CERT Basic Training



CERT COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

FEMA

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Unit 2: CERT Organization



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Unit Objectives

- Describe the CERT organizational structure
- Explain the Incident Command System (ICS) and how CERT operates within this structure
- Describe the 9-step one-scene size-up process
- Describe how to use CERT standard documents

PM 2-1

Principles of On-Scene Management



- Maintain the safety of disaster workers
- Provide clear leadership and organizational structure
- Improve effectiveness of rescue efforts

PM 2-2

CERT On-Scene Management



- Well-defined management structure
- Manageable span of control
- Common terminology
- Effective communication
- Consolidated action plans
- Comprehensive resource management
- Accountability

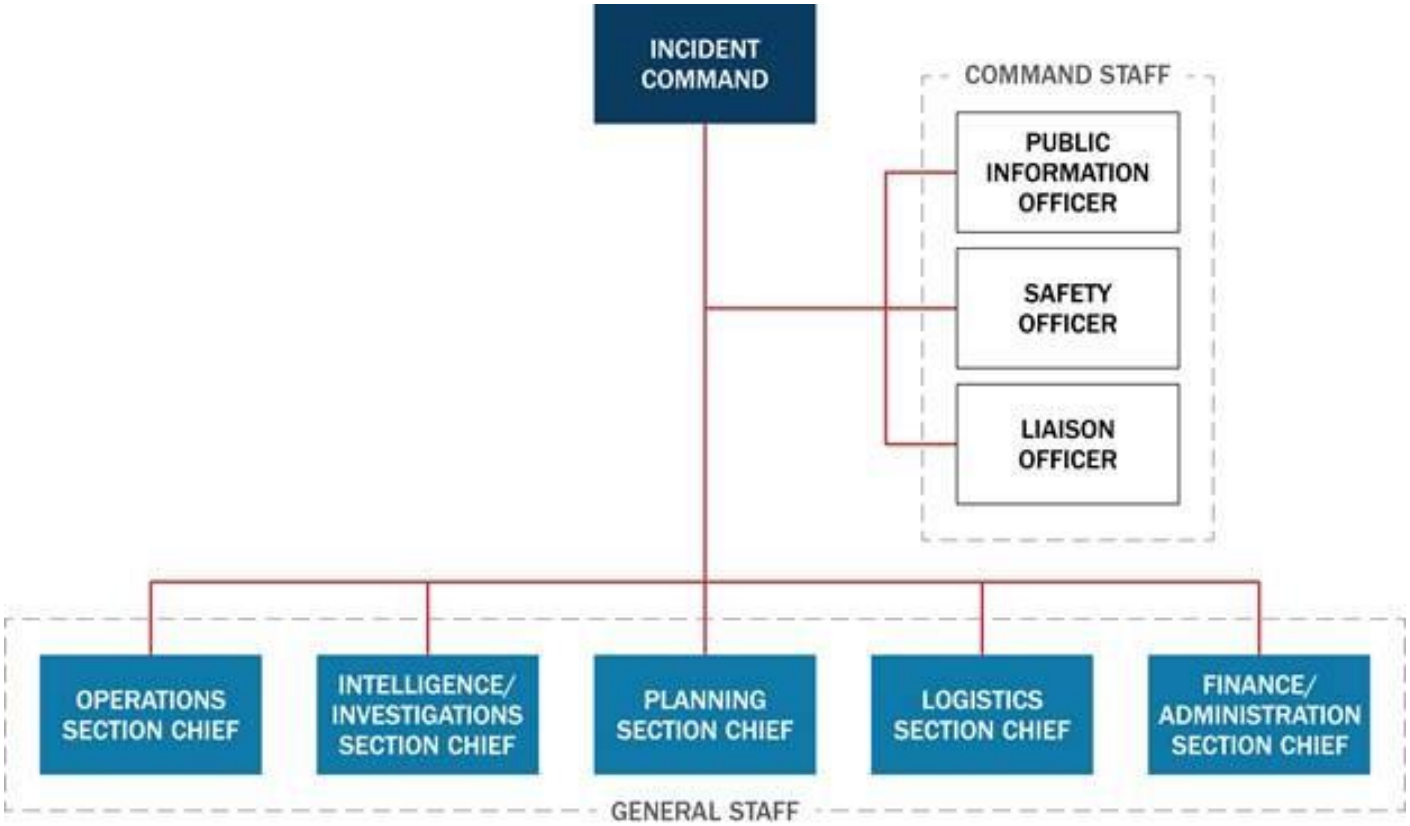
PM 2-2

Objectives for On-Scene Management

- Identify scope of incident
- Determine overall strategy
- Deploy resources
- Document actions and results

PM 2-2

Incident Command System



PM 2-3

CERT Operations

- Command structure
- CERT Team Leader
- Command Post
- Expanded structure as needed

PM 2-5

Dealing with the Media

- Refer media inquiries to CERT Incident Commander/Team Leader
- Do not let media inhibit CERT goals
- Be careful about information released



PM 2-6

NIMS Implementation

- Ability to work together
- IS-100: Introduction to ICS
  - https://emilms.fema.gov/IS100c/curriculum/1.html
- IS-700: Introduction to NIMS
  - https://emilms.fema.gov/IS700b/curriculum/1.html



PM 2-6

Exercise 2.1

- Using your knowledge about the ICS functions, decide under which function the following CERT activities would fall. Some activities may involve more than one function to be completed
- Use the following key to fill in the blanks before each activity:
  - Team Leader = TL
  - Operations = O
  - Planning = P
  - Logistics = L

PM 2-6

CERT Mobilization

- CERTs take care of themselves, their families, their homes, their neighbors
- Proceed to predesignated staging area
- TL is established, organizes the group
- TL prioritizes actions
- Organization is flexible and evolves based on new information

PM 2-8

On-Scene Size-up

1. Gather Facts
2. Assess and Communicate Damage
3. Consider Probabilities
4. Assess Your Own Situation
5. Establish Priorities
6. Make Decisions
7. Develop Plan of Action
8. Take Action
9. Evaluate Progress

PM 2-9

Rescuer Safety

- Rescuer safety = first priority
- Heavy damage = No rescue
- Moderate damage = Locate, assess, evacuate
- Light damage = Locate, assess, continue size-up, and document

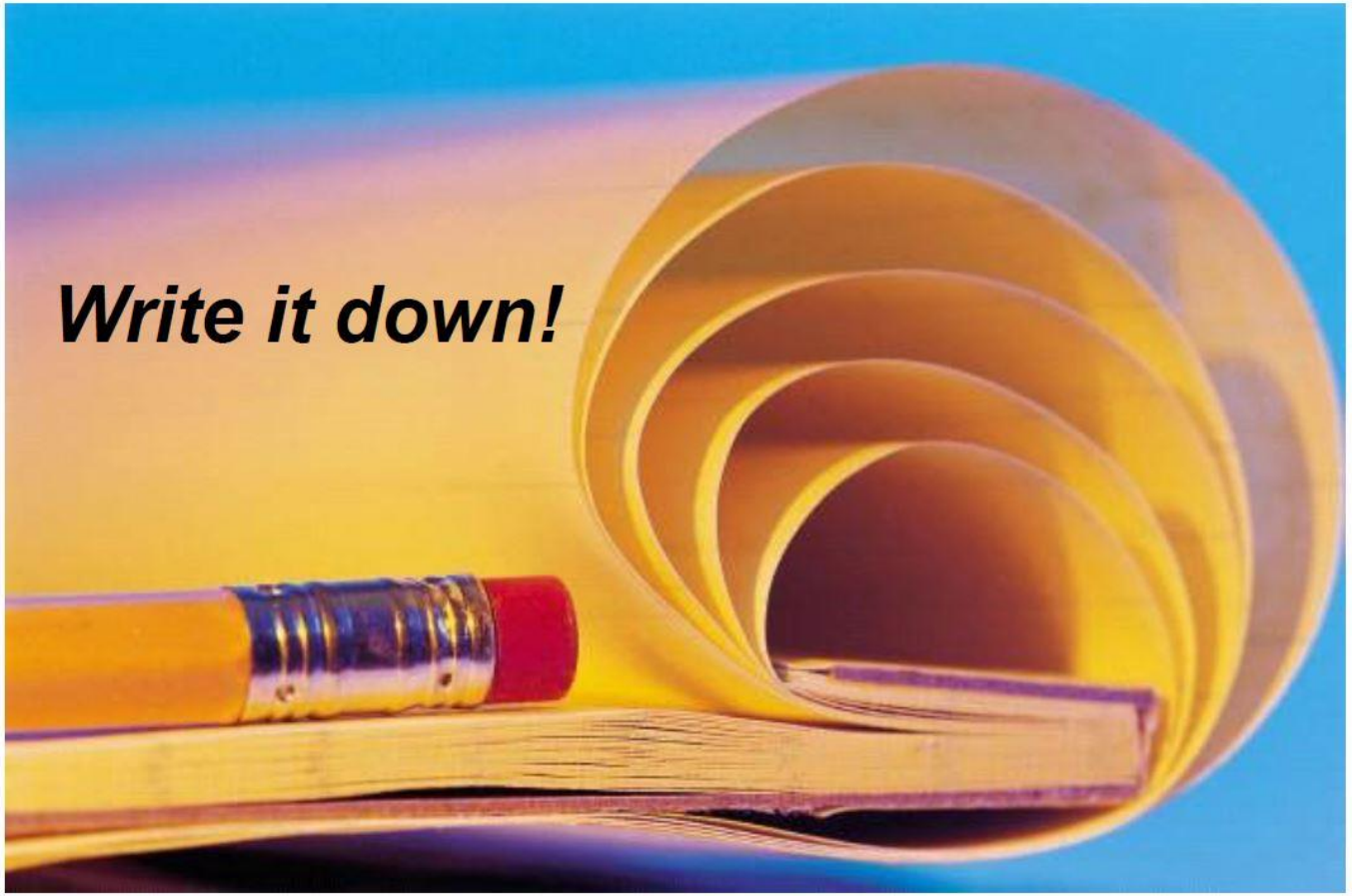
PM 2-10

Documentation

- Command Post
  - Documents situation status
    - Incident locations
    - Access routes
    - Identified hazards
    - Support locations
- Section Chiefs
  - Provide Command Post with information

PM 2-11

Documentation



PM 2-11

Documentation Forms

- Damage Assessment
- Personnel Resources Sign-In
- CERT Assignment Tracking Log
- Briefing Assignment
- Treatment Area Record
- Communications Log
- Equipment Inventory
- General Message

PM 2-13

Documentation Flow



PM 2-13

Documentation Flow



PM 2-13

Documentation Flow



PM 2-13

Documentation Flow



PM 2-13

Documentation Flow



PM 2-13

Unit Summary

- ICS provides flexible means of organization
- Ask “Is it safe to attempt the rescue?”
- Document and communicate information to all CERT levels
- Provide Command Post with ongoing information about damage assessment, group status, and needs
- Command Post documents and tracks situation status

PM 2-25

Homework Assignment

- Read unit to be covered in next session
- Bring necessary supplies to next session
- Wear appropriate clothes to next session

PM 2-25