

Safety in Search and Rescue: Dealing with “Go-Fever”

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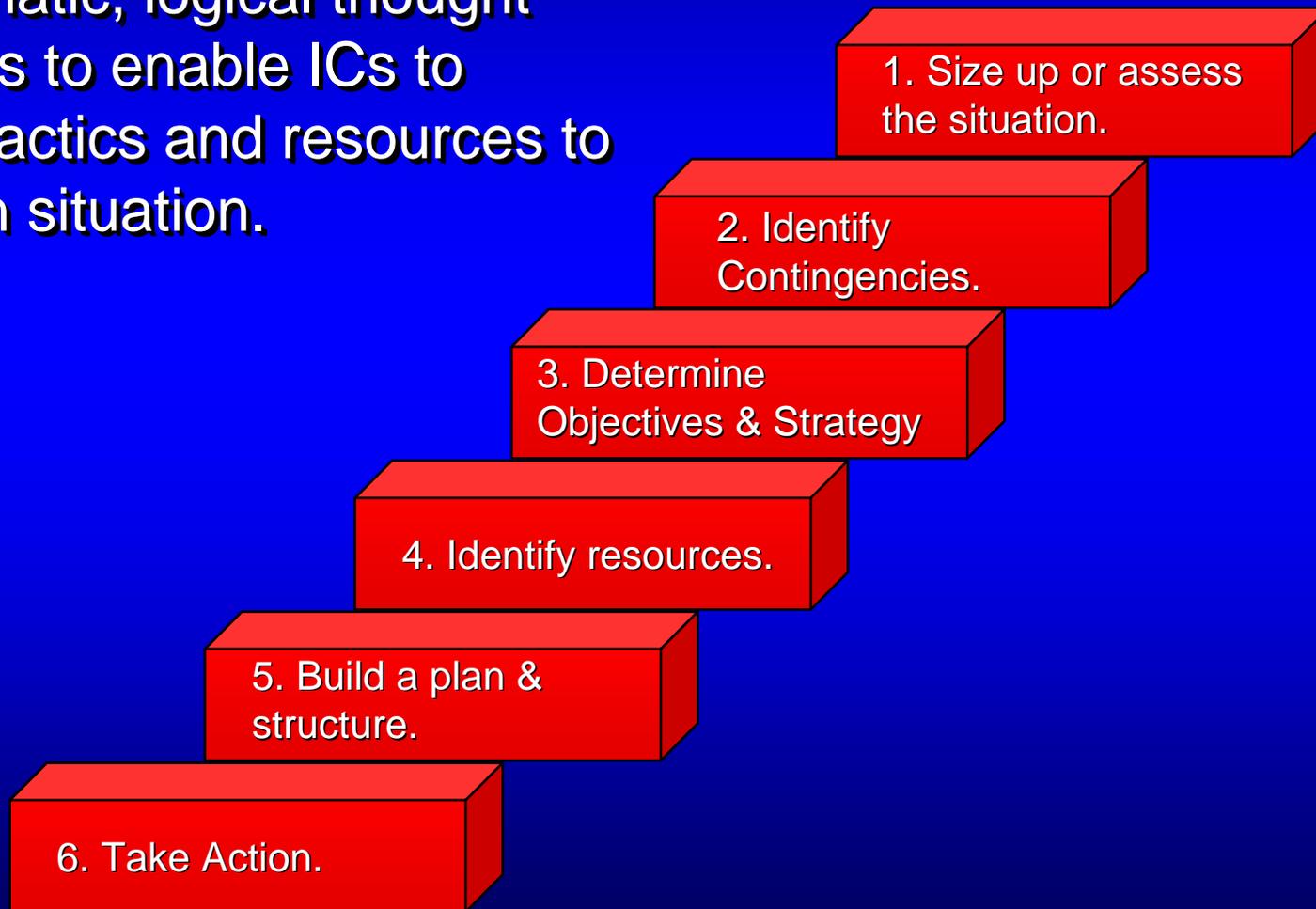
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LEADERSHIP

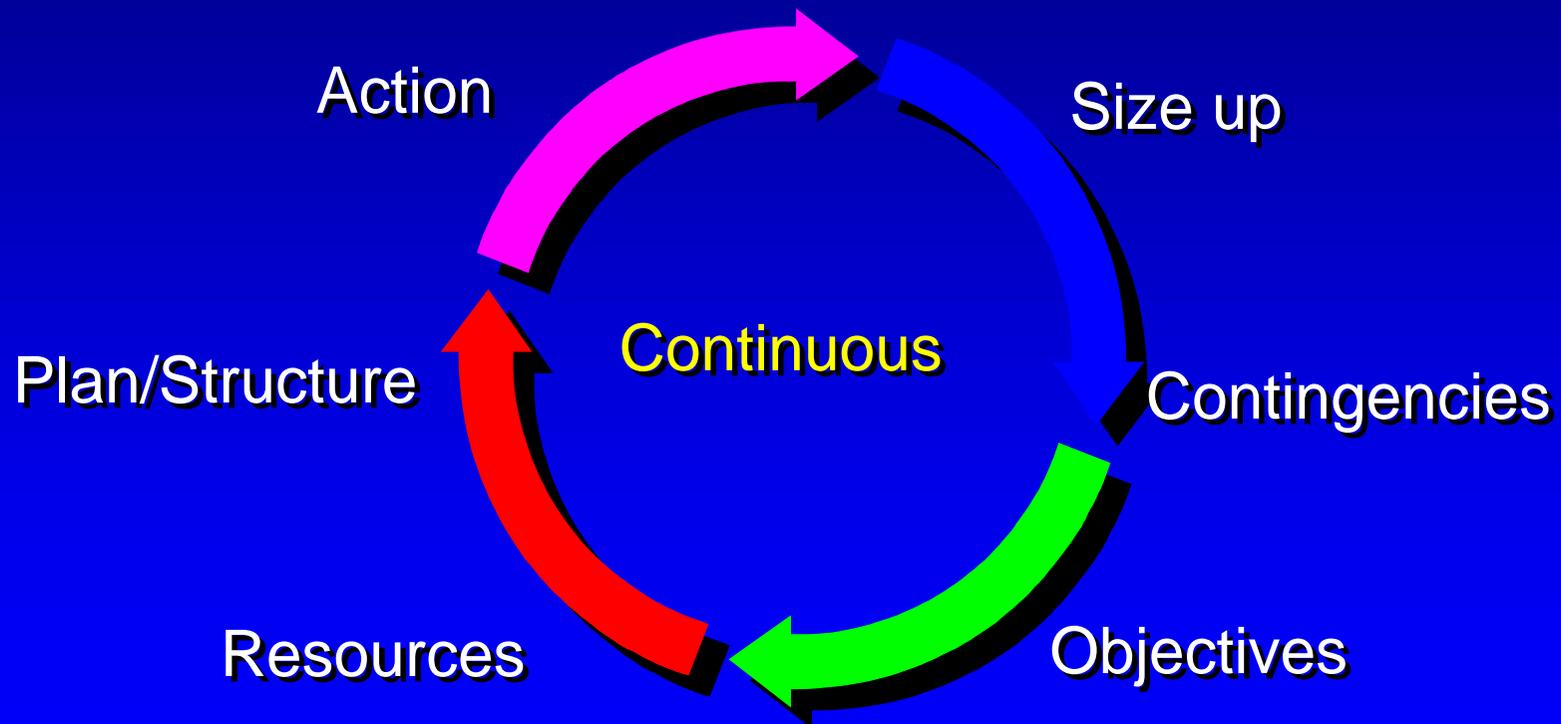
**Capacity to move others
toward a common goal,
with a focus and competency they
would not achieve on their own.**

SIX-STEP INCIDENT RESPONSE PROCESS

Systematic, logical thought process to enable ICs to apply tactics and resources to a given situation.



INCIDENT RESPONSE PROCESS



SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

- ✓ “Press on regardless” mentality?
- ✓ NASA concept of “go fever”
- ✓ Stop and Reassess
- ✓ All rescuers must be encouraged to speak up
- ✓ Someone must always look at the “big picture”

Go-Fever

- **defined as an inevitable and relentless march towards conducting a mission in a particular manner before the facts are fully analyzed**

Columbia Space Shuttle

“ Well-intentioned people and high-risk organizations can become victims of the normalization of deviance.” Although there had been several close calls before both the Columbia and the Challenger disasters, “The unexpected became the expected, which became the accepted.”

1994 Mount Rainier

- Party of three rescuers
- Lack of adequate training
- Subject with sprained ankle
- Poor communications
- Disengaged leadership
- Press-on mentality
- Death of two rescuers

2002 incident- Mount Hood

- Snow Boarder missing over 24 hours
- Call to distant teams
- Availability of large helicopters
- Decision to transport rescuers
- Counter-productive in the long term
- Revealed in after-action review

Decision to Search

- **Is the subject really in the search area?**
- **Does the family provide reliable information?**
- **When do rumors become fact?**
- **A decision NOT to search should be carefully reviewed, just as the decision based on “go fever.”**

Knowing your limits:

Machismo

vs.

Safety

SMEAC

- **Situation**
- **Mission - Incident Objective**
- **Execution - Strategy & Tactical objectives**
- **Administration and Logistics**
- **Command and Communications**

After Action Review

- **What was the mission?**
- **Did we accomplish the mission?**
- **Did we perform safely?**
- **What could have been done differently?**
- **What lessons can be applied to the next mission?**

IN SUMMARY

“How to avoid “go-fever”?”

✓ *Analyze*

✓ *Organize*

✓ *Step Back*

✓ *Action*



***US Mountain Rescue
Spring Meeting
Alaska 2004***







*2005 International
Workshop and Conference
Vail, Colorado, June 14 -19, 2005
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