

# **Incident Command System Operations Section Chief (OPS)**

#### Overview

#### User

The user of this job aid will be anyone who is assigned as Operations Section Chief (OPS) within the Incident Command System (ICS). Personnel should have ICS I-100 through I-300 training and position specific training as OPS for a type 1-3 incident.

#### When to Use

This job aid should be used to assist the Operations Section Chief whenever an incident has occurred that requires the Incident Command System Organization to respond.

#### Major Accomplishments

Below is a list of the major accomplishments:

- Operations Section established
- Resources used efficiently
- Staging area established
- Resources re-directed and operational
- Operations brief given
- Revised tactics in response to catastrophe
- Evidence preserved
- Access to private property obtained
- Section demobilized

#### References

Below is a list of references that may be required while using this job aid:

- Oil Spill Field Operations Guide (FOG) (ICS OS-420-1)
- NIIMS ICS Position Manual, Operations Officer (NFES 1985)
- NIIMS Task Book for Operations Section Chief (NFES 2309)
- NFCG Reference Text (NFES 1960) 2309



#### Overview (Cont'd)

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Ensure these materials are available to the Operations Section Chief during an incident, if not already provided in a unit or section specific support kit.

- □ Field Operations Guide□ NIOSH TLV Guide□ Local telephone directory□ CHRIS Manual
- ☐ ICS Forms Catalog ☐ Communications Plan
- ☐ Contingency Plans ☐ TOMES

☐ Federal Response Plan

☐ Maritime Law Enforcement Manual Vol I & II

- ☐ Charts and maps ☐ CAMEO and SPEARS
- ☐ USN SUPSALV Salvor's Handbook ☐ Blank roster for assisting/ cooperating agency
- □ NOAA Shoreline Cleanup Counter-Measures Manual
   □ Pens, pencils, note paper, stapler, Post-it Notes, other office supplies

# General Information

All radio communications to Incident Communications Center will be addressed: "(Incident Name) Communications".

Use clear text and ICS terminology (no codes) in all radio transmissions.



### **Initial Actions**

#### **General Tasks**

Use the job aid below to assist with initial actions to be completed by the Operations Section Chief.

STEP	ACTION	✓		
1.	Review common responsibilities contained in ICS OS-420-1.			
2.	Obtain an initial brief from the Incident Commander			
	Size and complexity of incident			
	• Expectations of the IC			
	Incident objectives			
	Agencies/organizations/ stakeholders involved			
	• Incident activities/situation			
	Special concerns			
3.	Begin/maintain Unit/Activity log (ICS 214)			
4.	Acquire work materials from list on page 2			
5.	Set up workstation			



# **Operations Section Established**

# **Identify Resources**

Below is a checklist for identifying and organizing resources.

STEP	ACTION		✓		
1.	<ul> <li>Identify resources</li> <li>Consult with Resource Unit Leader if assigned</li> <li>Consult with Division/Group Supervisors and Staging Area Managers</li> </ul>				
2.	Use the decision table below to evaluate span of control within the Operations Section				
	IF Span of Control is:	THEN:			
	Optimal (e.g., 1-5 resources assigned)	Maintain current staffing			
	Exceeded or has the potential to be exceeded groups as needed; assign resources				
	<b>NOTE:</b> Establish division boundaries if using divisions. Reasons for establishing divisions or groups				
	Geographic constraints				
	Example: River, inlet, sound, bay, onshore, offshore, highway, mountains, valleys				
	<ul> <li>Multi-functional operations occurring within one geographic area</li> </ul>				
	Example: shoreline cleanup, near shore recovery, protective booming, emergency medical services, SAR, underwater operations				
3.	Identify other agency and RP technical specialists needed to meet objectives				
	Example: If shoreline protection is occurring then consider need for sensitive area specialist, historical preservation specialist, and/or equipment specialist, archeologists, and Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) teams.				



# **Operations Section Established** (Cont'd)

Identify Resources (Cont'd)

The checklist for identifying and organizing resources is continued below.

STEP	ACTION	✓		
4.	Identify and assign resources to specific functions			
	<b>NOTE:</b> These may be assigned to divisions or groups, strike teams or task forces			
5.	Establish communications with the field			
	• Establish a communications schedule with branches, divisions, and group supervisors, e.g., every 4 hours check-in and pass status information. Information to pass includes:			
	- Daily activities			
	- Resources assigned			
	- Resource needs			
	- Weather conditions on site			
	- Safety constraints			
	- Accomplishments for inclusion into the			
	operations brief, specified by time			
	- Tactics revision recommendations			
	- Assignment recommendations			
	Use alternative resources that are available			
	Examples: Cell phone, VHF/UHF radio, SAT phone, computer modem, or telephone			



# **Operations Section Established** (Cont'd)

# Identify Resources (Cont'd)

The checklist for identifying and organizing resources is continued below.

STEP	ACTION	✓
6.	Determine current status of operations:	
	Consult with Situation Unit Leader, if assigned	
	Consult branches, divisions, groups, staging area managers, task forces, and strike teams	
	Examples of information to be obtained:	
	Current tactics employed	
	Resources assigned	
	Resource needs	
	Weather conditions on site	
	Safety constraints	
	Tactical revisions recommended	
	Assignment recommendations	
7.	Establish security and accountability for tactical resources	
	Establish security at staging areas	
	Establish on-site land security for divisions or groups	
	Establish waterside security	
	<ul> <li>Establish safety zones for waterside operations</li> </ul>	
	- Have the Coast Guard issue Broadcast Notice to Mariners (BNTM)	
	<ul> <li>Establish security zones for events dealing with national security issues</li> </ul>	
	Establish flight restrictions	
	- Have the Federal Aviation Administration issue Notice to Airmen (NoTAM)	



# **Resources Used Efficiently (Cont'd)**

Tasks		Below is a checklist	for using resources ef	ficiently.		
	STEP	ACTION			✓	
	1.		Develop strategies, tactics and assignments, based on incident type and C's immediate objectives			
	ICS 202 Example	2:				
	Mission area example	Objective	Strategy	Tactic	Assignments	
	Oil Spill	Skim all free-floating oil on the Savannah River by 2000	Skim oil at source     Collect oil as it flows down the river before reaching staging areas	Place     OSRV     down     current     from     leaking     tank ship     Deploy     collection     boom at     Ocean     Terminal     slip no.1     and skim     oil	Oil Skimmer Group  Use GEORGIA RESPONDER 600 ft from leaking tank ship  Deploy helo to direct skimming resources  Deploy 300' of 18" harbor boom and deploy weir skimmer and 3 vacuum trucks to recover product	
	Search and Rescue (SAR)	Conduct search to rescue 3 potential victims 20 miles offshore at position by (time based on input time given by RCC)	Surface search based on prevailing weather conditions, i.e., temperature, wave height and wind	• Parallel search or expanding square search dependant on situation, e.g., PIW, or in rafts, etc.	Single resource; • 41436 search area B-1	



# **Resources Used Efficiently (cont'd)**

Tasks	Below is a checklist for using resources efficiently.					
	STEP	ACTION			✓	
		ICS 202 Example	(cont'd)			
	Mission area example	Objective	Strategy	Tactic	Assignments	
	Hurricane Operations	• Verify Savannah River channel is safe for navigation by 2400	<ul> <li>Assess ATON damage &amp; positions</li> <li>Conduct hydrographic surveys of channel</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Complete offshore areas first due to wx conditions</li> <li>Complete inland surveys</li> </ul>	• (2) 21' & (1) 55'ATON vessels • (2) 35' hydrographic survey craft	
	Maritime Law Enforcement	Intercept/interdict drugsmuggling operations on the M/V "GOTTA JOINT" based on most current intelligence	Establish     harbor     surveillance at     Elba Island Cut     and Field's Cut	ID each transiting vsl which fits description     Set up "picket boats" using undercover local marine resources to ID suspect vsl	LE Task Force 3;  • HH-65A  • 41325  • 22354  • 20 MP boat  • 22 MP boat	



# **Resources Used Efficiently (Cont'd)**

#### **Tasks**

The checklist for using resources efficiently is continued below.

STEP	ACTION	✓	
3.	Establish immediate for next operational period tactics		
	Consult division/group supervisor and Strike Teams/Task Force Leaders for recommended tactics and resource needs		
	See major accomplishments for revised tactics if major change in situation		
	Use ICS 215 (Operational Planning Worksheet) to develop operational tactics for next operational period		
4.	Address personnel safety issues		
	Consult with Safety Officer if assigned		
	Identify the 11 common safety hazards		
	- Slips, trips and falls		
	- Oxygen hazards		
	- Explosion hazards		
	- Toxicity hazards		
	<ul> <li>Radiation hazards (Ionizing and Non-Ionizing)</li> <li>Electrical hazards</li> </ul>		
	- Priectrical nazards - Noise hazards		
	- Thermal hazards (heat and cold)		
	- Chemical hazards		
	- Cargo chemical agents, non-cargo		
	- Biological hazards (virus, bacterial, fungus, parasite, or living organism that can cause disease in humans)		



# **Resources Used Efficiently (Cont'd)**

Tasks

The checklist for using resources efficiently is continued below.

STEP	ACTION			✓
5.	Identify/assign resources to a	ccomplish	n objectives	
	Develop and implement emer if situation involves release of Threshold Limit Value (TLV)			
	Use decision table below for and time critical situations as and necessary			
	IF Commercial Resources THEN Use are			
	Available and adequate	Comme	rcial first	
	UNavailable or INadequate	Governi		
6.	Provide statistical information success of the operation, which controlling/directing agencies from Division/Group Supervite Example: Use the worksheet is calculate the percentage of or	ch is need; obtain d sors below (for	led by lata needed	<b>_</b>
Step	ACTION	C	ALCUATION	N
1.	Enter total gallons (oil + wa mixed) recovered by SKIMMERS	nter		gal
2.	Estimate percentage of oil i oil/water mix	n _		%
3.	determine amount of oil			gal
4.	Enter amount of oil recovered in ABSORBENTS			
5.	Enter amount of oil recovered by other means			gal
6.	Add Steps 3, 4, and 5 to determine total oil RECOVERED			gal
7.	Enter total amount of oil			



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		SPILLED	gal
	8.	Divide Step 6 by Step 7 to determine percentage of oil recovered	%
7.		Provide critical statistical informatiunit.	on to situation



# **Staging Areas Established**

Tasks

Below is a checklist for setting up the staging areas.

STEP	ACT	ION	✓
1.	Establish staging area in close proximity to incident operations		
2.	2. Establish staging area away from all hazards. Use the decision table below		
IF:		THEN Select a Staging Area:	
Water		Large enough to accommodate vessel resources, i.e. shipyard for larger vessels, marinas/boat ramps for smaller vessels to provide rapid access to incident  Other considerations:  Tidal conditions  Currents  Provides personnel adequate access to/from vessel	n
roads pres		To accommodate any size vehicle – access roads present to accommodate resources to respond to incident	
3.	• R S	In Staging Area Manager Refer to Field Operations Guide, page 5-3, for staging Area Manager responsibilities Resource Unit Leader	



# Staging Areas Established (Cont'd)

Tasks (Cont'd)

The checklist for setting up the staging areas is continued below.

STEP	ACTION	✓
5.	Coordinate with property owners for possible staging area use	
	Consult applicable Contingency Plans	
	Coordinate with Logistics Section Chief for possible lease agreements	
	Coordinate with state or local agencies if publicly owned	



# **Resources Redirected**

Tasks

Below is a checklist for redirecting resources.

STEP	ACT	ION			✓
	1. Analyze resource allocation within divisions and groups. Use the decision table below				
	• Ic	lentify resourc	es not fully u	tilized	
	• Id	lentify resourc	e deficiencies	5	
IF A Resource Is		AND	AND	THEN	
Need	led	Available from staging		Redirect to deficie division or group	ent
		NOT available from staging		Order from RUL a assign	and
Surplus		Assigned to division or group	Potential need exists	Assign to staging	
			NO potential	Demobilize	
2.	2. Inform ResourceUnit Leader of resource move				



# **Operations Brief Given**

Tasks

Below is a checklist for completing an operations brief.

STEP	ACTION	
1.	Refer to page 13-1 in the Field Operations Guide (ICS OS-420-1) or other organizational field guide (if it which tells OPS how to conduct an operations brief)	
2.	Brief current response actions and last shift's accomplishments	
	By Division, Group, Task Force (TF) and Strike Team (ST)	
	ST and TF if not assigned to a Group or Division	
3.	Brief objectives for next operational period	
4.	Provide weather information	
	Example: sea state, wave height, wind speed/direction, precipitation, forecast/current trends	
5.	Brief Division, Group and Air Operation assignments	
	Use ICS Incident Action Plan (IAP)	
6.	Provide safety messages	
7.	Provide trajectory analysis	
8.	Provide communication updates	
9.	Provide transportation updates	



# **Revise Tactics In Response To Catastrophe**

Tasks

Below is a checklist for revising tactics in response to a catastrophe.

STEP	ACTION			
1.	Identify hazards			
2.	Form task force or group to address emergency conditions (fire, SAR, salvage, etc.)			
	Identify imr	mediate strategies and tactics		
	Identify reso	ource needs		
	- Specialized equipment			
	- Incident specific trained personnel			
3.	Exchange information with the Incident Commander. Use the decision table below			
	IF: THEN:			
	SEPARATE incident	Meet with IC for ICS 201 brief		
	MAJOR CHANGE in incident	Brief the IC on changes as outlined in FOG, page 13		
	L			



# Access to Private Property (oil and hazardous material spills only)

Tasks

Below is a decision table used to access private property

IF Owner is	AND Owner Can	AND Adjacent Property Is	THEN
Cooperative			<ol> <li>Document condition of property</li> <li>Enter</li> </ol>
	Be persuaded		Document condition of property     Enter
Uncooperative	NOT be persuaded	Available and suitable	Document condition of adjacent property     Enter adjacent property
		NOT available or NOT suitable	1. Contact local, state, federal law enforcement for escort
			<ul><li>2. Document condition of property</li><li>3. Enter</li></ul>



# **Section/Unit Demobilized**

# Tasks

Below are demobilization responsibilities applicable to all personnel assigned to this section/unit.

STEP	ACTION	✓
1.	Evaluate need for demobilization beginning early on during the event	
2.	Provide input to the demobilization plan	
3.	Consult with Liaison Officer, Demobilization Unit Leader, and Planning Section Chief for release priorities	
4.	Receive Demobilization Plan from Demobilization Unit Leader/Planning Section Chief	
5.	Brief subordinates regarding demobilization	
6.	Supervise demobilization of unit, including storage of supplies	
7.	Coordinate with Decontamination Unit Leader (if assigned) to identify contaminated resources to be demobilized; otherwise the Operations Section Chief is responsible for decontamination of resources	
8.	Provide Supply Unit Leader with a list of supplies to be replenished	
9.	Forward all Section/Unit documentation to Documentation Unit	
10.	Complete Check-out Sheet	



# **Information Exchange Matrix**

Inputs/Outputs Below is an input/output matrix to assist you with obtaining

information from other ICS positions and providing information to ICS

positions.

Meet With:	WHEN:	OPS OBTAINS:	OPS PROVIDES:
Incident	Check-in brief	IC expectations	
Commander	Command staff meeting Planning meeting	Response objectives (prioritized list)	Feedback on status of objectives Recommended strategy and tactics to meet objectives Completed ICS 215
	Pre-ops brief	Motivational remarks	•
Planning Section Chief	Tactics pre- planning meeting	Alternative strategies and tactics	Proposed strategies and tactics for next operational period
			Input to demobilization plan
	Planning meeting	Proposed IAP	Branch/Division/Group
		Briefing on situation, critical/sensitive areas, resource status/availablity, weather	boundaries/functions
	IAP prep meeting	Completed ICS 204's	Information needed to complete ICS 204's
Logistics Section Chief	Tactics pre-planning meeting	Transportation updates	Transportation needs
		Prognosis for resource availablility	Resource needs
Safety Officer	Planning meeting	Safety message	Brief on strategy and tactics for next operational period
Resource Unit Leader	Tactics pre- planning meeting Planning meeting	Resource status	Resource needs / surplus ICS 215
Situation Unit Leader	Tactics pre- planning meeting	Weather	
	Planning Meeting	Future projections for incident	



# Information Exchange Matrix (Cont'd)

Meet With:	WHEN:	OPS OBTAINS:	OPS PROVIDES:
Division and Group	Prior to tactics pre-planning	Current response actions	
Supervisors Task Force	meeting	Shift accomplishments	
Leaders Strike Team		Ops facilities assignment update	
Leaders		Transportation needs	
		Communications needs	Communications plan
		Berthing, meals, rest concerns	
		Future resource needs	
	Pre-ops brief		Division/Group/Air/Strike Team/Task Force assignments