

Incident Command

WRAPPING YOUR ARMS AROUND THE INCIDENT

Randal Collins

President, All Hazards Incident Management Teams Association

National Director, Red Star® Emergency Rescue for Animals

Discussion Points

- ▶ Identify situations when an AHIMT should be used
- ▶ Delegation of Authority to maximize resources
- ▶ Tactical resources in larger organizational structures
- ▶ Responder confusion about ICS organizational structure
- ▶ Causes of responder confusion
- ▶ Jurisdictional preparedness with an AHIMT
- ▶ Initial response to steady-state response
- ▶ Determining the area of responsibility
- ▶ Communications strategies from IC to tactical resources

Quick Exercise

- ▶ Incident based on generalities
- ▶ Type 3 incident occurs
- ▶ 911 dispatch process
- ▶ Initial responders
- ▶ Mutual Aid
- ▶ AHIMT is deployed to the incident

Responder Confusion

- ▶ Disaster / Large Scale Incident
- ▶ Unfamiliar people
- ▶ Ignorance of plans
- ▶ Too many tasks, too few resources
- ▶ Exhaustion
- ▶ Pride and politics

Consequences of Responder Confusion

- ▶ Isolation
- ▶ Safety issues
- ▶ Ineffectiveness
- ▶ Inefficiencies
- ▶ Animosity

Confusion with AHIMTs

- ▶ Responder titles (Single Resource, Task Force, Group, etc)
- ▶ Who is in charge?
- ▶ Where does resource support come from?
- ▶ Working outside your agency (single agency vs joint operations)

Observed in real-world incidents and in exercises

Deciding to use an AHIMT

- ▶ Incidents without a clear jurisdictional authorities
- ▶ Joint operations
- ▶ Need to align operations
- ▶ Significant mutual aid
- ▶ Reduce duplication of effort
- ▶ Streamline resource ordering
- ▶ High incident complexity
- ▶ Consistency over several operational periods
- ▶ When incident requires good documentation

Incident Examples

- ▶ Tornado
- ▶ Flood (flash or riverine)
- ▶ Train accident
- ▶ Plane crash
- ▶ Snow storm
- ▶ Wind storm
- ▶ Special events

Preparing your Jurisdiction

- ▶ Only if you plan to use an AHIMT
- ▶ Proper planning
- ▶ Train responders to the plan
- ▶ Exercise the plan
- ▶ ICS Training
- ▶ Familiarization process
- ▶ Plan for daily ops and disaster ops

The Area of Operation

- ▶ Defined in the delegation of authority
- ▶ Realize that the IC will not be “on-scene”
- ▶ Ensure responders understand the difference

Transition in Disaster

- ▶ Tactical pause
- ▶ Daily operations to disaster operations
- ▶ Top down and bottom up
- ▶ Communicate
- ▶ Affirm command (Do not assume)
- ▶ Fake it till you make it

Communicating with Tactical Resources

- ▶ Through administrative chain of command
- ▶ Liaison Officer to Agency Representatives
- ▶ Through the operational chain of command
- ▶ Over the radio
- ▶ Via flyer
- ▶ Safety Officer to resources
- ▶ Billboards (Not the interstate, silly)
- ▶ Operational period briefings
- ▶ Social media

Tactical Resource Re-designation

- ▶ Understand new role
- ▶ Understand they are still in charge of same area
- ▶ Understand they are no longer the IC
- ▶ Understand how to request additional support
- ▶ Understand concurrent operations around them

Where is the IC?

- ▶ May not be at a tactical resources location
- ▶ May not have eyes on every area that operations are occurring
- ▶ Understand the incident scene is bigger than just your location
- ▶ Has not removed your power to act
- ▶ The IC is on-scene, they are just not with you

Conclusion

- ▶ Identify situations when an AHIMT should be used
- ▶ Delegation of Authority to maximize resources
- ▶ Tactical resources in larger organizational structures
- ▶ Responder confusion about ICS organizational structure
- ▶ Causes of responder confusion
- ▶ Jurisdictional preparedness with an AHIMT
- ▶ Initial response to steady-state response
- ▶ Determining the area of responsibility
- ▶ Communications strategies from IC to tactical resources

Questions

Randal A. Collins, President

All Hazards Incident Management Teams Association

National Director, Red Star® Rescue for Animals

(317) 412-5935

Randal.collins@att.net

Thank-you