

ESTABLISHING COMMAND

The Incident Commander (IC) has overall authority. The IC is responsible for incident operations and the management at an incident. Clearly establish command by announcing the entity and individual assuming command and identify the location of the Incident Command Post. When multiple agencies or jurisdictions share authority, a Unified Command may be used and announced.

SINGLE COMMAND

The agency with primary jurisdictional authority over the incident designates the IC. He or she is the sole individual responsible for all incident activities, including the development of strategies and tactics as well as the ordering and the release of resources.

UNIFIED COMMAND

Unified Command is a management method used for multi-jurisdictional and/or multi-agency events. It provides an understanding of other agencies' legal requirements, plans, priorities, and restrictions.

UNIFIED COMMAND FEATURES

- A single integrated incident organization
- Co-located (shared) facilities
- A single, coordinated Incident Action Plan is developed to manage the incident
- Shared operations, planning, logistical, and finance/administration functions
- A coordinated process for resource ordering
- A single coordinated public information officer (PIO)

INCIDENT COMMANDER RESPONSIBILITIES

- Assess the situation
- Obtain brief from previous IC
- Establish immediate priorities
- Determine incident objectives and strategy
- Establish Incident Command Post (ICP)
- Establish and monitor incident organization
- Ensure adequate safety measures
- Schedule planning meetings
- Authorize Incident Action Plan (IAP)
- Coordinate activity of command staff
- Delegate tasks as appropriate
- Determine operational periods for staff
- Ensure regular communications and info sharing
- Coordinate with key off-incident personnel
- Approve requests and release of resources
- Approve use of additional personnel
- Authorize release of information to media
- Order demobilization when appropriate

TRANSFER OF COMMAND

The most qualified individual at the scene that has jurisdiction for the incident initially establishes command. Transfer of command may take place for the following reasons:

- A more qualified person assumes command
- The incident situation changes over time
- A jurisdictional or agency change in command is legally required
- A turnover of personnel normally occurs on long or extended incidents

BRIEFING CHECKLIST FOR TRANSFER OF COMMAND

- Current status of the incident
- Safety considerations and concerns
- Incident objectives and strategies
- Site organization
- Need for additional resources
- Deployment and assignment of operating units and personnel
- Potential for incident expansion
- Current organization chart

These visor cards are intended as guidelines only. Regulations of the appropriate local and national law enforcement agencies should also be consulted. American Military University 2010-2021 ©

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