









0





Community Emergency Response Team


-  Personal safety is ALWAYS the number one priority
-  Show up prepared
 - Wear appropriate clothing and footwear, have WATER
 - Wear PPE – your personal protective equipment ...gloves, helmet, goggles, mask, boots, etc.
 - Have at least one communications device: cell, radio, etc.
-  Work as a team
-  Size-up - maintain situational awareness
-  The CERT goal is to do the
Greatest Good for the Greatest Number
-  *Hope for the best but plan for the worst!*

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Unit Objectives & Topics

-  The emergency management structure (Incident Management System)
-  How CERT members can fit into a larger emergency response and recovery structure (CERT Organization)
-  The 9-step Size-up process
-  Why, what, and how CERTs document their activities



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Need for CERT Organization

-  Individual CERT members may operate as part of organized CERT units or as part of a larger emergency response effort
-  Larger emergency responses typically require multi-agency coordinated effort
-  Familiarity with common emergency response organizational structures is necessary and expected





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Purpose of On-Scene Management

- 🧑‍🚒 Maintain physical safety of disaster workers
- 🧑‍🚒 Maintain mental well being of disaster workers
- 🧑‍🚒 Provide clear leadership and organizational structure
- 🧑‍🚒 Improve effectiveness of rescue efforts



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Objectives of CERT Organization

- 🧑‍🚒 Identify the scope of the incident
 - *What is the problem?*
- 🧑‍🚒 Determine an overall strategy
 - *What can CERT do, and will they do it?*
- 🧑‍🚒 Deploy resources
 - *Who is going to do what?*
- 🧑‍🚒 Document actions and results
 - *If you didn't write it down, it didn't happen!*




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Incident Command System

 ICS provides:

➤ Well-defined management structure

➤ Manageable span of control


➤ Common terminology

➤ Effective communication

➤ Consolidated action plans

➤ Comprehensive resource management

➤ Accountability




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Incident Command System

 Key Concepts

➤ Unity of Command – each CERT reports to only one person

➤ Common terminology and organizational structure

➤ Manageable Span of Control

 Provides flexibility of resource management

➤ Positions filled as needed

➤ Modular units

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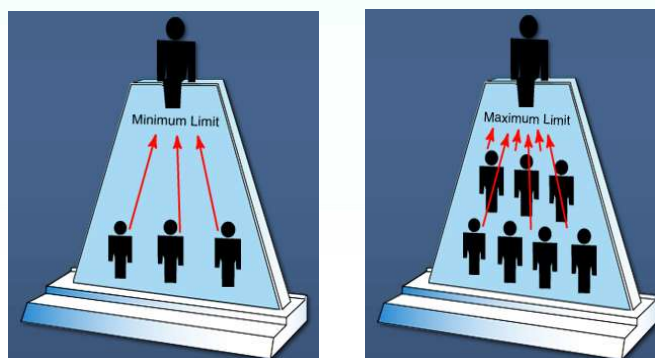
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ICS Management

Span of Control

- Is between 3 and 7 team members
- Optimally does not exceed 5 team members



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Incident Command System

The five major functional areas of ICS

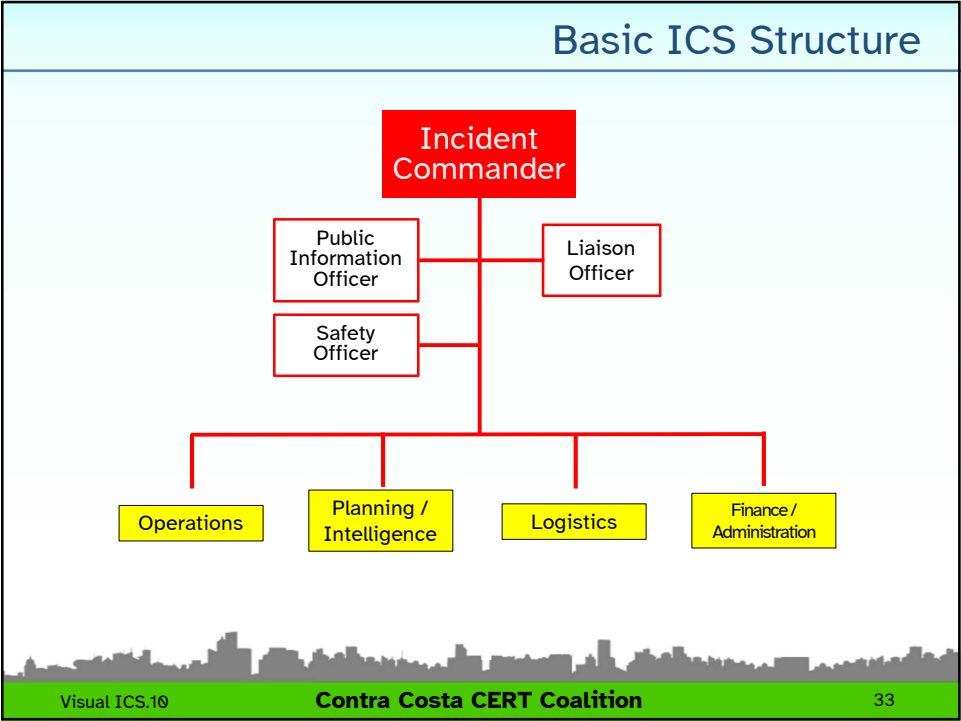
- Command
- Operations
- Planning / Intelligence
- Logistics
- Finance / Administration

Visual ICS.9

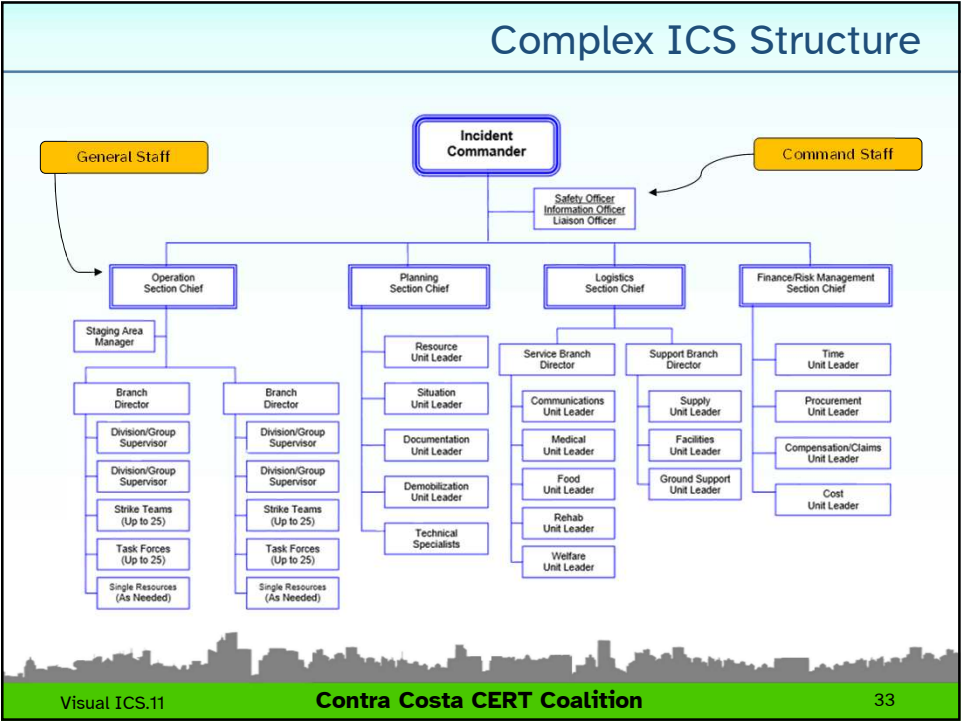
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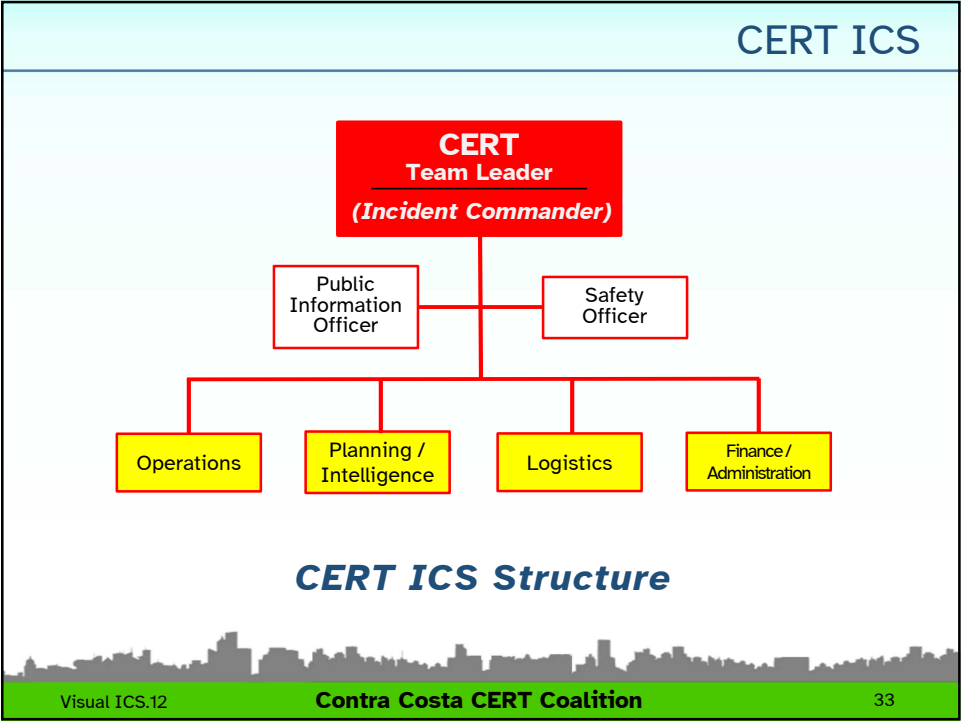
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Command and Control

- 👮 Incident Commander – *"What to do"*
 - CERT Leader
- 👮 Operations – *"How to do it"*
 - Manage the teams in the field
- 👮 Planning / Intelligence – *"What's going on and what should happen next"*
 - Collects and displays information and makes incident plans
- 👮 Logistics – *"How to support it"*
 - Manage resources, supplies and equipment
- 👮 Administration – *"What gets recorded"*
 - Collect and compile documentation

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CERT Leader

- 👮 Normally assumed by the first person on scene
- 👮 Incident command post (ICP) location may be pre-established or it may be created by the CERT Leader
- 👮 Leadership position may be transferred when a more qualified person arrives
- 👮 CERT Leader may appoint CERT members to positions in Operations, Plans, Logistics, Administration, Safety Officer, etc. as incident expands

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CERT Leader Duties

- 👮 Is Incident Commander unless part of a larger ICS structure
- 👮 Has overall responsibility for all CERT actions
- 👮 Sets objectives and priorities
- 👮 Assigns personnel as needed
- 👮 Ensures coordination of staff actions and activities
- 👮 Communicates with higher authorities (police, fire, EMS, EOC, etc.)

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CERT Safety Officer

 Reports to the CERT Leader

 Assesses and anticipates hazardous and unsafe situations

 Develops and recommends measures for assuring personnel health and safety

 May develop a Site Safety Plan

 Reviews the Incident Action Plan for safety implications

 **Can halt any operation at any time for safety concerns**


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Public Information Officer

 Reports to the CERT Leader

 Acts as the spokesperson for CERT under the direction of the CERT Leader

 Assesses situation and prepares documents for release to the press and public that present a timely, accurate, consistent picture of the event

 Reviews public social media accounts of the incident to correct any misinformation


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Operations Section

 Develops the operations tactics



Develops the Operations Section organizational structure



Conducts tactical operations to carry out the plan



Directs all operational resources deployed

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Operations Section

Operations Section

Medical Group Leader

Search & Rescue Group Leader

XXX Group Leader

Transportation Team

Treatment Teams

Morgue Team

Supply Teams

S&R Team A

S&R Team B

S&R Team C

XXX Team A

XXX Team B

XXX Team C

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Planning / Intelligence Section

Planning

- Develops the **Incident Action Plan** to accomplish the objectives defined for the event
- Maintains resource status on all deployed personnel and equipment during the event
- Maintains active incident documentation
- May utilize Advance Planning to anticipate future needs

Intelligence

- Collects and evaluates information
- Validates information into intelligence

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Logistics Section

Provides resources and all other services needed to support an incident:

- Personnel
- Food
- Communications
- Facilities
- Transportation
- etc.



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Finance / Administration Section

 Responsible for documenting costs related to incident

 Provides accounting, procurement, time recording and cost analysis

 Volunteer time is used for Federal matching dollars, and tracking is very important

 The value in California was \$33.61 per hour in 2020

 Retains Documentation at end of event

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Dealing with the Media

 You may get questions from the public or from media representatives

 Refer inquiries to CERT Team Leader, Incident Commander, or **Public Information Officer**

 Do not let media interfere with CERT activities

 **Do not** divulge any sensitive information



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National Incident Management System

- NIMS provides ability to work together
- IS-100: Introduction to ICS
<https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-100.c>
- IS-700: Introduction to NIMS
<https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-700.b>



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CERT Mobilization

- CERTs take care of themselves, their family, their home, and their neighbors
- Depending on local CERT protocols, CERT members may respond to pre-designated locations, ready for response
- CERT organization should have effective communications, a manageable span of control and maintain accountability

The greatest good for the greatest number without placing CERT members in harms way

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CERT Mobilization

 CERT Leader will develop an organization plan

 Priorities may change as operation continues; CERT Leader needs to stay on top of these shifting priorities

 Communications must be organized, efficient and effective

 ICS was developed to assist in the management of major incidents – Use it

 Goal is always to do the greatest good for the greatest number of people while maintaining CERT safety

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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



REMEMBER:

ALL CERT

SIZE-UP IS A

CONTINUAL

PROCESS


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Documentation

 Each level of authority is responsible for documentation (CERT Leader, Ops, Plans, Logs, Admin)




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Documentation

 CERT Teams provide the Command Post with ongoing information and documentation on:

- Damage assessment
- Team status
- Ongoing needs

 Command Post documents:

- Incident status
- Incident locations: access routes and identified hazards
- Support locations: Staging areas, treatment/triage areas and morgue



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CERT Forms

 Damage Assessment

 Personnel Resources Sign-in (ICS-211)

 Incident/Assignment Tracking Log (ICS-204)

 Briefing/Assignment (ICS-201/203)

 Victim Treatment Area Record

 Communications Activity Log (ICS-214)

 Equipment Inventory (ICS-209/210)

 General Message (ICS-213)


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In the End, Calm Heads Prevail



Crowds panic as flooding threatens Ireland...


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Questions?




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Takeaways

 CERTs operate using ICS

 ICS, the Incident Command System:

- Flexible and Scalable
- Span of Control
- Modular Command Structure
- Common Terminology

 Document, Document, Document

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