The Hospital Incident Command System (HICS)

Presenter
Connie Kraft, RN, MSN, MS, CEN, CNE, CHEP, NHDP-BC
cinnie.cincotta-kraft@stonybrookmedicine.edu
Stony Brook Medicine
Emergency Management Office
MARO Regional Training Center

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Presentation - Audio presentation with PowerPoint slides

This webinar will be recorded for later reference

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• Don’t put your phone on HOLD
• Use Web Ex icons:
  • Questions – Raise hand
  • Chat - to raise comments or suggestions during presentation
Objectives

- Discuss issues related with managing simultaneous events
- Describe the purpose and how to use the incident response guide
- Describe function and design of the Job Action Sheet (JAS)
- Discuss the importance of building a command staff
- Discuss command staff identification
- Discuss the role, responsibility and command considerations for the following:
  - Operations Section
  - Planning Section
  - Logistics Section
  - Finance and Administration Section

Recent Changes

- Additions to old HICS
  - Patient Family Assistance Branch under Operations Section
  - Employees Family Care Unit included in the Support Branch
- Deletions from old HICS
  - Medical Devices Unit
  - Facility/Equipment Unit
  - Environmental Services Unit
    - deleted due to underutilization
The Incident Management Team (IMT) Charts

**Depict the hospital command functions that have been identified**

- Represent how authority and responsibility are distributed in the incident management team

**The IMT Charts**

- Identify the critical functions that have been pre-identified for each type of incident

- Not intended that every position will be activated for each incident or event

- HICS positions are assigned to personnel only as indicated by an assessment of the scope and magnitude of the incident or event

**Command**

- The activities of the Hospital’s Emergency Operations Center (EOC) are directed by the Incident Commander (IC)

- IC has overall responsibility for all activities within the EOC

- The IC may appoint other Command Staff personnel to assist as the situation and resources warrant
The following should be maintained available for immediate access:

- Job action sheet
- Identification vest
- Radio/phone
- Appropriate command forms
- Pre-designated resources

Each floor should have ready access to necessary equipment and supplies:

- Bottled water
- Flashlights and chemical light sticks
- “RESTROOM CLOSED” signs
- Chemical or standard portable toilets/toilet paper
- Hand washing foam/disinfectant wipes
- Evacuation chairs/sleds
Operations Section

- Responsible for managing the tactical objectives outlined by the Incident Commander
- The largest in terms of needed resources
- Branches, Divisions, and Units are implemented as needed
- The degree to which command positions are filled depends on the situational needs and the availability of qualified command officers

Medical Care Branch

Responsible for the provision of acute and continuous care of the incident victims as well as those already in the hospital

The Medical Care Branch Director
- Works with the Logistics Branch to ensure needed personnel, equipment, medication, and supplies are requested
- Works with the Staging Manager to ensure their delivery to needed areas
- Directs the Casualty Care Unit Leader (usually be located in the Emergency Department)
Infrastructure Branch

- Maintains the normal operational capability of the facility including:
  - Power and lighting, water and sewer, HVAC, medical gases and medical devices, building/grounds
- Increases capacity when patient surge requirements dictate
- Identifies and restores utility service-delivery failures

HAZMAT Branch

Deals with internal or external hazmat response issues including:
- Agent identification
- Spill response
- Victim decontamination
- Decontamination of equipment and the facility

Security Branch

- Responsible for security of facility and staff
- May need assistance from local law enforcement or contract security
- Planning needs to address:
  - Lock-down vs. restricted visitation
  - Supplemental security staffing
  - Traffic control
  - Personal belongings management
  - Chain of custody
Business Continuity Branch

- Facilitates the acquisition and access to essential recovery resources
- Supports the Infrastructure and Security Branches
- Coordinates restoration of business functions and technology requirements
- Assists other branches and impacted areas

Additional Branch Options

- Special Operations Branches might be created to address the specific needs of an incident that are not already being met
- New Branch creation at discretion of hospital unique operational needs

Planning Section

[Diagram of Planning Section]

- Planning Section Chief
- Resources Unit Leader
- Situation Unit Leader
- Documentation Unit Leader
- Demobilization Unit Leader
- Personnel Tracking Manager
- Patients Tracking Manager
- Identities Tracking Manager
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Planning Section</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Responsible for collecting evaluating, and disseminating incident situation information and intelligence to Incident Command</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Prepares status reports</td>
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<td>• Displays various types of information</td>
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<td>• Develops the Incident Action Plan</td>
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<th><strong>Situation Unit</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>• Responsible for writing and maintaining incident updates including those related to patient tracking</td>
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<tr>
<td>• A Patient Tracking Manager may be appointed to assist</td>
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<th><strong>The Resource Unit</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>• Tracks the status of personnel and material resources that are being utilized in various locations of the hospital</td>
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<tr>
<td>• A Personnel Tracking and Materials Tracking Manager may be appointed to assist when needed</td>
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Documentation Unit

Completes action plans and other support documents and archives them

Demobilization Unit

Responsible for developing and revising the demobilization plan

Forms and Management

- Specific forms have been included for use as part of HICS
- The two principal types are:
  - FEMA forms modified for hospital use
  - HICS specific
Special Forms Address

- Details about the actual incident as they are learned
- Organizational assignments
- Critical problems encountered and incident
- Command actions taken
- Patient care information
- Patient location

- Resources on hand and requests for supplementation
- Personnel time and accountability
- Internal and external communications
- Facility status

Archiving

- At the termination of the incident, all of the collated IAPs will be used to help outline the hospital’s response activities and decision-making processes.
- All other documentation materials will be collected and archived as well

Logistics Section
Logistics Section

Responsibilities include
• Acquiring resources from internal and external sources
• Use standard and emergency acquisition procedures to acquire
• Make requests to the local EOC or the RHCC for assistance when needed

Logistics Subdivisions

Service Branch
Will be responsible for supporting:
• Communication
• Food services
• IT/IS resource needs

Support Branch
• Focuses on acquiring needed supplies, supporting infrastructure operations
• Coordinating internal and external transportation
• Acquiring additional personnel

Finance Section
The costs associated with the response must be accounted for from the outset of the incident.

Daily financial reporting requirements are likely to be modified and in select situations new requirements outlined by state and federal officials.

The Finance/Administration Section coordinates:
- Personnel time
- Orders items,
- Arranges personnel-related payments and Workers' Compensation
- Payment of invoices.

All personnel assigned to an incident command role should wear identification that correctly communicates their role.
Building Command
Staff Depth

- Three to five persons should be trained for each command position in case a prolonged response is required.
- Training and exercises should be used as a means of preparing personnel to competently and confidently assume one or more roles based on situational need and available resources.
- Completion of the specified NIMS courses, either online or in the classroom, should help to prepare those persons likely to assume command roles.

Job Action Sheets (JAS)

- Information tool provided on a JAS includes a radio identification title, purpose, to whom they report, and critical action considerations.
- These tasks are intended to “prompt” the incident management team members to take needed actions related to their roles and responsibilities.

Incident Response Guides

- Incident Response Guides (IRG) have been devised for sixteen scenarios (2014 included Active Shooter, MCI and Wildland Fire).
- Each IRG lists fundamental decision considerations specific to managing that situation by timeframe.
- The IRG’s are intended to complement the hospital EOP and provide a primer that will provide some directional assistance and a means of initially documenting the actions undertaken.
### Integration of HICS with Unified Command

The hospital must be effectively integrated into the community response, including the overall incident command structure. This integration actually starts before the incident occurs through:

- the hospital’s regular participation in community preparedness meetings, training, and exercises
- mutual understanding of roles and responsibilities, incident management principles, resource allocation, and effective communication and information-sharing practices.

### Unified command

Unified command will be used when more than one responding agency for the incident is present or the situation crosses political jurisdictions. This command model does not change any feature of HICS. It allows for all agencies with responsibility for the incident, including the hospital, to participate in the decision-making process.

### Integration with Healthcare Systems

Corporate member hospitals must also coordinate their planning and response activities with the appropriate administrative section(s) of the parent organization:

- **Done before the incident**
- **During the incident**
- **After the incident**
Managing Simultaneous Events

Normally hospitals confront one incident at a time.

Sometimes problems come in multiples:
- Earthquake w/gas leak in the facility
- Flooding and water loss in the facility

This command model does not change any feature of HICS. It does allow for all agencies with responsibility for the incident, including the hospital, to participate in the decision-making process.

Area Command concept would have each involved facility having its own Incident Command structure that reports to a unified Area Command structure.

The Area Command structure would include all but the Operations Section because those activities are best coordinated at each building.

Review

It is important to understand the role, responsibility and command considerations for the following:
- Operations Section
- Planning Section
- Logistics Section
- Finance and Administration Section

- It is important to quickly build a command staff
- Command staff should be assigned as needed to trained persons
- Job Action Sheet (JAS) have been designed for each command position
- Incident Response Guides have been developed to provide response guidance
- The hospital must integrate with unified command, and the healthcare system
- Issues related with managing simultaneous events will occur and should be planned for