.**
- **Poor communication.**
- **Lack of a systematic 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.

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

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Visual 2.8

Healthcare's Use of ICS

Healthcare organizations have adopted ICS in order to:

- Manage response and recovery activities.
- Participate in the national response system.
- Comply with Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) standards.
- Meet NIMS requirements.



ICS and the Hospital Incident Command System (HICS)

- **The Hospital Emergency Incident Command System (HEICS) was developed in the 1990s as a foundation for preparing for and responding to various types of disasters.**
- **The latest version of HEICS, renamed the Hospital Incident Command System (HICS), reflects consistency with the National Incident Management System (NIMS).**
- **Hospitals are not required to use HICS. It is only one of several models that present ICS for hospitals.**

ICS Built on Best Practices

ICS is:

- A proven management system based on successful business and military practices.
- The result of decades of lessons learned in the organization and management of emergency incidents.
- A product of 30 years of best practices, in emergency and nonemergency applications, by all levels of government and the private sector.



What ICS is Designed To Do

- Meet the needs of incidents of any kind or size.
- Allow personnel from a variety of agencies and organizations to meld rapidly into a common management structure.
- Provide logistical and administrative support to operational staff.
- Be cost effective by avoiding duplication of efforts.



KnowledgeReview (1of 4)

Instructions: Decide if the statement is TRUE or FALSE.

Hospitals and healthcare systems already use some elements of ICS as part of their emergency management programs.

KnowledgeReview (2of 4)

Instructions: Decide if the statement is TRUE or FALSE.

Three benefits of adopting ICS include greater efficiency during a crisis, better coordination internally and with external organizations, and more effective communication with external organizations.

KnowledgeReview (3of 4)

Instructions: Decide if the statement is TRUE or FALSE.

Adoption of ICS is one component of NIMS compliance.

KnowledgeReview (4of 4)

Instructions: Decide if the statement is TRUE or FALSE.

ICS is intended to replace a hospital's day-to-day organizational structure and procedures.

Applications for the Use of ICS

Both:

- **Planned events, such as exercises, and**
- **Incidents, such as bioterrorist attacks.**

This means that ICS will become the method that is used to manage response emergencies.

Since ICS may be used for small or large events, it can grow or shrink to meet the changing demands of an incident or event.

KnowledgeReview (1of 4)

Instructions: Decide if the statement is TRUE or FALSE.

The study of previous incident responses found that failures were more likely to result from a lack of resources.

KnowledgeReview (2of 4)

Instructions: Decide if the statement is TRUE or FALSE.

The Incident Command System is the result of decades of best practices from both the business community and emergency management.

KnowledgeReview (3of 4)

Instructions: Decide if the statement is TRUE or FALSE.

ICS is used for personnel who only perform administrative and logistics functions in an emergency. The organizational structure is preset and does not include specialized personnel.

KnowledgeReview (4of 4)

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.

Activity: Management Challenges(1 of2)

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 of2)

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.
- The local hospital's emergency room is being overwhelmed by victims of the flood with a range of associated injuries.
- Other regional healthcare centers are offering assistance but need direction on how to help.

Objectives Review

You should now be able to:

- Describe the background of ICS.
- Describe how ICS relates to NIMS.
- Identify how ICS can be used by healthcare organizations.
- Identify three purposes of ICS.