City of Santa Barbara

Get Ready Santa Barbara!

Explore Emergency Management in

INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM (ICS)

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Upcoming Issue in April 2012
Learn about SEMS

The Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) is the cornerstone of California's emergency response system and the fundamental structure for the response phase of emergency management. SEMS is required by the California Emergency Services Act (ESA) for managing multiagency and multijurisdictional responses to emergencies in California. Learn more in next month's newsletter.

2012 Upcoming Topics

THE HISTORY—In the 1970s, as California was battling significant wildfires, emergency managers learned that the existing management structures—frequently unique to each agency—did not scale to dealing with massive mutual aid responses involving dozens of distinct agencies. Some of the problems faced were, Span of Control, different organizational structures between agencies, lack of structure for coordinated planning, unclear lines of authority, difference in terminology between agencies, to name a few.

As a result, the Incident Command System (ICS) was collaboratively developed by an interagency task force working in a cooperation with local, state, and federal interagency effort called FIRESCOPE (**Fi**refighting **Res**ources of **C**alifornia **O**rganized for **P**otential **E**mergency). The system was created to provide a consistent, integrated framework for the management of large, multi-agency emergencies. Designing this type of a system took several years and as a note, planning effort actually had its roots here in Santa Barbara County.

Evolution of ICS - Listed below is a timeline of the ICS evolution:
1970—During a 13-day period, 16 lives were lost, 700 structures were destroyed, and over on-half million acres were burned in California. Although all agencies cooperated to the best of their ability, numerous problems of communication and coordination hampered their effectiveness.
1971—The 92nd Congress approved funding for the U.S. Forest Service Research to design a system that will "make a quantum jump in the capabilities of Southern California Wildland fire protection agencies to effectively coordinate interagency action and to allocate suppression resources in dynamic multi-fire situations." This system became known as FIRESCOPE.
1972—The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, Los Angeles, Ventura and Santa Barbara County Fire Departments and the Los Angeles City Fire Department joined with the U.S. Forest Service to develop the systems that are FIRESCOPE.
1973—The first FIRESCOPE Technical Team was established to guide research and development. Two major components to come out of this work was ICS and the Multi Agency Coordination System (MACS).
1976—The FIRESCOPE agencies formally agree on ICS common terminology and procedures.
1978—Parts of ICS were successfully used on several wildland fire incidents.
1980—ICS formally adopted by the CDF, State OES, partner agencies and endorsed by the State Board of Fire Services.
1981—ICS is widely used throughout Southern California by major fire agencies.

ICS is now well documented, and implemented by all California Fire agencies, including most US States and is now applied to all hazard incidents. It has been well-proven to be an accomplished form of Emergency Management. ICS has also been the foundation for the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS), which will be covered in next month's newsletter.

Source: Some Highlights of the Evolution of the Incident Command System As Developed by FIRESCOPE

April	May	June	July	August	September
Learn about SEMS	What is NIMS?	The Facts about DHS?	FEMA: What is it?	What School is Starting Again?	National Preparedness Month

Disaster Facts: Tsunami

11 Facts About Tsunamis:

1. A tsunami is a series of sea waves caused by an underwater earthquake, landslide, or volcanic eruption. More rarely, a tsunami can be generated by a giant meteor impact with the ocean.

2. A tsunami is not just one wave but a series of waves or a "wave train." The First wave is not necessary the largest.

3. Many witnesses say a tsunami sounds like a freight train.

4. When the ocean is deep, tsunamis may be less than a foot high on the ocean's surface, can travel at speeds up to 500 mph without being noticed and cross the entire ocean in less than a day.

5. Once a tsunami reaches the shallow water near the coast, it slows down. The top of the wave moves faster than the bottom, causing the sea to rise dramatically, as much as 100 feet at times.

6. Tsunami waves can be as long as 60 miles and be as far as an hour apart. These waves can cross entire oceans without losing much energy.

7. Flooding can reach land 1000 feet (300 meters) from the coastline and the dangerous waves have enough force to lift giant boulders, flip vehicles, and demolish houses.

8. Scientists can accurately estimate the time when a tsunami will arrive almost anywhere around the world based on calculations using the depth of the water, distances from one place to another, and the time that the earthquake or other event occurred.

9. Hawaii is the U.S. state at greatest risk for a tsunami – they get about one per year and a damaging one every seven years. The biggest tsunami that occurred in Hawaii happened on April 1, 1946, where the Coast of Hilo Island was hit with 30 foot waves coming in at 500 miles per hour. 170 people died as a result.

10. In 2004, the Indian Ocean tsunami was caused by an earthquake that is thought to have had the energy of 23,000 atomic bombs. Within hours of the earthquake in 2004, killer waves radiating from the epicenter slammed into the coastline of 11 countries, damaging countries from east Africa to Thailand. By the end of the day, the tsunami had already killed 150,000 people. The final death toll was 283,000.

Photo Courtesy of UCSB

11. Not counting the 2011 tsunami in Japan, there were 26 tsunamis that killed at least 200 people or more in the last century.

Sources: National Geographic *and* FEMA

Debris is Coming

Refrigerators, TVs and other debris dragged into sea when a massive earthquake hit Japan last March, causing tsunamis as high as 130 feet to crash ashore, could show up in remote atolls north of Hawaii as soon as this winter, with other pieces reaching parts of the West Coast in 2013 and 2014, experts say.

Debris from the tsunami initially formed a thick mass in the ocean of Japan's northeastern coast. But ocean currents have dispersed the pieces so they're now estimated to spread out some 3,000 miles halfway across the Pacific.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said Tuesday Feb. 28, 2012 the first bits of tsunami debris are estimated to make landfall this winter on small atolls northwest of the main Hawaiian Islands. Other pieces are expected to reach the coasts of Oregon, Washington state, Alaska and Canada between March 2013 and March 2014

For more information click here to access NOAA's Marine Debris homepage.

Did You Know:
That You Should Have a Plan For Your Pet(s)

In the immediate aftermath of Katrina, the late California congressman Tom Lantos introduced a bill that tied future Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disaster money to a jurisdiction's compliance with a newly enacted requirement to develop a pet evacuation plan that paralleled their human evacuation plan.

It is called the Pet Evacuation and Transportation Safety Act (PETS Act). For the first time, pets were distinguished from other animals in federal legislation and given special consideration.

For more information click here to go to GovTrack.

City of Santa Barbara
Office of Emergency Services

OES is on the web!

http://www.santabarbaraca.gov/OES

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City News

CERT starts again! CERT is a Community Emergency Response Training course that will start on Thursday April 5, 2012 from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. CERT consist of eight (8) courses over a seven (7) week period. The course includes Disaster Preparedness, Fire Suppression, Medical/Triage, Light Search and Rescue, Disaster Psychology, Terrorism, and Team Organization. The course ends with a drill that allows participants to use the skills they have learned in the classes.

For more information and to register for the upcoming class by calling the City's Office of Emergency Services at 805-564-5711. Or you can register on line at: www.santabarbaraca.gov/oes.