

Second India Disaster Management Congress

Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi, 4-6 November 2009

Thematic Session on

INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM

CONCEPT NOTE

Context

The Incident Command System (ICS) is a management system. It is an on-scene, all-hazard, flexible modular system adaptable to any scale of natural disasters as well as man-made emergency/incidents. ICS was developed by United States Forest Service (USFS) in 1970's for managing a series of forest and urban fires. Over the years ICS has evolved as a single management system for multi-jurisdictional incidents, is modular and allows expansion and contraction depending on the size and complexity of the incident. ICS is often misunderstood merely as an organizational structure; however it is more than just an organizational structure and has a number of attributes or system features which make it flexible and adaptable to all types and scales of incidents and events.

ICS was introduced in India during 2003 in order to professionalize the emergency/disaster response management system in the country by the adoption of the System as practiced by the USFS. It seeks to strengthen the existing disaster response management system by ensuring that the designated controlling/responsible authorities at different levels are backed by trained Incident Command Teams (ICTs), whose members have been trained in the different facets of emergency/disaster response management.

Onsite disaster response is a highly complex, challenging and stupendous task. The critical components of disaster response management are clarity of roles & responsibilities of the designated authorities, effective communication & coordination among the authorities/agencies, the optimal mobilization and deployment of resources, periodic evaluation and regular monitoring. It is often found that onsite disaster response is mounted without any appropriate plan. The coordinating agencies/authorities do not have clarity of their roles and responsibilities and there is duplication and overlapping of efforts, resulting in excessive costs and some time delay in the response itself. The authorities which have to plan and coordinate and get into the nitty-gritty of managing all aspects during immediate response phase particularly in cases of rapid onset disasters, where there is hardly any lead time for making incident actions plans for response. In addition to designated government agencies, the role of voluntary organization in providing logistical support for disaster response is often neglected.

A professional in disaster response management demands a well trained team to be in position with different team members trained in planning, operations, logistics, personal administration, communication, liaison and safety etc. Application of ICS therefore is a step towards professionalizing disaster response management.

Objectives of the session

The following are the objectives of the session:

1. Discuss the key features of ICS and organizational approach to disaster response management
2. Present the evolution of ICS as all hazard response system in various countries.
3. Discuss issues & challenges of adoption, customization and adaptation of ICS in existing system of response.
4. Share experiences of ICS application in various countries including India
5. Identify the critical areas and strategies for integrating ICS in disaster response management including training and capacity building strategies

Expected Outcome

The Thematic Session would facilitate better understanding of the ICS towards professional approach in disaster response management and identify issues, challenges and the critical areas for adapting and customizing ICS within the existing disaster response framework and recommend policy interventions and strategies for seamless integration.

Session Plan

Date: 6 November

Duration: 2 hours

Session Chair: Shri J. K. Sinha, Hon'ble Member, NDMA

Keynote address: J. K. Sinha, Hon'ble Member, NDMA,

PRESENTATIONS (10 minutes each)

- a. Evolution of ICS for all hazard response in US

Mr Dave Cury, Bureau of Land Management, United States,

This presentation would give an overview of the ICS, its evolution in US. Important aspects to be discussed include: ICS principles, ICS application for all hazards.

b. Adaptation of ICS in Australia

Supt. Brian J. Graham, NSW Rural Fire Service, Australia

Australia has adapted ICS principles and features for managing disasters after customizing it to suit their administrative structure. This presentation would give an overview of the process followed in ICS adaptation in Australia and lessons learnt.

c. Incident Command System (ICS) - an organizational approach to Disaster Management in India

Shri Rajesh Arya, Sr. Deputy Director, LBSNAA, Mussorie

This presentation would briefly explain the genesis of ICS, its basic principles, its introduction in India and training & capacity building approach.

d. Kosi Floods 2008-Application of Incident Command System in Response

Paras Nath Rai, Special Secretary, Deptt of Home and DM, Govt. of Bihar

The presentation would highlight the application of ICS principles and features in managing Kosi Floods 2008 and various lessons learned from such application.

e. Institutionalization of Incident Command System (ICS) for Effective Emergency Response Management

Col AKS Parmar, Director, DMI Bhopal

This presentation would focus on integrating ICS in the existing disaster management structure and system so as to professionalize the disaster response management in the country.

f. Institutionalization of the Incident Command System (ICS) with the Indian System of Disaster Management for ensuring appropriate and Quick response during Disasters

Dr. M. Bhasker Rao, MCR HRD Institute of A.P, Hyderabad.

This presentation would briefly explains the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats of integration of ICS and the important considerations for suitable adaptation and implementation of the ICS with the Indian system of Disaster

Management and experiences in institutionalizing the ICS as a pilot project in Nellore and Khammam districts of Andhra Pradesh would also be discussed.

g. Guru-Da-Gaddi Celebration at Nanded – application of ICS
Col. V.N. Supanekar YASHADA, Pune and Col P.P. Marathe.

The presentation would briefly explain the process adopted for application of ICS for an Event. It would highlight on lessons learned from the application of ICS principles and features for organizing a mega event.

h. Implementation of ICS/IMS in Orissa; An experience
Dr Kamal Mishra

The presentation would briefly explain handling of flood incident of June, 2008 in Balasore District by instituting Incident Command System (ICS). It advocates that ICS application for management of disaster in India should be an Embedded ICS with Unified Command wherein a number of IC Teams are embedded within Unified Command structure at the district level administrative setup.

i. Process of ICS Adaptation in the India; Formulation of National Policy on Disaster Response Management.

Mr Vinay Gadnayak Shri J K Sinha

This paper would highlight various issues identified in the process of adaptation of ICS in India and suggest the institutional strategy for the implementation of it in the Indian context.

j. Incident Command System-The Assam Experience:--An Account of A Trainer
Mr.i Deba Prasad Mishra

The presentation would briefly explain the process of piloting application of ICS at the district level. In particular it would highlight the importance of training and other important considerations for suitable adaptation and implementation of the ICS within the existing system. It focuses on the experiences in implementing the ICS as a pilot project in Cachar and Kamrup metro districts of Assam.
