Incident Command System: An Overview
Objectives

• Describe Incident Command System (ICS) and how it can be applied;
• Define roles and responsibilities of Senior Officials;
• Describe ICS organization and responsibilities of Command and General Staffs; and
• Describe differences between on-scene ICS activities and activities that are accomplished by Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Councils (DRRMCs).
Background

- The Filipinos has always lived in harm’s way from natural hazards because of the country’s geography and geology.

- In addition, there are other emerging hazards that Filipinos have to contend with such as climate change, pandemic situations and acts of terrorism that require effective and efficient response management system.
The lessons of past disaster events have also manifested the inadequacy and/or lack of an effective on-scene management of emergency operations and confirmed the gaps, i.e., the absence of an Incident Commander at the inception of the incident; no ICP and poor crowd control and media management.
Legal Basis and Institutionalization

- Sec. 9 (g), RA 10121 - “To formulate standard operating procedures for coordination before and after disasters at all levels”.

- Rule 7 (h), IRR, RA 10121 - OCD shall “establish the Incident Command System (ICS) as part of the country’s on-scene disaster response system to ensure the effective consequence management of disasters or emergencies”.
Legal Basis and Institutionalization

- NDRRMC MC No. 4 dtd March 28, 2012 - Use of Incident Command System (ICS) as an On-Scene Disaster Response and Management Mechanism under the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management System (PDRRMS)

- Sec. 4 (d), EO No. 82 dtd September 4, 2012 - As soon as an incident is declared as approaching crisis level, the responding Crisis Manager activates the ICS.
What Is an Incident?

• An incident is . . .
  . . . an occurrence or event, natural or manmade, that requires a response to protect life or property.
What is ICS?

• Standardized, on-scene, all-hazards incident management concept.

• Integrated organizational structure that can match the complexities and demands of single or multiple incidents without being hindered by jurisdictional boundaries.

• Used on daily basis for routine incidents as well as major emergencies; activated at first response.
ICS Purposes

• ICS helps to ensure:
  – The safety of responders and others
  – The achievement of tactical objectives
  – The efficient use of resources
ICS Benefits

• Meets needs of incidents of any kind or size.
• Allows personnel from a variety of agencies to meld rapidly into a common management structure.
• Provides logistical/administrative support to operational staff.
• Is cost effective by avoiding duplication of efforts.
Incidents Managed Using ICS

- Natural disasters - typhoons, floods, earthquakes, tsunami
- Human and animal disease outbreaks
- Search and rescue missions
- Hazardous materials incidents
- Terrorist incidents
- Recovery operations
- Distribution of humanitarian assistance
- National security events such as Presidential visits
- Planned events such as parades
Basic Principles of ICS
Non-Permanent Organization

- ICS is only activated in response to an incident (or for planned non-emergency events).

- NOT a permanent organizational structure or secretariat.

- During an incident, ICS qualified personnel leave “regular” positions.
Unity of Command & Chain of Command

- **Chain of command**: orderly line of authority within the ranks of the incident management organization

- **Unity of command**: every individual has a designated supervisor to whom he or she reports at the scene of the incident
Span of Control

ICS span of control for any supervisor:
– Is between 3 and 7 subordinates.
– Optimally does not exceed 5 subordinates.
Modular Organization

- Develops in top-down, modular fashion
- Expands and contracts based on response needs
- Span of control is core ICS principle used to determine organizational structure
Delegation of Authority

- The **Responsible Official** establishes policy, direction, parameters, and delegates authority to the Incident Commander for the on-scene response.

- The **Incident Commander** has direct tactical and operational responsibility for conducting incident management activities.
Role of ICS in Overall Response

Law, Policy and Authority

Coordination, Strategy, Resources & Support

Command of On-Scene Operations

Executives

Disaster Risk Reduction & Management Council

DRRM Operations Center

Incident Command
Incident Management Roles

Incident Commander:
- Manages incident at the scene.
- Keeps Responsible Official and Disaster Risk Reduction & Management Council informed of all important matters pertaining to incident.

Responsible Official & DRRMC:
Provide the following to the Incident Commander:
- Policy
- Mission
- Strategic direction
- Authority
Reliance on an Incident Action Plan

• The Incident Commander creates an Incident Action Plan (IAP) that:
  – Specifies the incident objectives.
  – States the activities to be completed.
  – Covers a specified timeframe, called an operational period.
  – May be oral or written.
  – Takes into account legal and policy considerations and direction.
Resource Management

• Resource management includes processes for:
  – Categorizing resources
  – Ordering resources
  – Dispatching resources
  – Tracking resources
  – Recovering resources

• Also includes processes for reimbursement for resources, as appropriate
Common Terminology

• ICS requires use of common terminology, which helps define:
  – Organizational functions
  – Incident facilities
  – Resource descriptions
  – Position titles

• All ICS communications should use clear text
Integrated Communications

- Integrated ICS communications involve the following three (3) elements:
  
  a. *Communication plans that address resources and requirements.*
  
  b. *Modes of communication (hardware) to be used to transfer information.*
  
  c. *Procedures and processes for disseminating information.*
ICS
Organization
**Primary Functions**

**Command:** Overall responsibility for the incident. Sets objectives.

**Operations:** Develops the tactical organization and directs all resources to carry out the Incident Action Plan.

**Planning:** Develops the Incident Action Plan to accomplish the objectives.

**Logistics:** Provides resources and all other services needed to support the incident.

**Finance/Admin:** Monitors costs related to the incident. Provides overall fiscal guidance.
Incident Complexity and Resource Needs

Incident Complexity

Resource Needs

ICS Structure
Large Disaster – All Units Activated

- Incident Commander
  - Public Information Officer
  - Safety Officer

  Operations Section
  - Branches
    - Divisions
      - Strike Team
    - Groups
      - Task Force
    - Single Resource
  - Air Ops Branch

  Planning Section
  - Resources Unit
    - Situation Unit
    - Doc. Unit
  - Demob. Unit

  Logistics Section
  - Service Branch
    - Commun. Unit
    - Medical Unit
    - Food Unit
  - Support Branch
    - Supply Unit
    - Facilities Unit
    - Ground Support Unit

  Finance/Admin. Section
  - Time Unit
  - Procurement Unit
  - Compensation Claims Unit
  - Cost Unit
ICS “Ladderized” Training

• Incident Command System Basic / Intermediate Course (3 days)

• Integrated Planning Course (5 days)

• Position Courses (5 days)

• All-Hazard Incident Management Team (5 days)
THANK YOU