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Beyond Initial Response: Using the National Incident Management System's Incident Command System

By Tim Deal, Michael De Bettencourt, Vickie Huyck, Gary Merrick, Chuck Mills



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This book follows all NIMS ICS (National Incident Management System-- Incident Command System) processes and principles. Beyond Initial Response was written to fill a significant gap in ICS training. Critical ICS position-specific training is difficult to get, yet responders have the responsibility to effectively operate in an ICS organization. This book removes the gap, instills confidence, knowledge and assurance that is required to be successful in an ICS command. Major focus areas: 1) the ICS Planning Process discussed in extensive detail, 2) ICS positions (13 critical positions thoroughly covered in depth), and 3) Unified Command: what it takes to be successful. This book is an invaluable reference tool that contains numerous job aids, checklists, illustrations and sample documents enabling the user to seamlessly work within the Incident Command System. In addition, it is an excellent support source for ICS training, contingency planning and response operations. Beyond Initial Response should be within arms length whether you are training or deploying.



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- Sales Rank: #1761531 in Books
- Published on: 2006-05-11
- Ingredients: Example Ingredients
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 11.00" h x .73" w x 8.25" l, 1.68 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 320 pages

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Editorial Review

From the Author

Beyond Initial Response is intended to fill a critical Incident Command System (ICS) knowledge gap in responder's training. It is intended to fill a need between intermediate level training and position specific training which is often not available for agency and industry responders. The book covers the critical planning process, positions duties, and the requirements to succeed in a Unified Command. The tools in this book include job aids, checklists, best practices, and illustrations, and will help the reader perform ICS position-specific responsibilities such as Incident Commander or Safety Officer.

About the Author

Tim Deal is an officer in the US Coast Guard. He has extensive emergency response experience with natural disasters, oil spills, and chemical spills and served as Operations Officer on the US Coast Guard's National Strike Force Pacific Strike Team. Tim Deal was in charge of developing the US Coast Guard's ICS implementation strategies in Washington DC between 1999 and 2003. He has response experience in several ICS positions, including Planning Section Chief, Operations Section Chief, and Deputy Incident Commander and has trained hundreds of responders from government and private sector organizations. Mr. Deal has a BS from Humboldt State University and an MPP from the University of California at Berkeley. Michael de Bettencourt is a Health, Safety, and Environment Manager for URS Corporation and is a retired US Coast Guard officer. He provides emergency management program assessment services and conducts ICS training for industry and public sector clients. He has worked as a responder and response manager for oil spills, chemical releases, shipboard and facility fires, floods, large-scale law enforcement operations, and many maritime incidents. He served as Executive Officer on the US Coast Guard's National Strike Force Pacific Strike Team. He has lectured on ICS at many conferences and has trained hundreds of responders in the US, Europe, Asia, and New Zealand. Mr. de Bettencourt has a BS from the University of the State of New York, and an MS from the University of Houston. Vickie Huyck is an officer in the US Coast Guard. She has a variety of operational experience in emergency response management for oil spills, hazardous materials releases, as well as homeland security and port operations. Vickie Huyck has been an Operations Section Chief and Deputy Incident Commander. She also served as a response program manager for the Coast Guard in Washington DC and developed the ICS program implementation guidelines for the Coast Guard in the 1990s. She has a BS from the

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Chapter 2 Incident Command System Planning Process

When most people think of an image of the Incident Command System (ICS) they usually have the ICS organizational chart squarely situated in their mind. Common terminology, including standard terminology for organizational elements, is one of the cornerstones of ICS and it's drummed into our heads early and often. However, another equally important cornerstone of the Incident Command System is the ICS Planning Process. Like common terminology, the ICS Planning Process establishes a common method for developing and implementing tactical plans to efficiently and effectively manage an emergency response or a planned event such as a city parade.

The ICS Planning Process transcends the different processes that agencies use in their day-to-day operations and provides a common process for all responders to use to work toward the successful resolution of an

incident. Most of us have probably experienced the uncomfortable feeling you get when you're engaged in an activity where you do not know the "rules of the game." Not only are you uncomfortable, but you're not nearly as effective, standing on fringes of the activity instead of being a part of the work effort. The goal of this chapter is to provide you with an overview of the ICS Planning Process that will give you an overall understanding of how it works. Read some of the ICS position-specific chapters such as Chapter 6 on the Operations Section Chief and Chapter 7 on the Planning Section Chief to learn about their specific responsibilities in the planning process.

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