Unit 4:
Area Command
Unit Objectives

- Define Area Command.
- List the principal advantages of using Area Command.
- Describe how, when, and where Area Command would be established.
- Describe the Area Command organization.
- Identify six primary functional responsibilities of Area Command.
- Given a scenario, develop an Area Command organization.
Definition of Area Command

Area Command is used to oversee the management of:

- Multiple incidents that are each being handled by an Incident Command System organization; or
- A very large incident that has multiple Incident Management Teams assigned to it.
Area Command: Primary Functions

- Provide agency or jurisdictional authority for assigned incidents.
- Ensure a clear understanding of agency expectations, intentions, and constraints.
- Establish critical resource use priorities between various incidents.
- Ensure that Incident Management Team personnel assignments and organizations are appropriate.
- Maintain contact with officials in charge, and other agencies and groups.
- Coordinate the demobilization or reassignment of resources between assigned incidents.
Key Terms Review

Emergency Operations Center: Coordinates information and resources to support local incident management activities.

Area Command: Oversees the management of multiple incidents. Area Command may be Unified, and works directly with Incident Commanders.

Incident Commander: Performs primary tactical-level, on-scene incident command functions. The Incident Commander is located at an Incident Command Post at the incident scene.
What is the difference between Unified Command and Area Command?
Advantages of Area Command

Area Command:

- Assists in interincident coordination.
- Ensures efficient resource use.
- Ensures that agency policies, priorities, constraints, and guidance are being made known and implemented consistently across incidents.
- Reduces workload for agency officials.
Chain of Command & Reporting Relationships

Agency Administrator(s)

Area Commander/ Unified Command

Incident Commander 1

Incident Commander 2

Incident Commander 3
Area Command: Best Practices

Area Command should:

- Receive its authority through a written delegation of authority.
- Notify Incident Commanders of its authorities and roles.
- Be staffed with qualified and experienced personnel.
- Operate under standard ICS principles.
- Be kept small.
Katrina Area Command Scenario

1. Review the case-study Katrina Area Command scenario in your Student Manuals.

2. Working as a team, answer the following questions:
   - Why did the Coast Guard choose to use Area Command?
   - How did the Coast Guard adapt the Area Command structure? Why?
   - What are the lessons learned for your agency or jurisdiction?

3. Select a spokesperson and be prepared to present your analysis to the entire group.
When Should Area Command Be Established?

As soon as possible when:

- Several active incidents are in close proximity.
- Critical life saving or property values are at risk due to incidents.
- Incidents will continue into the next operational period.
- Incidents are using similar and limited critical resources.
- Difficulties are encountered with interincident resource allocation and coordination.
Area Command: July 4th Celebrations/Terrorist Threat

July 4th Unified Area Command
Law Enforcement
Fire/EMS/Public Health

Area Command Investigation/Intel Officer
Assistant Area Commander Planning
Area Command Situation Unit Leader
Terrorist Specialists

Area Command Critical Resources Unit Leader

Area Command Liaison Officer
Area Command Public Information Officer
Assistant Area Commander Logistics

Central City July 4th Unified Command
Law Enforcement/Fire/EMS/Public Health

River Bend July 4th Unified Command
Law Enforcement/Fire/EMS/Public Health

Liberty Co. July 4th Unified Command
Law Enforcement/Fire/EMS/Public Health
Area Commander: Overall Responsibilities

- Set overall objectives.
- Ensure incident objectives are met and do not conflict with each other or agency policy.
- Establish incident-related priorities.
- Allocate/reallocate critical resources.
- Ensure that personnel are qualified and incidents are properly managed.
- Coordinate demobilization of assigned resources.
- Coordinate with Agency Administrator, EOC, other entities, and the media.
Area Commander: Critical Activities

- **Assess**
  - Rapidly assess each incident.

- **Establish Priorities**
  - Communicate priorities to Commanders.
  - Ensure plans support priorities and policies.

- ** Allocate Resources**
  - Allocate/reallocate critical resources.
  - Plan resource demobilization.
Area Command Officers

Public Information Officer
- Provides public information coordination between incidents. Serves as the contact point for media requests.

Liaison Officer
- Maintains off-incident interagency contacts and coordination.
Assistant Area Commander – Planning

- Assembles information on individual incident objectives.
- Recommends resource allocation priorities.
- Maintains critical resources status.
- Ensures advance planning is accomplished.
- Ensures demobilization plans are coordinated.
- Prepares Area Command briefings.
- Reviews Incident Action Plans and completed ICS 209 forms from assigned incidents.
Assistant Area Commander – Logistics

- Obtains briefings from Area Commander.
- Provides facilities, services, and materials for Area Command.
- Designates and coordinates ordering process.
- Ensures communications are coordinated.
- Assists in Area Command decisionmaking.
- Ensures that critical resources are used.
Area Command Technical Specialists

- Aviation Specialist
- Hazardous Materials Specialist
- Environmental Specialist
- Communications Specialist
Agency Administrator In-Briefing

- General situation and incidents assigned
- Jurisdictional delegation of authority
- Assumption of command timing and notifications procedure
- Names and qualifications of Incident Commanders (indicating those under Unified Command)
- Limitations on the Area Commander's authority
- Current IAPs
- Policies, political factors, or other constraints
- Agency advisor
- Area Command facility
- Status of communications systems
- Critical resource designations
- Policy and expectations for interaction with the media
- Area Command reporting responsibility to agency
- Briefing and contact schedules
Area Commander In-Briefing With ICs

✓ Concise incident briefings (including IAPs and other documentation).
✓ Area Command roles and responsibilities.
✓ Policy, direction, and priorities.
✓ Conflict resolution procedures.
✓ Communication procedures, meeting schedules, etc.
✓ Resource ordering process.
✓ Critical resource needs.
Why must Incident Commanders accept the need for Area Command to establish critical priorities?
Area Command Meeting Agenda

- Incident situation reports
- Technical specialist reports
- Identification of critical resource needs
- Allocation and reallocation of resources
- Public Information Officer report
- Liaison Officer report
- Demobilization of resources
- Unified Area Command wrap-up
Demobilization Procedures

- Establish procedures with incidents and EOCs/multiagency coordination centers on demobilization.
- Determine demobilization priorities and procedures for handling critical resources.
- Provide incidents with a list of critical resources and instructions for clearing releases with Area Command.
- Incidents must provide Area Command with copies of demobilization schedules.
Applied Activity

Follow instructions . . .

- Presented by instructors.
- Outlined on handouts.
Summary

You should now be able to:

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