Workgroup Incident Command Systems Recommendation

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- Member of the Akranes mountain search and rescue team since 1986
- Training:
  - Mountain Rescue
  - Search for missing person
  - Incident Command
Incident Command System or ICS...

Teamwork
What is needed?

• Skilled people
• Good training
• High morale
• Good system
People with skills for the job...

- At the accident site they...
  - Want to know their role
  - Work with people who understand their role
  - Work as fast as they can
  - Achieve the best results
  - Arrive home safely

- And to do so, a good system helps
During training time...

- Introduce the system
- Understand it
- Implement it
- Exercise it
ICS...

High morale for what...

- Volunteers
- More quality
- Less stress
- To achieve it helps to have a good system
The System

• Simple
• Understandable
• Close to reality
• Best practice
• Usable
Edward Deming’s circle of improvements
ICS...

The Recommendation

- Scalable and Modular: Easily supports the incident command team from 1 person to a large group without the need to change the system.
  - *It is very important not to change the system due to rapidly changing incident needs.*
ICS...
The Recommendation

• Usable for small scale local incidents to a large disaster stretching between communities or countries without the need to change the system.
  – As features expand, it is important that everyone understands the system and can merge directly into the system.
ICS...
The recommendation

• Standardized structure and terms.
  – That everyone is familiar with and trained in.
ICS...
The recommendation

• Workable in all environments
  – On land, at sea, in air.

• Just one system
ICS…
The Recommendation

- Integrated into national incident command systems
  - *The system must at least be able to talk to other systems, but preferably be similar or the same as other ICS used in the country.*
ICS...

The Recommendation

- **Integrated Communications:** Able to allow timely transmission of data and personal information under the laws of each country.
Glossary

Incident

- An expected or unexpected occurrence that needs a response from one or more agencies. It may or may not be an emergency.
Command

- Command operates vertically within an agency. It describes the internal ownership, administrative responsibility, and detailed direction of an agency’s personnel and resources. Command cannot normally be exercised outside of an agency without a clear delegation of authority.
System

- Structure used to organize the incident
Team

- A group of rescue persons working for the same goal on a callout
Standardized

- The same word for structures and terms.
Scalable

- One person to multiple jurisdictions.
Modular

- Expandable to different system components based on the needs of the incident.
Next Steps

• Define what is needed in the system
• How far will we go in the next recommendation
• We need to look at some challenges
  – Registering and logging
  – Share information
  – Define key positions
From You...

- If this system is going to be usable, we need your involvement:
  - Your good ideas
  - Point out problems that could delay the project
  - Compare the recommended ICS to previous actions
As the man once said...

- Please don't die with a perfect plan...
- Every plan is perfect when it is published, but “No plan survives first contact with the enemy”
- Flexibility is the Key!
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