

Incident Command System (ICS) Overview for C4C Crisis Response Volunteers

Why do I need this training?

When you assist on an Incident (the same thing as Crisis) you need to understand that you are a part of the overall response operation and that it utilizes a flexible, adaptive, repeatable process of management known as the Incident Command System.

You must understand its basics and agree to work within it.

The Incident Command System:

Is a standardized, on-scene, all-hazards incident management concept.

Allows its users to adopt an integrated organizational structure to match the complexities and demands of single or multiple incidents without being hindered by jurisdictional boundaries

Using Incident Management best practices,

ICS helps to ensure:

1. The safety of responders and the public.
2. The achievement of tactical objectives.
3. The efficient cost-effective use of resources to achieve tactical objectives.

Examples of Incidents Managed Using ICS

Fire, both structural and wildland

Natural disasters, such as hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, ice storms, or earthquakes

Human and animal disease outbreaks

Search and rescue missions

Hazardous materials incidents

Terrorist incidents, including the use of weapons of mass destruction

Even planned events, such as parades or demonstrations

The complexity of the incident dictates the size of the Incident Management organization needed to manage it.

The first responder on scene is the Incident Commander. That single individual assumes all incident management responsibilities (positions).

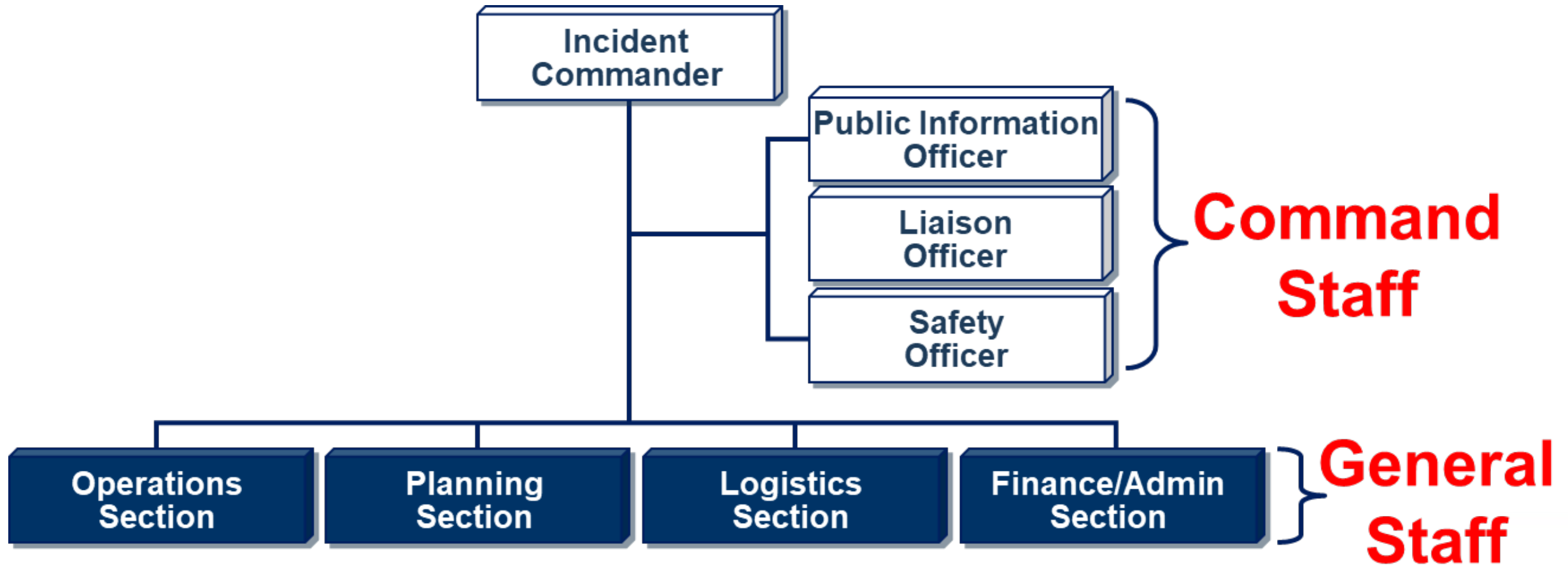
1. This single position continues until the incident is completed, if no other positions are in need of filling or that individual is not replaced by a more qualified Incident Commander .
2. If the complexity increases requiring the Incident Commander to fill other management positions, only needed positions will be filled.
3. As soon as the complexity of the incident allows it, the organization will be reduced to manage effectively.

The following slide represents a management organization of moderate complexity where all 8 positions of the Command and General Staff are filled.

It should be noted that although these positions are responsible for getting the tactical objectives done, it is not until the lower levels are filled out with the appropriate technical labor force in each category and divided up into the appropriate work areas, that anything is accomplished.

The critical thing for each C4C volunteer to realize is that you will not be part of the General Staff positions or Operations. We will be part of the responsibilities of the Liaison Officer or, possibly, the Public Information Officer.

Basic Command and General Staff Chart



INCIDENT OPERATIONAL PERIODS

Describes how much time a management organization takes to bring the crisis to a close

- Single operational period (initial response):
 - May be managed solely by local jurisdiction
 - Possibly involves mutual aid
 - May extend 3 to 12+ hours
- Multiple operational periods (extended response):
 - Incident extends beyond one operational period
 - hours to days, weeks, months, sometimes years

LIAISON OFFICER

LOFR

- Identifies cooperating and assisting agencies (Salvation Army and Red Cross are here)
- Determines capabilities of cooperating and assisting agencies
- Confirms names and contact location of agency representatives
- Identifies special agency needs

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

PIO

- Determines methods to be used for information flow
- Identifies politically sensitive issues
- Coordinates information release with the IC (we could be assisting at public meetings at the IC's discretion)
- Identifies other agencies that may assist with information release

The C4C Chief-of-Party must know where we are in the organization and who we are working for, “at all times”.

Don't be afraid to ask your Chief-of-Party questions.

Don't start an assignment, or even a new day, without all the information you need to be safe and do the job right.

We are part of a well thought out plan. We have a small piece of the pie. Stay in your lane and don't try to do someone else's job.

There is only one thing worse than not having a plan, and that is having 2 plans!!!!