Overview of the Incident Command System as Practiced in the United States
The ICS is a disaster response management organization structure: specific technical competency skills are integrated in the ICS organization.

ICS used on day-to-day basis for routine incidents as well as for major emergencies; activated at first response.
For Example:
Day to Day Routine Incident
Structure Fire or Motor Vehicle Accident
ICS Features

- Clear objectives and priorities
- Defined operational objectives and organization

■ Incident Action Plan
  Objectives and Priorities
  Tactical Assignments
  Communication Plan
  Weather
  Travel Routes/Maps
  Organization Chart
  Medical Plan
  Air Operations Plan
  Safety

■ Common terminology
ICS Features (cont)

- Common communications
- Uniform resource typing
- Written Position Descriptions
  - Roles and responsibilities defined
  - Clear lines of authority, chain of command and reporting requirements
- Standardized personnel qualifications and training – national coordinating group
Five Major Management Activities

- **Command**
  - Sets objectives
  - Sets priorities
  - Overall responsibility at the incident

- **Planning**
  - Develops the action plan to accomplish the objectives
  - Collects and evaluates information
  - Maintains resource status
  - Maintains incident documentation
Five Major Management Activities

- **Logistics**
  - Provides support to meet incident needs
  - Provides resources and all other services needed to support the incident

- **Finance/Administration**
  - Monitors costs related to incident
  - Provides accounting, procurement, time recording, and cost analyses
Five Major Management Activities

Operations

- Conducts tactical operations to carry out the plan
- Develops the tactical objectives, organization, and directs all resources
For Example:
World Trade Center
The World Trade Center
11 September, 2001

- The planning section was asked to develop a comprehensive plan for the rescue and recovery of the World Trade Center Disaster.

- The Incident Action Plan included a summary of the cooperating agencies (26+), objectives, daily assignments and accounted for resources.
For Example: Hurricane Rita
The challenge of bringing supplies while the evacuation is occurring...
An incident base was developed and managed to support in excess of 3,000 rescue personnel assigned to Eastern Texas.
For Example:
The Columbia Shuttle Recovery
Initial Response
Span of Control

- Number of resources
- Complexity of the incident
- What is needed
- Safety
- Cost effectiveness
- Resource protection
- Effective leadership
Earthquake Example – Using Roads as Divisions
Earthquake Example – Functional Groups

Operations Section Chief

Branch 1 Medical Aid
Branch 2 Site Security
Branch 3 Search and Rescue
Branch 4 Commodity Shelter
Example: Small Incident
Mt. Saint Helens – Volcano

- The responsible official requested an Incident Management Team comprised of the Command and General Staff to monitor and develop a public safety and education program while the volcano was active and presented a potential threat to local communities.
Example: Small to Complex Incident
Fire – Dynamic
Example of a Complex Incident
Hurricane Ivan: Multi-Branch
Multi-Branch Organization
Multi-Agency Coordination Groups

Response Agencies
- Police
- Medical
- Fire & Rescue
- Public Works
- etc.

Incident Commanders

Incident Status
Situation Summary

Resource Availability

EOCs

Responsible Official

Incident
Commander
Incident
Responsible Official

Area Command

Incident Commander - Incident A
Incident Commander - Incident B
Incident Commander - Incident C
Key Points of ICS

- Delegation of Authority
- Flexible and dynamic
- Provides consistency
- Relies on functionalism
- Works on all incidents no matter the scope or size
Summary

Incident Command System

- Provides a Plan
- Organizes the resources
- Implements the actions
- Supports all personnel
- Effective Leadership Model
Questions?