

INCIDENT SAFETY OFFICER



UNIT 1: INTRODUCTION

COURSE GOAL

To provide students with the knowledge and skills needed to perform the duties of the Incident Safety Officer (ISO) during incident operations and training evolutions.

AUDIENCE

Those who might be assigned as an ISO through Incident Command

May occur during any operation or training evolution

[video](#)

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Describe the key elements of the Incident Command System (ICS) that affect the duties and responsibilities of the Safety Officer for an incident or event.**
- **Describe the basic duties of the ISO.**

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- **Welcome**
- **Instructor introduction**
- **Class Roster**
 - **Verification of name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address**
- **Student Manual (SM)**

INDIVIDUAL STUDENT INTRODUCTIONS

- **Complete Student Information Sheet**
- **Give name, department, and position**
- **State what you hope to take away from this course**
- **Identify an incident safety situation of interest to you**

**DOES YOUR DEPARTMENT
MEET NFPA 1500
STANDARDS?**

Medical Screening

- Does your FD physician know the status of member's risk factors for coronary artery disease?
- Does your Department offer a yearly physical?

FITNESS AND WELLNESS

- **Does the department offer a fitness program and do members participate?**
- **Do firefighters receive a fitness evaluation every year?**
- **Does the FD offer a wellness program that includes help with smoking cessation and health screens, and do members participate?**

Standard Operating Procedures and Guidelines

- **Do you have scene SOP's?**
- **Do all firefighters in the department follow SOP's and how are they enforced?**
- **Is your department trained in SOP's?**
- **When was the last time SOP's were reviewed and updated?**

Communications

- Do people get stepped on? What have we done to correct this?
- Does the department have communication SOP's with mutual aid?

Communications

- Are there any adopted mutual aid-wide SOP's
- Does the department have SOP's regarding fireground radio traffic, such as interior reports, size-up, completion of assignment, mayday, and evacuation signals?

Incident Command

- Does the department implement ICS at each incident?
- What training does the department provide in ICS? Is this training sufficient?

Incident Command

- **What accountability system is used in the department?**
- **Does the IC know the location of company members at all times?**
- **Do we evaluate risk versus gain before initiating each offensive, interior attack and continually throughout an incident?**

Motor Vehicle

- Are vehicles equipped with seat belts?
- Do firefighters buckle up?
- Does you have an SOP for ensuring seat belt use? Is it enforced? What about non-compliance?

Motor Vehicle

- Are the apparatus drivers in the department trained, licensed, and careful operators?
- Does the department maintain emergency vehicles properly? Do you have SOP's to remove unsafe equipment?
- What is the department's SOP for training drivers?

Personal Protective Equipment

- What PPE does the department have for responding to roadway incidents?
- How does the department ensure that all firefighters wear and use their PPE appropriately?
- Does the department have a SCBA maintenance program?
- Do you have SCBA logs?

Strategies and Tactics

- **How does the department ensure that tactical operations do not increase hazards to firefighters?**
- **When entering a hazardous structure, do team members always lay a hose-line, rope, or some other type of exit guide?**

Strategies and Tactics

- **Can all firefighters identify a truss roof or floor system and understand its collapse characteristics?**
- **Do you evaluate risk versus gain each time before initiating an offensive interior attack and continually throughout an incident?**

Rapid Intervention Team

- Does the department always implement an RIT?
- Have you been caught without an RIT ready when we needed one?
- What did you do?
- Have you had any near misses?

Staffing

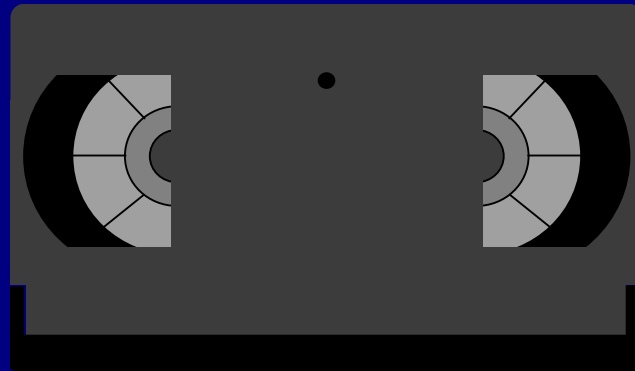
- **What is the “normal” staffing?**
- **How does the department ensure and enforce two-in and two-out?**

Staffing

- **How well does the department coordinate with mutual aid? Do you work together or are there conflicts? How does this affect outcomes? How can you improve coordination?**
- **Do you have sufficient staffing and equipment on the scene to begin fire-fighting operations?**

VIDEO:

**"The Phoenix Fire Department
Recovery Process"**



INCIDENT SAFETY OFFICER

- An ISO is designated at the time of an incident by the Incident Commander (IC).
- A Safety Officer, if designated, is part of Command Staff.
- The ISO is closely linked to the Health and Safety Officer (HSO) position in fire or emergency medical services (EMS) department.

FIRE DEPARTMENT'S SAFETY OFFICER PER NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

- **Ally and support for the ISO**
 - **Is there a policy?**
- **Helps establish safety standards**
 - **Expectations / enforcement**
- **Leads in development of risk management efforts**
- **Establishes health and fitness, occupational safety, and related programs**

INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM--AN INCIDENT'S SAFETY OFFICER

- **Monitors incident operations**
- **Advises the IC or Unified Command (UC) on all matters relating to operational safety**
- **Ongoing assessment of hazardous environments**
- **Coordination of multiagency safety efforts**
 - **Does your incident get safer the more people that are there or more out of control?**

INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM AND THE INCIDENT SAFETY OFFICER

- **Implementation of measures for general safety of incident operations**
- **Reviews responder-focused Medical Plans (done by others)**
- **Has emergency authority to stop and/or prevent unsafe acts during incident operations**

Supervision

- **The Dichotomy of Comfort**
 - **Acceptable vs. Unacceptable Discomfort**
 - **The ultimate measure of an individual is not where he stands in moments of comfort, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy**
 - **MLK**

The Dichotomy of Comfort

–Acceptable vs. Unacceptable Discomfort

- Do you have the right to be comfortable?
- What should your level of comfort be?
- What makes your superior and the organization uncomfortable better make you uncomfortable
- Don't let your superior be uncomfortable for you

Supervision

- “It’s OK”
- “Don’t Worry About it”
- “It’s no big deal”

How many officers have regretted saying those words?

Unintended Consequences

Failure of Imagination

Supervision

- **Everything is not always OK – never dismiss an opportunity to fix yourself and your people**
- **The opportunity you miss (or ignore) on this alarm might be disastrous on the next**
- **Do not be afraid to address unacceptable performance – that is your job**
- **Keep it constructive, but make sure the issue is addressed and an**

Your People

- **Want to know when they are doing a good job**
- **They also know when they are not**
- **If you don't say anything, they will think you don't care!**
- **Discipline will erode further**
- **Do not widen the gap between acceptable and unacceptable discomfort – tougher to get back**

BOTTOM LINE

You have to give a

— — — —

Supervision

NEVER

turn your head

**U R and will be held
Accountable**

ONSCENE RESPONSIBILITIES

- Identify and mitigate hazardous situations
- Ensure safety briefings are made-- draw on ICS Form 215A, *Incident Action Plan Safety Analysis*
- Stop and prevent unsafe acts
- Review Incident Action Plan (IAP)

ONSCENE RESPONSIBILITIES

(cont'd)

- **Assign assistants as needed**
 - **The Big footprint incident**
- **Initiate investigations of accidents within incident area**
 - **Accident Review Board**
- **Review and approve the Responder Medical Plan**
- **Participate in planning meetings**

COURSE OVERVIEW

- **Unit 1: Introduction**
- **Unit 2: Fatality and Injury Data**
- **Unit 3: Principles of Risk Management**
- **Unit 4: Safety Responsibilities**
- **Unit 5: Safety at Selected Incident Types**
- **Unit 6: Operational Risk Management**
- **Unit 7: Closing and Course Summary**

SUMMARY

- **The ISO must have the knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs) to perform effectively at an incident.**
- **The National Incident Management System (NIMS) will profile the qualifications needed in order to be credentialed.**
- **Once an organization has a Risk Management Plan, the ISO will be better prepared to perform his or her duties.**
- **The ISO can use "safety cues" to recognize unsafe conditions.**