Unit 2: ICS Overview
Unit Objectives

Identify:

- Three purposes of ICS.
- Requirements to use ICS.

Unit List

- Course Overview
  - ICS Overview
    - ICS Features & Principles
    - Incident Commander & Command Staff Functions
    - General Staff Functions
    - Unified Command
    - Course Summary – Putting It All Together
Click on the image to start the video.
What Is ICS?

ICS:

- Is a standardized, on-scene, all-hazards incident management concept.
- Enables a coordinated response among various jurisdictions and agencies.
- Establishes common processes for planning and management of resources.
- Allows for integration within a common organizational structure.
When Is ICS Used?

ICS can be used to manage:

- Natural hazards.
- Technological hazards.
- Human-caused hazards.
- Planned events.
What Is an Incident?

An incident is . . .

. . . an occurrence or event, natural or human-caused, that requires a response to protect life or property.
Activity: ICS & Planned Events

Instructions: Working as a team . . .

1. Briefly describe one example where ICS could be used to manage a planned event (e.g., sporting event).

2. Identify the benefits of using ICS for the selected event.

3. Select a spokesperson. Be prepared to present your example in 5 minutes.
Why Use ICS?

1. It Works!

2. Mandates
National Incident Management System (NIMS)

**What?** . . . NIMS provides a consistent nationwide template . . .

**Who?** . . . to enable Federal, State, tribal, and local governments, the private sector, and nongovernmental organizations to work together . . .

**How?** . . . to prepare for, prevent, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of incidents regardless of cause, size, location, or complexity . . .

**Why?** . . . in order to reduce the loss of life and property, and harm to the environment.
NIMS Components & ICS

- Preparedness
- Communications and Information Management
- Resource Management
- Command and Management
- Ongoing Management and Maintenance

Additional Information:  www.fema.gov/emergency/nims
Discussion Question

What are common causes of incident response problems?
Lessons Learned

Without ICS, incident responses typically:

- Lack accountability.
- Have poor communications.
- Use unsystematic planning processes.
- Are unable to efficiently integrate responders.
ICS Benefits

ICS helps to ensure:

- The safety of responders, workers, and others.
- The achievement of response objectives.
- The efficient use of resources.
Activity: Management Challenges

Instructions: Working as a team . . .

1. Review the scenario presented in your Student Manuals.
2. Identify the top three challenges in 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 10 minutes.
Summary

ICS:

- Is a standardized management tool for meeting the demands of small or large emergency and nonemergency situations.
- Represents best practices, and has become the standard for emergency management across the country.
- May be used for planned events, natural disasters, and acts of terrorism.
- Is a key feature of NIMS.