

ICS 300 – Lesson 1: Welcome/Overview

Lesson Overview

The **Welcome/Overview** lesson will provide a brief tutorial on the structure of the course. It will also review the purpose of the course, present an overview of ICS, and describe each lesson and list specific lesson objectives.

This lesson should take approximately **25 minutes** to complete. **Remember, you must complete the entire lesson to receive credit.**

Lesson 1 Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to:

- Use the course features and functions.
- Identify the purpose of the course.

Course Introduction

The Incident Command System, or ICS, is a standardized, on-scene, all-risk, incident management concept. ICS is the result of decades of lessons learned in the organization and management of emergency incidents. It is a proven management system based on successful business practices.

Designers of the system recognized early that ICS must be interdisciplinary and organizationally flexible to meet the following management challenges:

- Meet the needs of incidents of any kind or size.
- Be usable for routine events or complex emergency incidents.
- Allow personnel from a variety of agencies to meld rapidly into a common management structure.
- Provide logistical and administrative support to ensure that operational staff can meet incident objectives.
- Be cost effective by avoiding duplication of efforts.

Applications for the use of ICS have included:

- Fire, both structural and wildfire
- Hazardous material situations
- Search and rescue
- Oil spills
- Pest eradication
- Control of animal diseases and
- Planned events, such as parades or political rallies.

A poorly managed incident response can be devastating to our economy, to our food supply, and to our health and safety. With so much at stake, we must effectively manage our response efforts. ICS allows us to do so. This course presents a more in depth look at ICS and the vital role that you can play.

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Lesson Overviews and Objectives

The remaining lessons in the web-based portion of this course will cover the following:

Lesson 2: Staffing Fundamentals: ICS organization and duties and responsibilities of the organizational elements. Lesson 2: Staffing Fundamentals will address the following objectives:

- Match responsibility statements to each ICS organizational element.
- List the ICS positions which may include Deputies, and describe Deputy roles and responsibilities. Describe differences between Deputies and Assistants.
- Describe ICS reporting and working relationships for Technical Specialists and Agency Representatives.
- Describe reporting relationships and information flow within the organization.
- Describe the Air Operations Branch and its relationship to other Functions.

Lesson 3: Resource Management: Stages of resource management and responsibilities related to resource ordering. Lesson 3: Resource Management will address the following objectives:

- Discuss the general principles of resource management.
- Describe the responsibilities for resource management shared among the Command and General Staff.
- Describe how resource needs are identified and resources are procured.
- Describe how resources are checked in and tracked on an incident.
- Describe management actions that may result in poor performance.
- Describe the financial procedures that are part of the resource management process.

Lesson 4: Unified Command: Purposes and advantages of multi-jurisdiction and/or multi-agency Unified Command. Lesson 4: Unified Command will address the following objectives:

- Define the advantages of Unified Command.
- Define the kinds of situations that may call for a Unified Command organization.
- Identify the primary features of a Unified Command organization.

Lesson 5: Incident Management: Ways in which incidents and events are organized to achieve incident objectives. Lesson 5: Incident Management will address the following objectives:

- Describe the process of organizing and planning for incidents and planned events.
- Describe the steps in transferring incident command.
- List the major elements included in the incident briefing.
- Develop a sample organization around a planned event.

Lesson 6: Summary & Posttest: Summary of the salient points of ICS 300 and the posttest for the web-based portion of the course.

Lesson Summary

You have completed the **Welcome/Overview** lesson. This lesson provided a brief tutorial on the structure of the course. It also reviewed the purpose of the course, presented an overview of ICS, and described each lesson and listed specific lesson objectives.

The next lesson will review the ICS organization and duties and responsibilities of the organizational elements.