



Unit3: ICS Features & Principles



FEMA



Unit Objectives

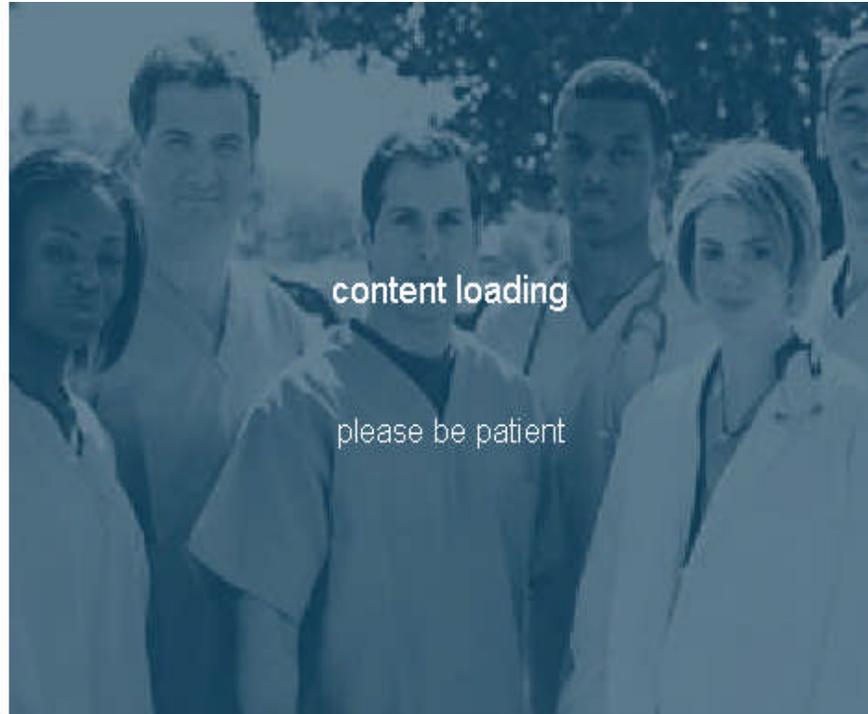
By the end of this lesson, you should be able to:

- **Describe the basic features of ICS.**
- **Identify the principal ICS facilities.**
- **Identify facility map symbols.**

Unit 3:
ICS Features & Principles

Visual 3.2

Video:ICS Features



ICS Features – Video Key Points

ICS principles are implemented through a wide range of management features, including:

- **Common terminology and clear text.**
- **Modular organizational structure.**
- **Management by objectives.**
- **Reliance on an Incident Action Plan.**
- **Variable command structures.**
- **Accountability and mobilization.**
- **Effective information management.**

Use of Plain English

- Communications should be in plain English or clear text.
- Do not use radio codes, organization-specific codes, or jargon.

Even if you use organization-specific codes on a daily basis, why should you use plain English during an incident response?

Why Plain English?

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)

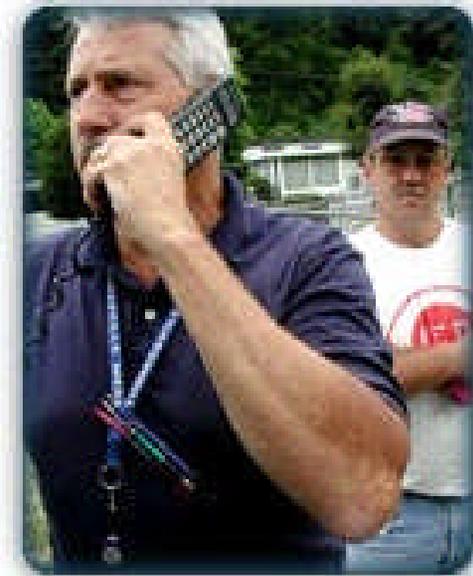
EMT = Electron Microscope Tomography

EMT = Email Money Transfer

Common Terminology

Using common terminology helps to define:

- Organizational functions.
- Resource descriptions.
- Incident facilities.
- Position titles.



Common Terminology: Example

Which is the example of common terminology?

A.

**This is Unit 1, we
have a 10-37, Code 2.**

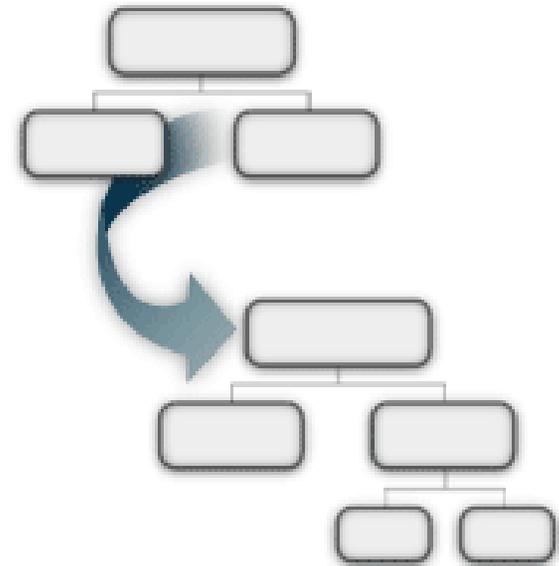
B.

**This is Unit 1, the flood
waters are rising and we need
additional resources for
sandbagging.**

Modular Organization (1 of 2)

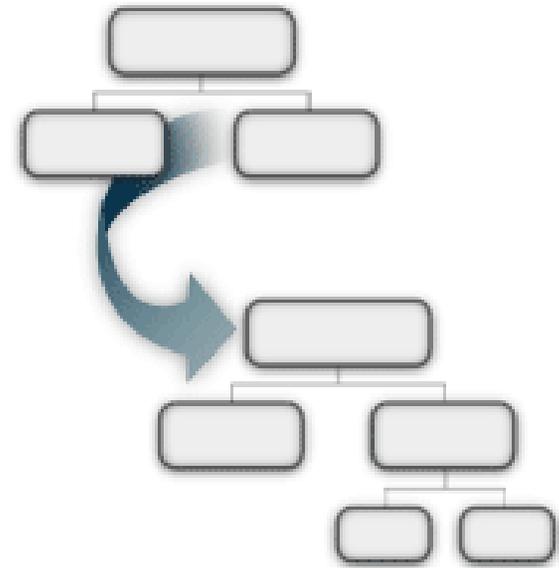
The ICS organizational structure:

- Develops in a top-down, modular fashion.
- Is based on the size and complexity of the incident.
- Is based on the hazard environment created by the incident.



Modular Organization (2 of 2)

- Incident organizational structure is flexible and expands to meet requirements.
- Only functions/positions that are necessary will be filled.
- Each element must have a person in charge.



Managementby Objectives

- **ICS is implemented through identifying an initial Incident Commander, who identifies objectives to guide response activities.**
- **Objectives are communicated throughout the entire ICS organization through the incident planning process.**



Management by Objectives: Steps

The steps for establishing incident objectives include:

- **Step 1**: Understand organization policy and direction.
- **Step 2**: Assess incident situation.
- **Step 3**: Establish incident objectives.
- **Step 4**: Select appropriate strategy or strategies to achieve objectives.
- **Step 5**: Perform tactical direction.
- **Step 6**: Provide necessary followup.

Overall Priorities

Incident objectives are established based on the following priorities:

#1: Life Saving

#2: Incident Stabilization

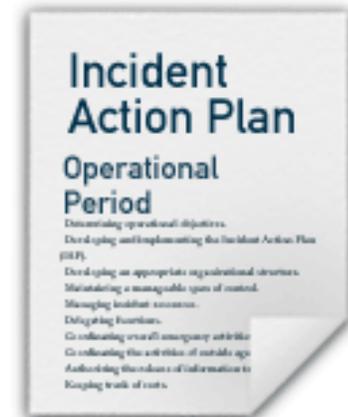
#3: Property Preservation



Reliance on an Incident Action Plan

Every incident must have an Incident Action Plan (IAP) that:

- Specifies the incident objectives.
- States the activities to be completed.
- Identifies resources and assignments.
- Covers a specified timeframe, called an operational period.
- May be oral or written—except for hazardous materials incidents, which require a written IAP.



Elements of an Incident Action Plan

Every IAP must have four elements:

- What do we want to do and how are we going to do it?
- Who is responsible for doing it?
- How do we communicate with each other?
- What is the procedure if incident personnel are injured?



Activity: Incident Action Plan

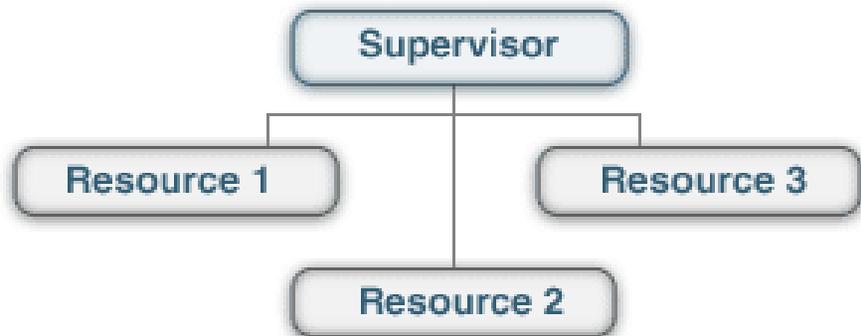
Instructions:

- Working as a team, identify four items you would include in the IAP, based on the incident objectives identified earlier.
- Write these items on chart paper.
- Select a spokesperson. Be prepared to present in 5 minutes.

Manageable Span of Control

Span of control:

- Pertains to the number of individuals or resources that one supervisor can manage effectively during incidents or special events.
- Is key to effective and efficient incident management.



Span of Control Considerations

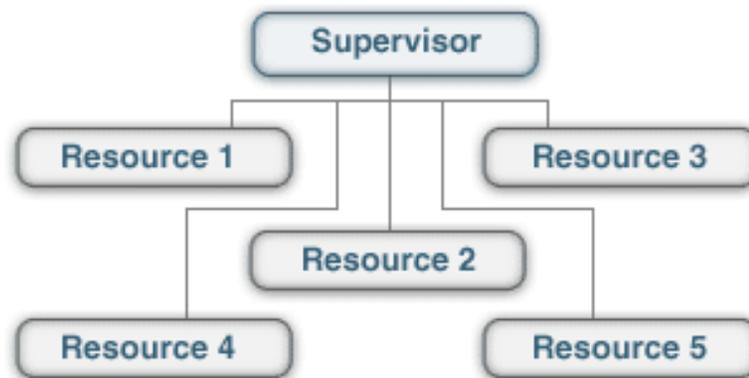
Span of control considerations are influenced by the:

- **Type of incident.**
- **Nature of the task.**
- **Hazards and safety factors.**
- **Distances between personnel and resources.**

ICS Management: Span of Control

ICS span of control for any supervisor:

- **Is between 3 and 7 subordinates.**
- **Optimally does not exceed 5 subordinates.**



Knowledge Review (1 of 2)

Discussion Question:

At the simplest level, what are the four elements that all Incident Action Plans must have?



Knowledge Review (2 of 2)

Instructions: Read the situation and question below, then select your answer.

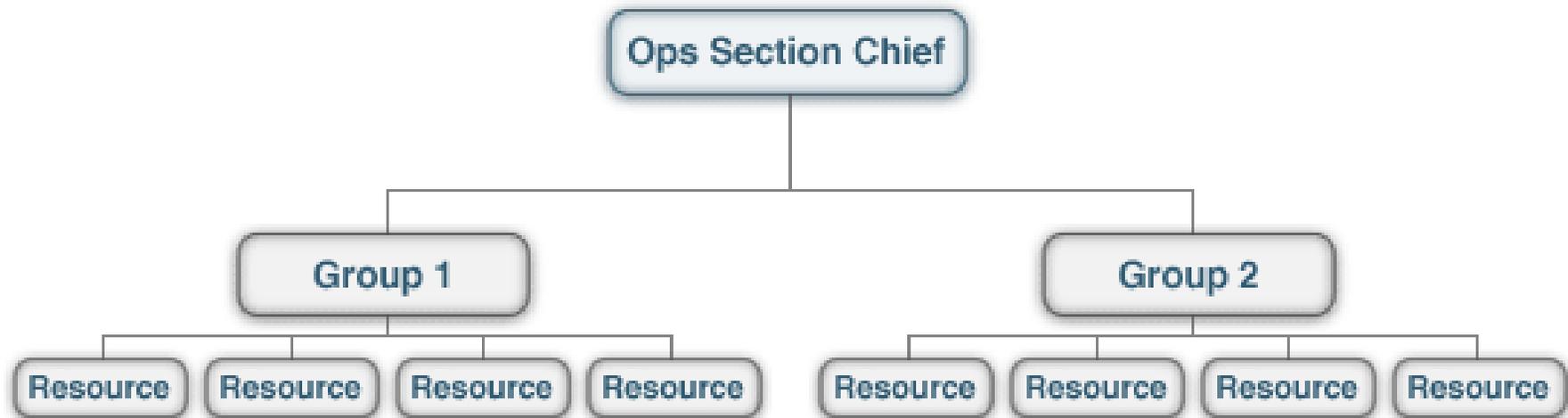
Scenario: Heavy rains have caused flash flooding throughout the municipality, and the hospital has stood up its ICS to allow closer coordination with its outpatient facilities and nursing homes. The diagram below shows how eight resources are organized under the Operations Section Chief.



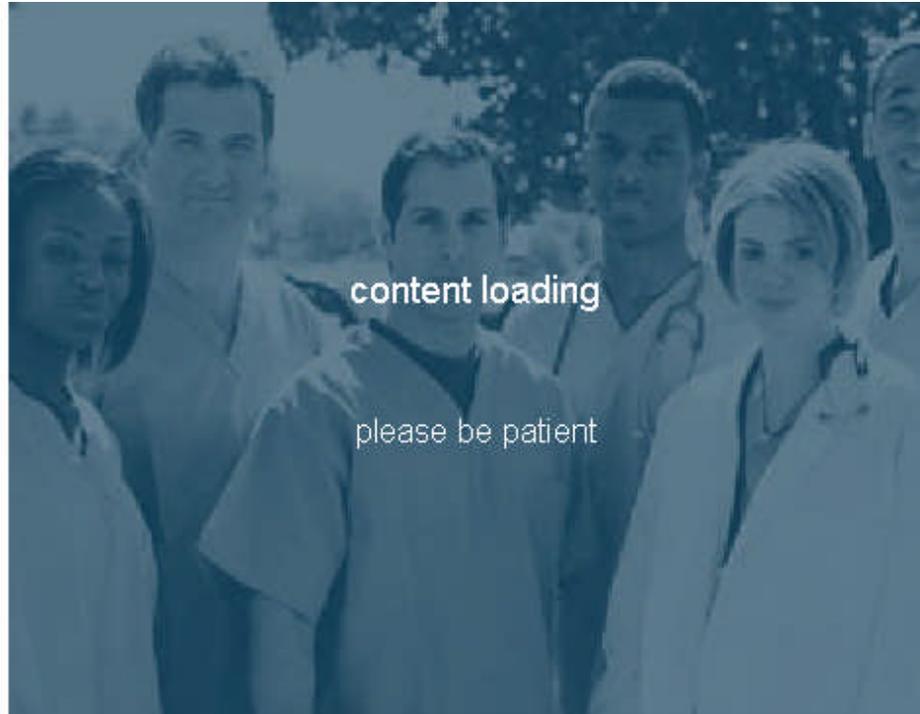
Is the situation consistent with the basic ICS feature of span of control?

Remember. .. Modular Organization!

Use the ICS feature of modular organization to maintain the optimal span of control!



Video: Incident Facilities Virtual Tour



Incident Facilities – Video Key Points

The standard ICS incident facilities include:

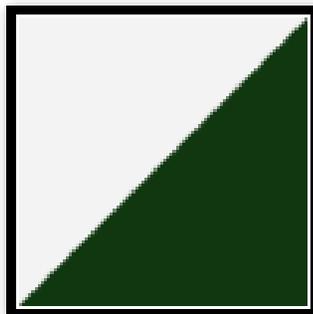
- **Incident Command Post (ICP). Every incident or event will have an ICP.**
- **Staging Areas or Labor Pool**
- **Helibase/Helispot**

For large incidents involving multiple organizations and government agencies, there may also be an Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

Incident Facility Map Symbols

The map symbols used to represent each of the principle ICS facilities are:

Incident Command Post



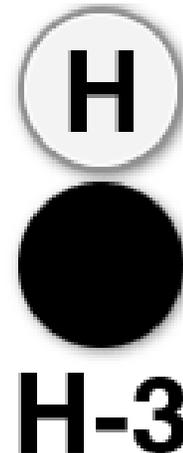
On a map, the ICP location appears as a green and white square.

Staging Area



On a map, the Staging Area appears as a circle with an S in it.

Helibase and Helispot



KnowledgeReview (1of 2)

Instructions: Answer the question below.

**Where would you find
Disaster Medical Assistant
Teams and other medical
personnel that are awaiting
tactical assignments?**

KnowledgeReview (2of 2)

Instructions: Answer the question below.

The Incident Commander is operating out of a first floor conference room because it allowed for effective communication and easy access. What incident facility is the conference room?

Objectives Review

You should now be able to:

- Describe the basic features of ICS.
- Identify the principal ICS facilities.
- Identify facility map symbols.