

FEMA Training

Student Name

Course

Name of University

Due Date

In crisis management operations, there are many different moving parts and it can be easy to get distracted or to overlook key events. In order to standardize the way that organizations conduct incident management, FEMA uses the Incident Command System (ICS). According to IS-0100.c: An Introduction to the Incident Command System, ICS 100, the system can be used by all types of organizations for incidents of any size or complexity because it enables a coordinated response, established common processes and allows for the integration of resources (FEMA: Emergency Management Institute, 2018, pg.10).

Various forms of the ICS have been used for decades but when the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) opened in 2003, one of the goals of the newly formed agency was to develop a consistent nationwide approach for federal, state, tribal and local governments to work together to prepare for, prevent, respond to and recover from domestic incidents (FEMA, n.d.). This goal led to the adoption of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) with ICS integrating into the command and coordination component. The other two components of NIMS are resource management and communications and information management ((FEMA: Emergency Management Institute, 2018, pg.13).

According to the training, 14 key characteristics contribute to the strength and efficiency of the ICS overall (FEMA: Emergency Management Institute, 2018, pg.21); all are important but two that I would like to focus on are Incident Action Planning and Integrated Communications.

Effective communication and proper planning may both seem pretty common-sense but in a high-stress situation such as disaster response, ill-rehearsed plans can be easily forgotten and communication can break down. One example that illustrates how increased focus on both these characters can aid in incident response is the 2013 Boston Marathon Bombing. “On April