

SAR Use of the Incident Command System

SEARCH ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

Clark County Sheriff Core Comp Rev. # 2018.1
ICS in SAR

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Course Objectives

- Core Competency Objectives
- ICS Basics
- ICS Position Requirements
- Mission Levels of Response

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Core Competency Objectives

- This session will comply and meet Core Comp Criteria for:
 - **SEARCH ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT**

Requirement	Classroom - Performance Criteria
Through written evaluation the applicants will demonstrate knowledge of the search organization and management involved in Search and Rescue in the State of Washington.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The ground team's position in the ICS structure and organization chart.2. The five functional sections of the ICS structure.3. The purpose of the assignment briefing and debriefing.4. The function of the Medical Team Leader and Communications Team Leader.5. The function of check in and out procedures.6. Understand the role and functions provided by Public Information Officer (PIO) in reference to a SAR mission, and the public, news media, and other agencies.

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General ICS Principles (Incident Command System)

- ICS is used for mission management.
- There always needs to be an Incident Commander.
- Other positions are filled as needed to maintain a proper span of control or to fulfill the planning, operational, and logistical needs of the mission.
- The general rule for span of control is one supervisor for 3-7 reporting subordinates.

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NIMS Overview

- What?... National Incident Management System that provides a consistent nationwide framework...
- 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.

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National Interagency Incident Management System

- WHAT?... NIIMS designed by a group of local, state, and federal agencies with fire protection responsibilities...
- WHY?... To improve the ability of fire protection forces responding to any type of emergency...
- How?... By combining the best parts of the Large Fire Organization and the Incident Command System used across the nation for wild land fire operations and other emergencies...

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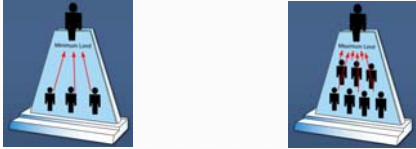
Application Of Updated ICS Practices To SAR

- SAR Management, like most other ICS applications is evolving, however:
 - The primary crucial rules still apply.
 - The basic strategies apply with a few updates.
- Upcoming changes within SAR include:
 - Addition of unique position titles.
 - Identification of levels of response.
 - Types of Mission Documentation that units should use on search missions.

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Span of Control

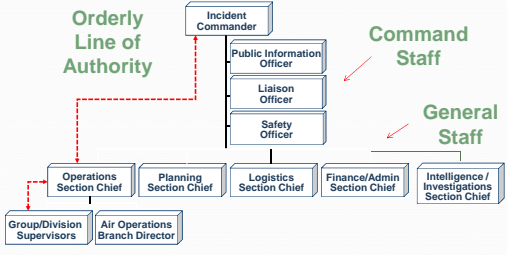
- The number of subordinates a supervisor, manager, or lead has on a mission.
- ICS span of control for any supervisor:
 - Is between 3 and 7 subordinates.
 - Optimally does not exceed 5 subordinates.



Graphic from: I-300 "Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents"

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Chain of Command



Graphic from: I-300 "Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents"

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Recommended Training for Incident Command Team Members

- IS-100, 200, 300, 400, and 700
- Search Management Training (*In-County Basic*)
- Attend "**Search Management for the Initial Response Incident Commander**" and/or "**Search Management Systems**" through WA-Emergency Management Division
- Has been evaluated in the position on Mock Search before being assigned on a real mission

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Incident Commanders (IC)

- The IC is the one position that must be filled on all missions and has overall responsibility for managing the incident. General duties are:
 - Overall command and control.
 - Ensures incident responder safety.
 - Protects health and safety of the general public and the environment.
 - Provides information to internal and external stakeholders.
 - Maintains liaison with other agencies.
 - First responder on scene is the IC and all other needed positions until other qualified people arrive on scene.

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Operations Section Chief (OSC)

- When activated, this position reports to the IC as a General Staff Member and is responsible for:
 - Manages the Operations Section.
 - Develops and implements strategies and tactics as approved by IC.
 - Works very closely with other members of the Command and General Staff to coordinate tactical activities.

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Plans Section Chief (PSC)

- Gathers, analyzes, and disseminates intelligence and information.
- Manages the planning process.
- Compiles and develops the Incident Action Plan and Map Products.
- Manages the activities of Technical Specialists.
- Works closely with the Incident Commander and General Staff.

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Logistics Section Chief (LSC)

- Provides resources and services as needed to support the incident.
- Develops portions of the Incident Action Plan.
- Works with other sections to determine present and future needs.
- Is responsible for Base and Support Operations:
 - communications
 - medical
 - food & shelter
 - transportation

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Intelligence / Investigation Chief

- Different from operational and situational intelligence gathered and reported by the Planning Section
- Intelligence/Investigations gathered within this function is information that either leads to the detection, prevention, apprehension, and prosecution of criminal activities (or the individual(s) involved).

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Safety Officer

- Monitors safety conditions at the search.
- Ensures responder safety to and from the scene.
- Advises Incident Command on safety issues.
- Minimizes responder risk.
- The role of the Safety Officer is within the ICS level of Command Staff.

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Public Information Officer

Public Information Officer serves as the conduit for information to internal and external stakeholders, including the media or other organizations seeking information directly from the incident or event.

- Advise the Incident Commander on information dissemination and media relations.
- Serve as the primary contact for anyone who wants information.
- Serve external audience and internal audience.
- Obtain information from the Planning Section.
- Coordinate with other public information staff.
- Obtain information from the community, the media, and others.

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Qualified Group Supervisor

- Current in SAR Skills, Survival, Navigation, Basic First Aid/CPR/BBP Card, & Team Specialty Qualifications
- IS-100, 200, and 700 (*Online version one time only*)
- IS-300 (*Approved interactive course*)
- Search Management Training (*In-County Basic*)
- If possible, attend "***Search Management for the Initial Response Incident Commander***"
- Has filled position on Mock Searches before being assigned on a real mission

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Duties of a Group Supervisor

- Get initial brief and assignment information from IC team
- Break unit into teams with appropriate management
- Get team signed in
- Maintains Unit Log of all unit operations
- Make team assignments as needed to accomplish assigned mission tasks
- Brief field staff of assignment specifics
- Pass information from the field to command team in a timely fashion
- Maintains communication with field units
- Facilitate logistical needs of your unit
- Track team status for volunteers under your command
- Attend mission critical Operation Leader meetings
- Collect and forward all assignment debrief information

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Qualified STL/TFL (Field Leader)

- Current in SAR Skills, Survival, Navigation, First Aid, & Team Specialty Qualifications
- IS-100, 200, and 700 (*Online version one time only*)
- IS-300 (*Recommended*)
- Knowledge of Basic SAR Management (*County Level*)
- Has filled position on Mock Searches before being assigned on a real mission.

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Strike Team Leader (STL)

- Strike Team Leader – is in charge of a set of resources of the same kind and type with common communications.

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A Task Force Leader (TFL)

- Is in charge of a number of mixed resources with common communications.

The diagram illustrates a Task Force Leader (TFL) at the top level. Below the TFL are three Team Leaders (TL). Each TL is connected to a group of resources: the first TL has a person icon, the second TL has a group of four person icons, and the third TL has two vehicle icons. This represents a mixed resource team under a single leader.

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Duties of a STL/TFL

- Brief teams on initial and follow-up assignments and be sure assignments are understood
- Coordinate for the needs of teams under your supervision
- Be the "eyes and ears" of the Division/Group in the field
- Maintain communication between teams and supervisor
- Monitor the safety of team members
- Ensure search tactics are properly applied
- Ensure clue & subject finds are properly handled
- Ensure subject finds are properly applied
- Keep a log of actions taken while on assignment
- Monitor progress of teams and report progress to supervisor
- Debrief teams between assignments
- Turn in search logs to Division/Group Supervisor

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Mission Levels of Response

One of the advantages of utilizing the ICS mission management philosophy is that the organization is flexible and can be utilized to manage all types and sizes of incidents. Staffing of the management team also varies as the needs of the incident dictates. The two most basic response levels include:

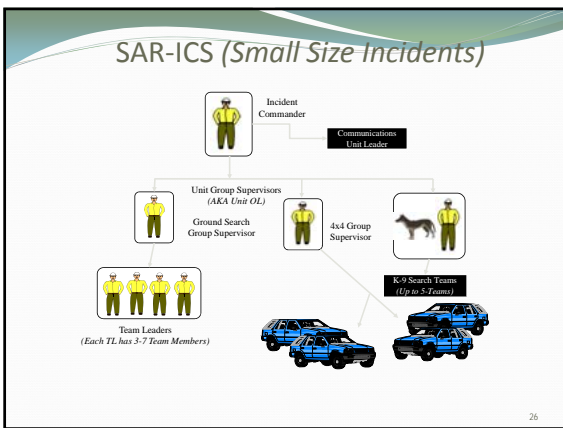
- Initial Response
 - Generally the first operational period
 - Or a low urgency search that may last for more than one operational period
- Expanded Response
 - Covers most missions lasting more than the first 24 hours

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Response Level Characteristics

- The size of the response is directly related to the functional needs and urgency of the mission.
- Initial Response (Low Urgency or Need)
 - Usually lasts less than 24 hours
 - Usually utilizes hasty search tactics
 - High emphasis on the investigation
 - Generally a small number of resources
 - Minimal overhead
 - Incident Action Plan is optional
 - Search area being established

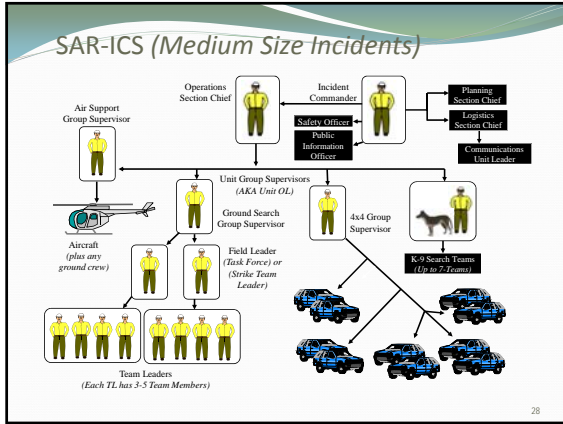
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Extended Response

- Beyond first 12-24 hours.
- Generally utilizes extended hasty search tactics but Type-2 search tactics are often seen.
- Investigation continues but is a smaller part of overall effort.
- Larger search staff numbers & type diversity
- Formal command structure.
- Incident Action Plan necessary.
- Well-defined search area with sub-units identified.

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Questions on ICS

- Note: You still need to take the NIMS IS-100 and 700 courses.

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