Incident Command System

The Incident Command System (ICS) is a process to effectively manage a critical incident that identifies specific responsibilities to assist in the command and coordination of objectives and resources. ICS has a flexible structure that can be adapted to fit the needs of the incident. The objective is to identify specific persons in charge of specific functions, thereby limiting the span of control to a manageable level. Each function has specific responsibilities to address, which include at a minimum:

A.   Command Function

- Activate the Incident Command System and establish a Command Post.
- Initiate notification and mobilization of additional personnel and resources.
- Establish a Staging Area and additional functions as necessary.
- Establish immediate priorities and develop incident objectives and coordination of resources.
- Coordinate response with other disciplines and jurisdictions as necessary.
- Provide for release of information to the media and public.
- Order demobilization when appropriate and prepare an after-action report.

B.   Operations Function

- Identifies, assigns, and supervises the resources needed to accomplish the incident objectives.
- Direct the tactical operations to achieve incident objectives.
- Establish perimeters and traffic control.
- Maintain scene security and close communication with IC.
- Request additional resources as needed.
- Conduct evacuations and provide for prisoner control.
- Coordinate post-incident investigation.

C.   Planning Function

- Collect, manage, and disseminate information and intelligence.
- Prepare incident action plan and other required documentation.
- Develop alternative strategies and contingency plans.
- Determine need for specialized resources to support the incident.
- Compile and display incident status information.
- Develop staffing and resource schedules for duration of incident.
- Prepare demobilization plan.

D.   Logistics Function

- Facilities
- Transportation

- Communications
- Supplies
- Food and medical services for first responders
- Equipment maintenance and fueling
- Specialized team and equipment needs

E.   Finance/Administration Function

- Manage all financial aspects of an incident.
- Record personnel time and expenses.
- Procure additional resources as directed.
- Document injuries and liability issues.
- Prepare required forms and documents as needed.

Sample Incident Command Structure:

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                    ┌──────────────────────┐        ┌──────────┐
                    │  Incident Commander  │────────│   EOC    │
                    │   Unified Command    │        └──────────┘
                    └──────────────────────┘
        ┌─────────┐          │
        │   PIO   │──────┐    │
        └─────────┘      │  ┌─────────────────┐
                         ├──│  Liaison/Safety │
        ┌─────────┐      │  └─────────────────┘
        │ Staging │──────┘
        └─────────┘          │
         ┌───────────┬───────┴───────┬────────────────┐
    ┌──────────┐ ┌──────────┐ ┌──────────┐ ┌────────────────┐
    │Operations│ │ Planning │ │Logistics │ │    Finance     │
    │          │ │          │ │          │ │ Administration │
    └──────────┘ └──────────┘ └──────────┘ └────────────────┘
         │
    ┌────┴─────┬───────────┬──────────────────┐
┌──────────┐ ┌────────┐ ┌──────────┐ ┌──────────────┐
│Perimeter │ │Traffic │ │Tactical /│ │Investigations│
│          │ │        │ │Strike    │ │              │
│          │ │        │ │Teams     │ │              │
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