
Transfer of Command

EXTRACTED FROM – IS-0200.C BASIC INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM FOR INITIAL RESPONSE,
ICS 200

Transfer of Command

Transfer of command is the process of moving the responsibility for incident command from one Incident Commander to another.

When Command Is Transferred

Transfer of command may take place for many reasons, including when:

- A jurisdiction or agency is legally required to take command
- Change of command is necessary for effectiveness or efficiency
- Incident complexity changes
- There is a need to relieve personnel on incidents of extended duration
- Personal emergencies arise (e.g., Incident Commander has a family emergency)
- The Agency Administrator or Jurisdictional Executive directs a change in command

A More Qualified Person Arrives

The arrival of a more qualified person does NOT necessarily mean a change in incident command.

The more qualified individual may:

- Assume command according to agency guidelines
- Maintain command as it is and monitor command activity and effectiveness
- Request a more qualified Incident Commander from the agency with a higher level of jurisdictional responsibility

Transfer of Command Procedures

One of the main features of ICS is a procedure to transfer command with minimal disruption to the incident. This procedure may be used any time personnel in supervisory positions change.

Whenever possible, transfer of command should:

- Take place face-to-face
- Include a complete briefing that captures essential information for continuing safe and effective operations

The effective time and date of the transfer of command should be communicated to all personnel involved in the incident.