

The background of the slide is a close-up, slightly blurred image of the American flag, showing the blue field with white stars and the red and white stripes. The flag is oriented vertically, with the top of the flag on the left side of the image.

ICS: Site Safety Officer

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Objectives:

- Discuss Safety Officer Roles in an ICS implemented response
- Look at critical time-lines and products expected of an ICS Safety Officer
- Discuss staffing of Safety Officers and Safety Officer Assistants during a response
- Briefly review past successes and failures of Safety Officers during an ICS event (Lessons Learned)

The Role Of The Safety Officer in Incident Command System

- There are numerous plans mandated by the federal government that provide for a Safety Officer and a Site Safety Plan to include:
 - NCP (National Contingency Plan)
 - NRP (National Response Plan)
 - OSHA (29 CFR)
- The bottom line: It needs to be done!**

The Role Of The Safety Officer in Incident Command System

**USCG IMH (Incident Management Handbook)
Definition of the role of the Safety Officer:**

SAFETY OFFICER - The Safety Officer's (SOFR) function is to develop and recommend measures for assuring personnel safety, and to assess and/or anticipate hazardous and unsafe situations.

The Role Of The Safety Officer in Incident Command System



CAPTAIN JAMES T. KIRK

I'M SORRY, I CAN'T HEAR YOU OVER THE
SOUND OF HOW AWESOME I AM.

“Risk is our business!!!!!!”

The Role Of The Safety Officer in Incident Command System

There is an expectation from any UC (Unified Command) IC (Incident Command) that the SOFR can take care of any safety situation that comes up no matter what that person's normal discipline is

If you don't know, get help! (Assistants)

The Role Of The Safety Officer in Incident Command System

Official Stuff

- Green Amber Red (GAR) Risk model
- Severity x Probability x Exposure (SPE) Risk model
- ICS 215CG (215A) Safety Form
- ICS Common Responsibilities

Unofficial Stuff

- Experience
- Common Sense
- Diplomacy
- A willingness to work “Outside your box”

Safety Officer Time-Line and Expected Products

What do I fill my day with....?

Managing the Safety

Organization, including the assignment of Assistants and forming teams where necessary

Exercise emergency authority to stop unsafe actions.

Investigate accidents and near misses that have occurred.

Develop and implement a safe work practices and injury prevention program for the incident.

Conducting an operational risk assessment/hazard analysis to anticipate, identify and control incident hazards.

Completing and enforcing the Incident Safety Plan.

Monitoring all operations to ensure effectiveness of safety controls.

Monitoring may include air for toxic vapors; heat and cold; fatigue; radiation and other conditions that affect the safety of responders.

Safety Officer Time-Line and Expected Products

Review the Incident Action Plan (IAP) to ensure safety objectives, messages and plans are incorporated

Review and approve the medical plan

Review communications plan to ensure protocols are robust enough to ensure timely reporting and response to safety emergencies

Ensure all Safety activities are documented on ICS Form 214



Safety Officer Time-Line and Expected Products

**Tools of the trade:
ICS forms that are the
responsibility or have
critical input by the
SOFR**



- **Incident Hazard Analysis Form (ICS Form 215ACG)**
- **Safety Plan (ICS Form 208)**
- **Unit Log, ICS 214**
- **Incident Action Plan, specifically, the following forms:**
 - **Incident Objectives, Form 202**
 - **Division Assignment List, Form 204**
 - **Communications Plan, Form 205**
 - **Medical Plan, Form 206**

Safety Officer Time-Line and Expected Products

Critical Action Items and Questions to ask:

What phase is the response in?

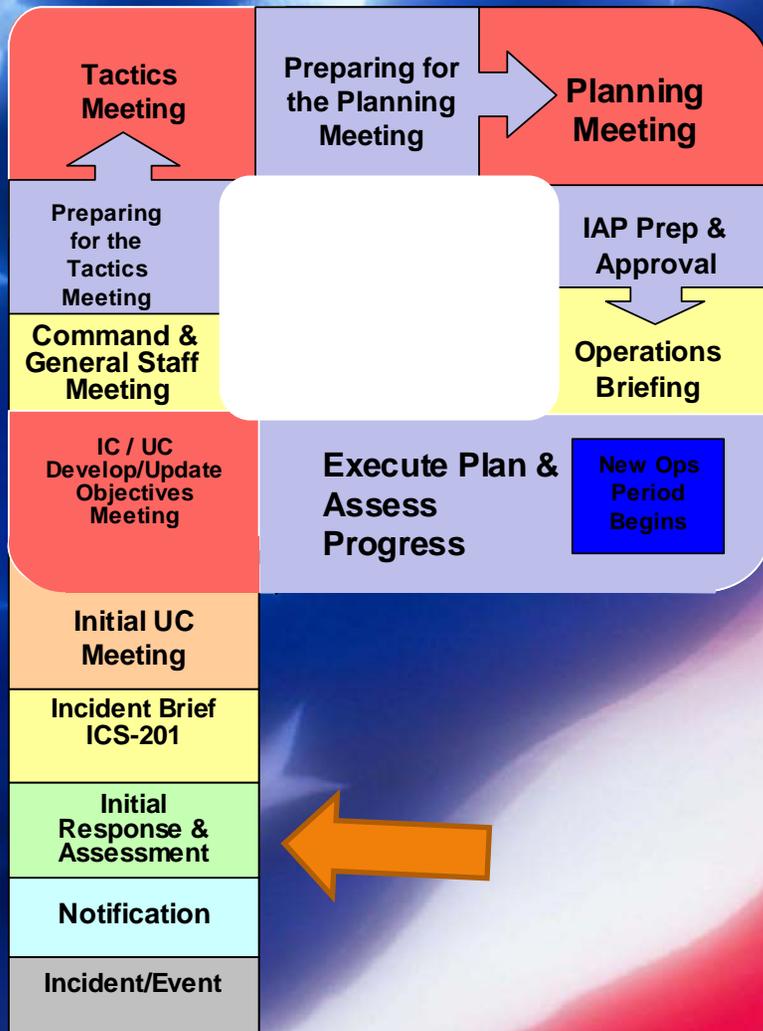
What type of plan do you need to get you through this operational period?

What is the top priority to ensure that no one gets hurt right now?

During the initial phases of an incident, the ICS Form 201 will be the primary action plan. It is critical to glean as much knowledge from this form as possible.

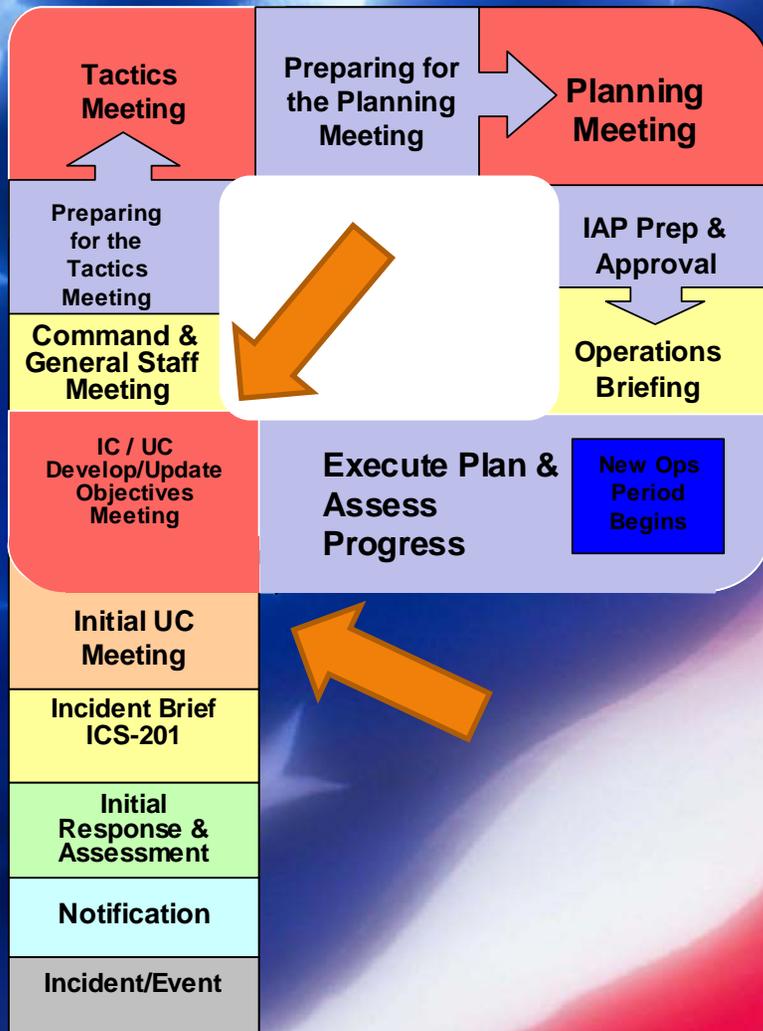
While there is no “set in stone” rules for a SOFR in these early phases, any efforts in this phase can make or break a response.

Safety Officer Time-Line and Expected Products



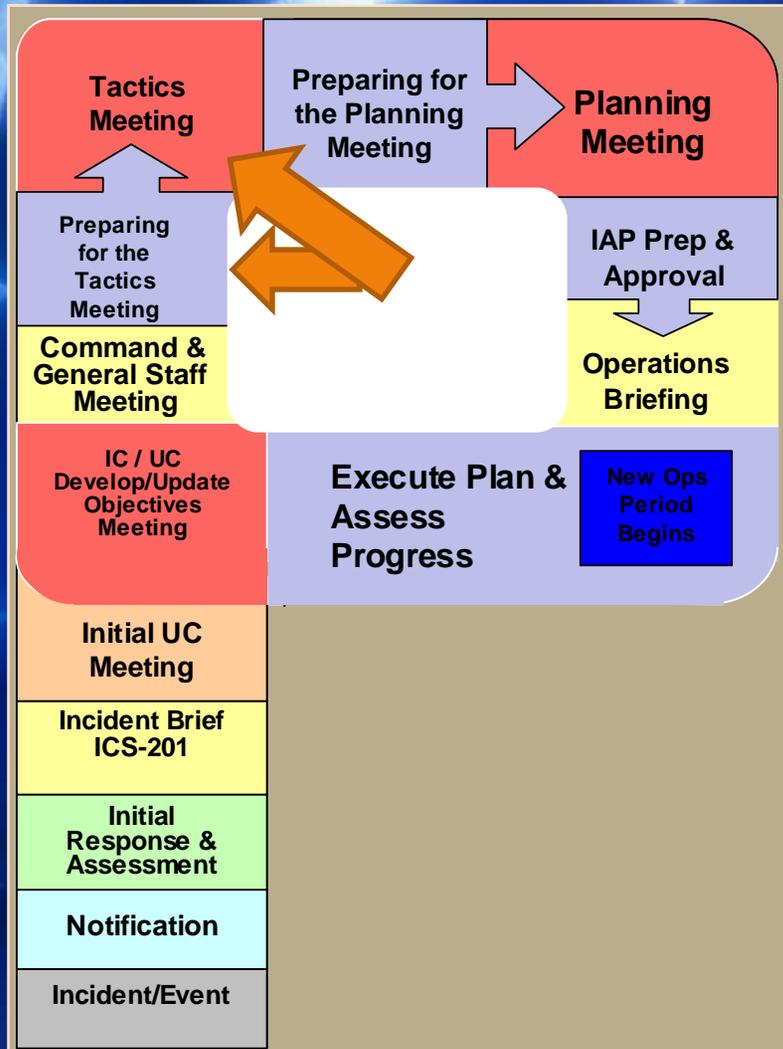
The planning “P” drives the incident command to keep a schedule and make progress on “deliverables”

Safety Officer Time-Line and Expected Products



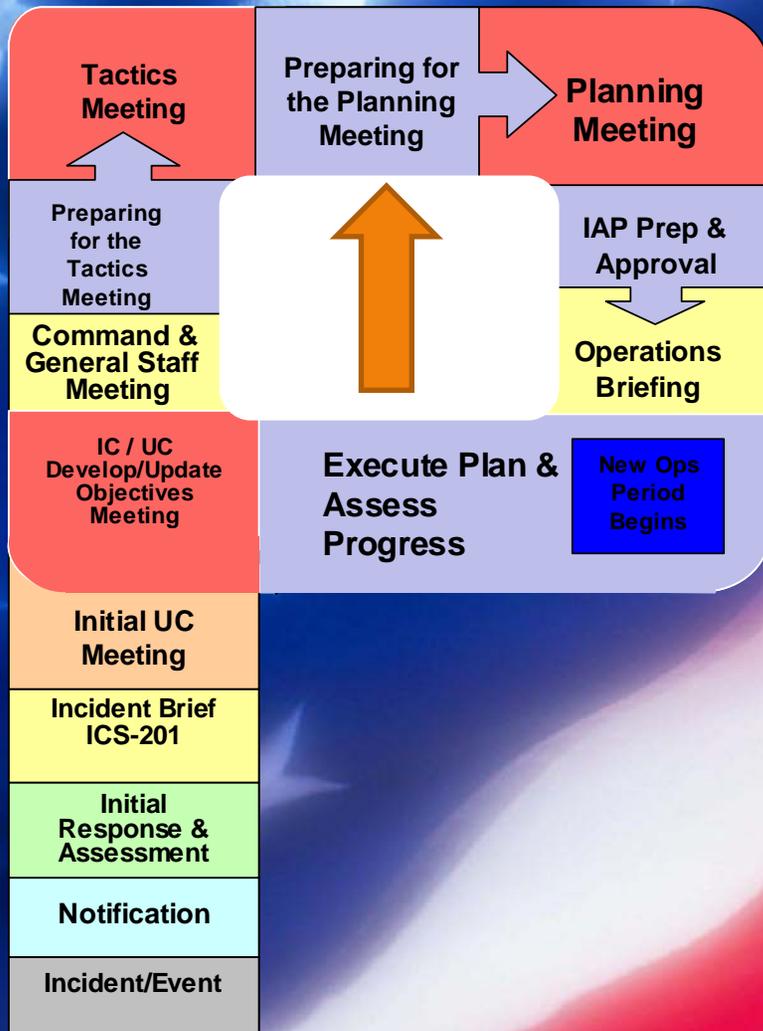
During the initial UC meeting and the development of objectives the SOFR has an obligation to ensure that safety is not overlooked and that objectives do not stretch safety boundaries

Safety Officer Time-Line and Expected Products



As Operations begins developing tactics and work assignments for the next operational period, conduct a risk analysis on each assignment (ICS 215A)

Safety Officer Time-Line and Expected Products

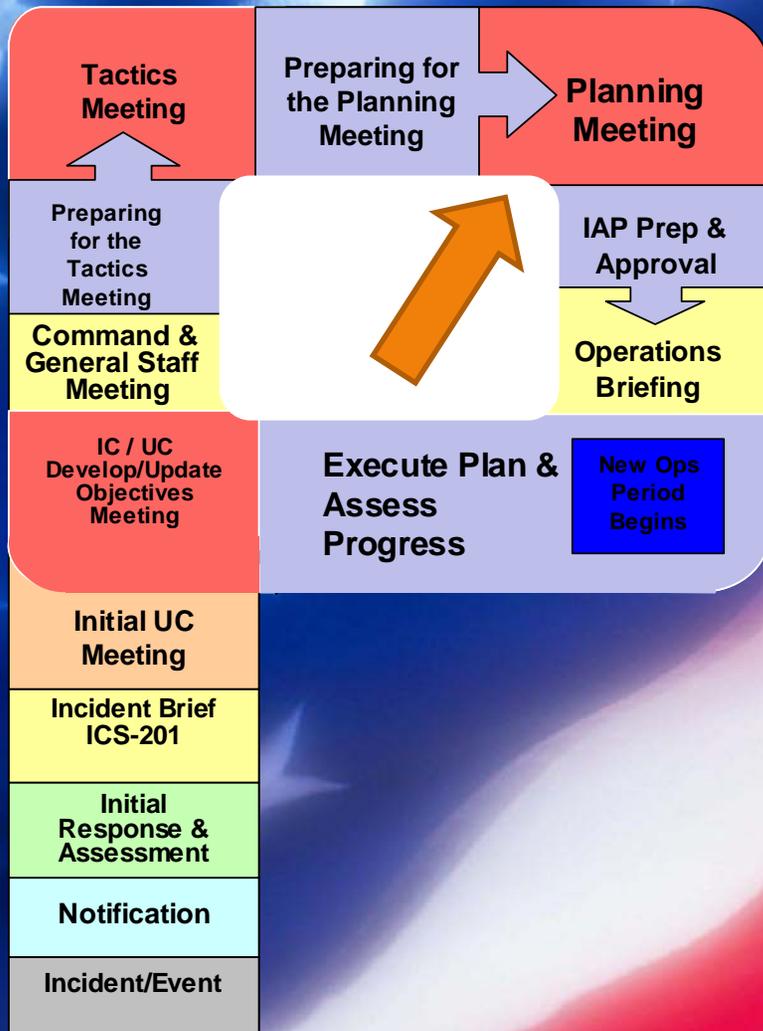


Obtain briefings from Assistant Safety Officers in the field. This will ensure the Safety Officer has the latest safety situational picture going into the tactics meeting

Begin drafting the incident Safety Plan. (ICS Form 208)

Prepare for Safety Status Briefing (See Command and General Staff Meeting section). Consult with Operations and Planning for agreement with content of brief

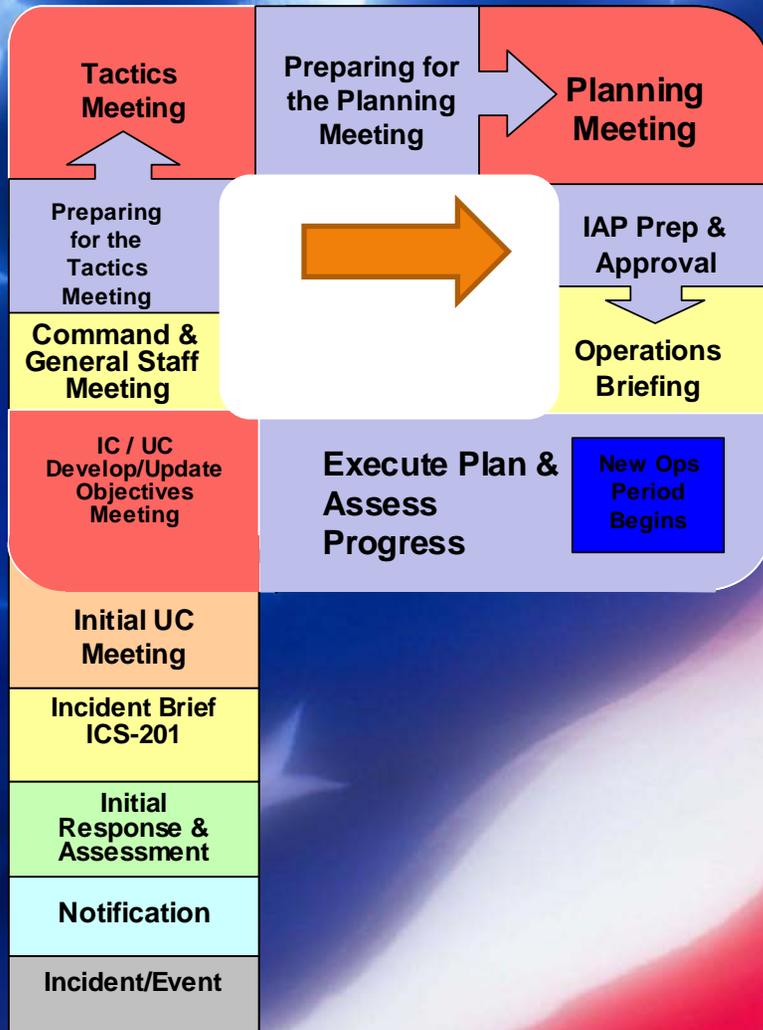
Safety Officer Time-Line and Expected Products



Provide a Safety Status Briefing when called upon.

- **Report on overall Safety Status of Incident**
 - 1) **Number of Injuries and/or near misses**
 - 2) **Actions being taken to prevent injury or near miss reoccurrence**
- **Report the status of any tasking assigned by the IC/UC**

Safety Officer Time-Line and Expected Products



Complete the incident Safety Plan (ICS-208)

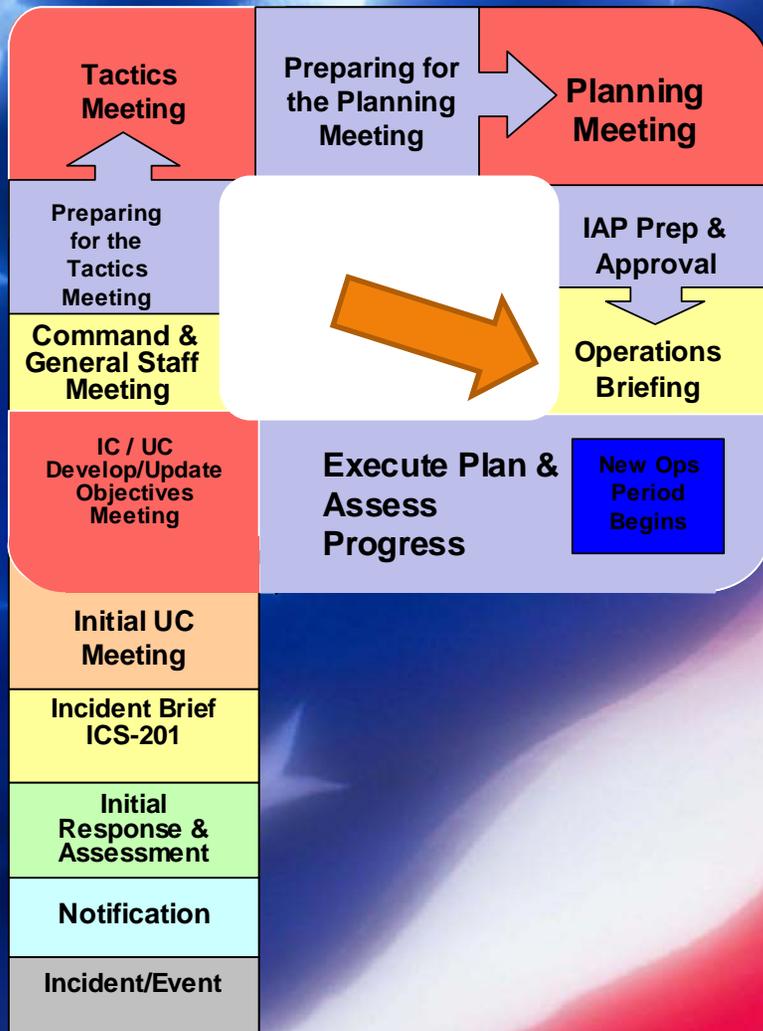
Add "General Safety Message" to ICS Form 202

Ensure Safety Officer Organization is reflected in ICS Form 203

Add special safety instructions specific to the unit's work assignment. Use information from Form 215A

Review the medical plan (Form 206). Ensure hospitals are able to treat exposed victims, regardless of exposure type (chemical, biological, radiological, etc.)

Safety Officer Time-Line and Expected Products

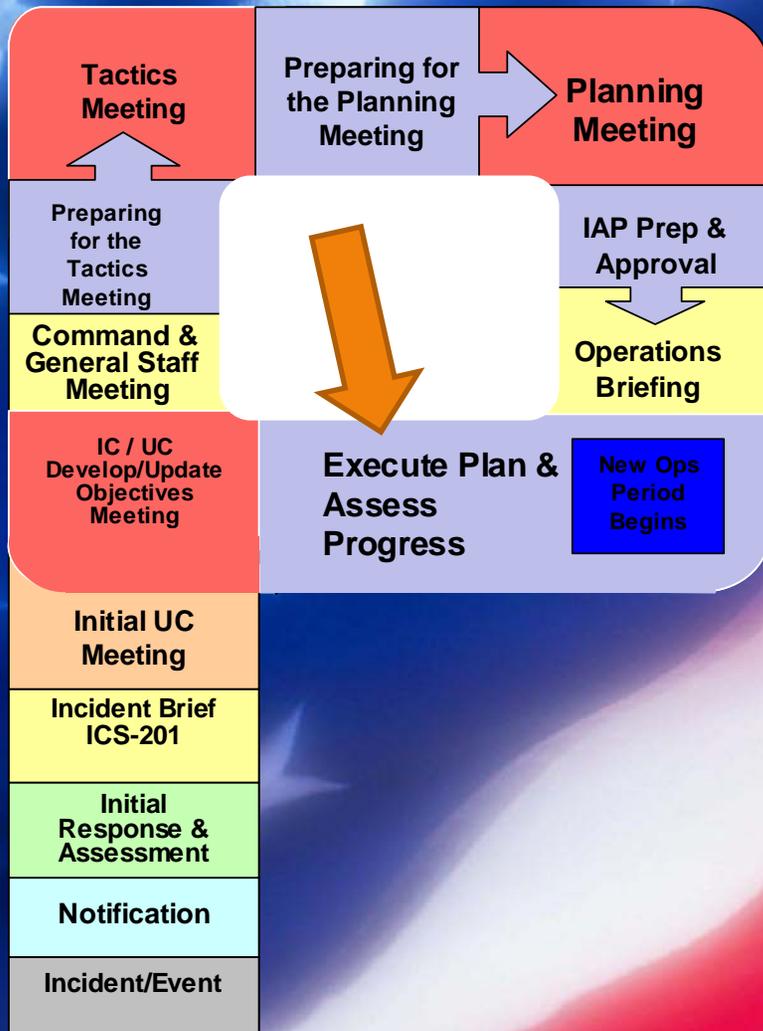


Provide a Safety Status Briefing when called upon

Review Communications Plan to ensure clear communications link to all field units and their supervisors. Contact field assistant safety officers to determine effectiveness of Comms Plan

Place safe travel message & communications information within the Demobilization Plan

Safety Officer Time-Line and Expected Products



Safety Officer continues to receive periodic updates from Assistant Safety Officers in the field to ensure compliance with Safety Plan and Messages

Review outstanding actions required by the UC and ensure their completion

Get out in the field and assess ongoing operations

Safety Officer Time-Line and Expected Products



Safety Officers are recommended to use an ICS Form 231 (Meeting Record Form) to keep track of open action items given during meetings by other command and general staff personnel to take for further tasking or delegation

Safety Officer Staffing

Safety Officers may have assistants

There are no deputy safety officers

Assistants do NOT need to be as qualified as the Safety Officer

Each discipline (Search and Rescue, Fire, Hazmat, Bomb Squad, Aviation, Dive Team) should have it's own assigned Safety Assistant

Safety Assistants should also be assigned based on:

- **Geographic Scope**
- **Operational Periods**
- **Operational Intensity**
- **Environmental Factors**

Typically each division will also have one Safety Assistant assigned

Safety Officer Staffing

Incident Size Classification

- Type 5 - Initial
- Type 4 - Routine
- Type 3 - Non-Routine
Local Interest
- Type 2 - Very Complex
Regional to National
Interest
- Type 1 - Highly Complex
National Interest

Guidelines for MINIMUM SOFR and Assistant staffing per operational period

Safety Officer

Safety Officer w/ one
assistant

Safety Officer w/ two to
three assistants

Safety Officer Staffing

Other Staffing Considerations

- Area Commands
- Multiple ICP's (Incident Command Posts)
- MAC (Multi Agency Commands)
- Safety as a Tech Spec (Technical Specialist)

Resource Mob/Demob

- Standard practice for relief of personnel on incidents is 21 days
- Safety Officers should complete a "lessons learned" prior to demob
- Safety Officers should also fill out an ICS-225 (Incident Personnel Performance Evaluation) for Safety Assistants as well as sign off on Position Specific Personnel Qualification Standard (PQS) books

Lessons Learned

Over the last decade the USCG has successfully utilized ICS in a multitude of type 3 or larger incidents

Safety Officers have played key roles in these responses



Lessons Learned

How to tell if you are getting the Safety Mission accomplished: (Actual Statements from past cases)

The Bad:

“Boy airbags sure do hurt....” -Contractor, Hurricane Katrina

“Do you still want your safety plan thingy back if we bled all over it...” -NYC Fire Fighter, WTC

**“Don’t give me any crap about this, but we just flipped our boat in the river and we are freezing out here....”
USCG Pac Strike Team Member, Athos I Oil Spill
(February)**

Lessons Learned

How to tell if you are getting the Safety Mission accomplished: (Actual Statements from past cases)

The Good:

“The guys want to know if you can buy them the hard hats with the NFL logos on them?” EPA Contractor, Rouge River Oil Spill

“Hey get the PABA free sunscreen, that other stuff is too oily....” USCG Gulf Strike Team, Columbia Recovery

Lessons Learned

How to tell if you are getting the Safety Mission accomplished: (Actual Statements from past cases)

The Ugly:

“You safety guys don’t do a thing...we haven’t had anything go wrong on this gig....” State Police, G-8 Conference, NSSE

“Hey! We could get a team ribbon out of this!!” USCG Ensign, Rouge River Oil Spill

Lessons Learned

Advice for safety officers:

Bigger site safety plans are not better site safety plans; if it's not a threat, don't put it in there, people don't read phone-books

Always verify the nearest emergency room, NEVER assume that everyone knows how to get there

Never underestimate the necessity or value of an evacuation plan

If your sitting around with nothing to do your doing something wrong; go make a copy or help out the logistics section

If you have people in air craft, hazmat suits, bomb gear, on air with scuba tanks, armed with weapons and you are comfortable, your doing something wrong

Lessons Learned

Advice for safety officers:

Critical Incident Stress Management is NOT just for “Sissy’s”

You are at the incident to support Operations, not the other way around

Rarely has a major safety event happened at the Command Post: Get out in the field, or get someone out there

If you don’t know an answer, say you don’t know. Then go find out

Food+ Water safety is CRITICAL, always keep tabs on the cleanliness of your eating facilities: Insist that all illnesses that occur in responders be reported immediately, it might help catch something before it gets serious

Lessons Learned

Space Shuttle Columbia Incident:

At it's peak, there were upwards of 15,000 responders

There were four incident command posts, with the incident covering a search area roughly the size of North Carolina

Total Safety Personnel, or Safety Related Personnel: 760

There was a total commitment to safety by NASA and the entire Unified Command

Even then, there was 2 fatalities, and 10 serious injuries

Lessons Learned

The Kim Family Incident:

December 2006

The Kim Family took a back road and were lost in the woods in Oregon during a snow storm.

After a few days two family members were found. Mr. Kim set off to try and get help, but perished.

After the incident a brutally honest post incident review is published.

There were several glaring safety issues that could have been avoided if a SOFR had been staffed.

Lessons Learned

The End:
Questions, Comments or
Deltas???

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