## Oil or Chemical Spill Notification

call the National Response Center at
**800-424-8802**

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## Oil Spill Response

in the Region IV Coastal Zone,
contact the U.S. Coast Guard
Marine Safety Office (MSO):

MSO Wilmington, NC
910-792-8408

MSO Charleston, SC
843-724-7616

MSO Savannah, GA
912-652-4353

MSO Jacksonville, FL
904-247-7310

MSO Miami, FL
305-732-0160

MSO Tampa, FL
813-228-2189

MSO Mobile, AL
334-441-5121

In the Region IV Inland Zone,
contact the U.S. Environmental
Protection Agency:
404-562-8700

Inland Zone U.S. Coast Guard Offices are:

MSO Huntington, WV
800-253-7465

MSO Louisville, KY
800-253-7465

MSO Paducah, KY
502-442-1621

MSO Memphis, TN
901-544-3912

State Pollution Response Contacts are:

North Carolina
919-733-3300

South Carolina
Spill: 888-481-0125
Office: 803-896-4000

Georgia
404-656-4300

Florida
850-413-9911

Alabama
334-242-4378

Mississippi
601-352-9100

Tennessee
800-258-3300

Kentucky
800-928-2380

**Suggested References:**


Incident Command System National Training Curriculum: ICS Orientation
National Wildfire Coordinating Group
1994

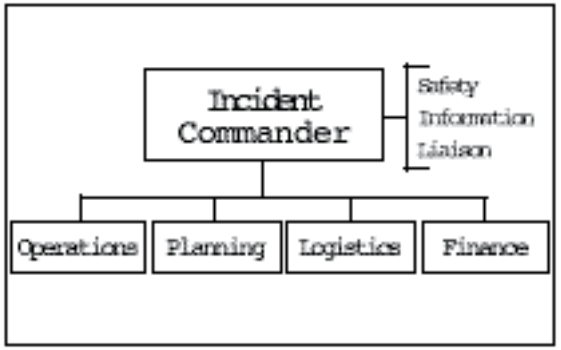
Principles and Features of ICS, 1994
National Inter-Agency Fire Center
Boise, Idaho


For information pertaining to training opportunities in your area please contact your local U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Office


Document prepared by:
Region IV
Regional Response Team

RRT IV Co-chairs:
U.S. Coast Guard 305-536-5651
U.S. EPA 404-562-8721


# INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM IN OIL SPILL RESPONSE



## Introduction

Significant oil spills involve numerous agencies and hundreds, possibly thousands, of people conducting and supporting cleanup efforts. To promote effective and quick coordination during oil spill responses, the Coast
Guard and the Environmental Protection Agency use a management system called the Incident Command System (ICS), a part of the National Interagency Incident Management System (NIIMS). ICS provides a comprehensive framework for managing emergency and
non-emergency events. Originally created to coordinate fire fighting efforts at forest fires, it has been expanded to an all-hazard, all-risk management system. Many applications exist for ICS because of its flexibility, including:

- Oil spill response
- Fires, hazardous material, and multi-casualty incidents
- Multi-jurisdictional and multi-agency disasters
- Wide area search and rescue
- Transportation incidents

Because NIIMS ICS is a public-domain system, training and implementation costs are minimized. Many agencies and companies involved in emergency response have adopted ICS, resulting in improved coordination of response efforts.

## Management Activities

The ICS organization is built around five major management activities:

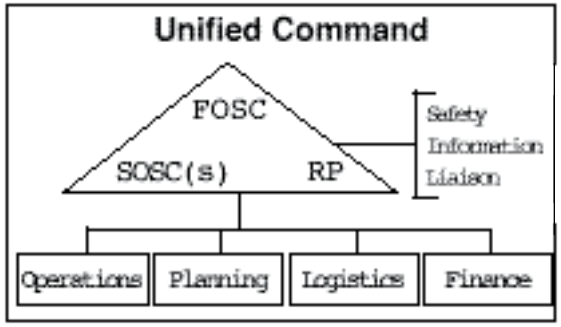
- *Incident Command* is responsible for all incident or event activity. Although other functions may be left unfilled, there will always be an Incident Commander.

- *Operations* is responsible for directing the tactical actions to meet incident objectives.

- *Planning* is responsible for the collection, evaluation, and display of incident information, maintaining status of resources, and preparing the Incident Action Plan (IAP) and incident-related documentation.

- *Logistics* is responsible for providing adequate services and support to meet all incident or event needs.

- *Finance/Administration* is responsible for keeping track of incident-related costs, personnel, and equipment records, and administering procurement contracts associated with the incident or event.




## Flexibility

The adaptability of ICS stems from the ability to expand or contract the organization as necessary. Small incidents may be managed by
one person, the Incident Commander. Large incidents require the functions of ICS to be set up as separate sections, which may be further subdivided. A basic principle that allows the ICS to expand and contract smoothly during an incident is that the person at the top is responsible until the authority is delegated to another person. Span of control is maintained at three to seven employees per supervisor. Smooth shift changes are fostered by established change-of-shift procedures.

## Unified Command

In some incidents, including oil spills, there are several organizations that may have shared authority to respond. ICS has the advantage of combining different Federal, State, and Local agencies and the Responsible Party into the same organizational system thereby, maximizing coordination of spill response activities and avoiding duplication of efforts. A structure called Unified Command allows the Incident Commander position to be shared among several agencies and organizations that have jurisdiction. In oil spills in the coastal zone, the Unified Command is typically comprised of the Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC), the State On-Scene Coordinator(s) (SOSC), and a Responsible Party representative (RP). This group sets the overall incident objectives and guides and approves the incident action plan. The Unified Command members retain their authority, but work to resolve issues in a cooperative fashion so maximum attention is given to response efforts.

## Planned Actions

Every incident has an oral or written incident action plan prepared for each operational period, a period of time chosen based on the nature of the incident, typically a half day, a day, or several days. A suite of ICS forms exists to help prepare the incident action plan, document the response, and help provide for effective information flow.

## Training

ICS training and pocket guides help the system run smoothly. A system is provided for the cycle of information gathering, briefings, and implementation.

## Summary

Originally developed to fight forest fires, ICS has grown into an incident management system that is widely adopted and used. Because of its flexible nature, low cost of implementation, and widespread use, it is an ideal system for emergency response.