



S-420 Unit 6: Understanding the Situation

Summary:

To enable students to develop methods for understanding a situation and to find sources for situational awareness information.

Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- Describe methods for developing an understanding of a situation.
- List sources of situational awareness available to an IMT during the first 24 hours post-notification.

Instructor Note:

The students apply the content of this unit in Simulation (Sim) Phase 0, Phase 1a, and Phase 2. Unit instructor should review these Sim phases prior to instruction. Unit Instructor and Sim Coordinator should discuss how the unit content and the Sim interact.

Unit at a Glance:

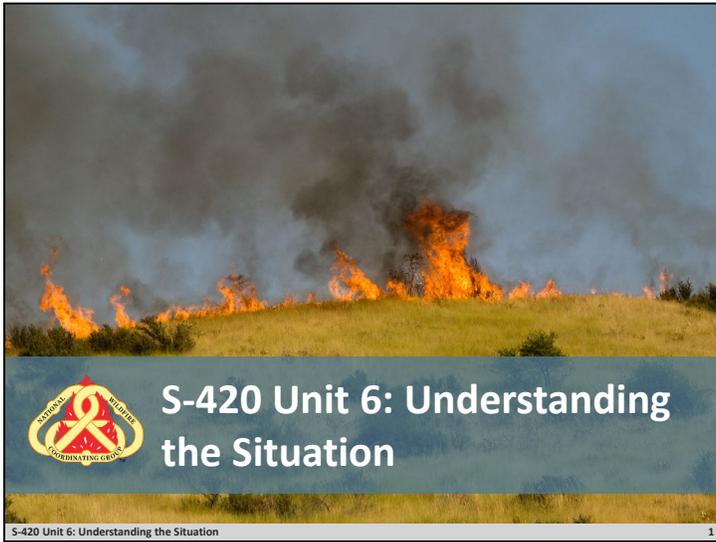
Topics	Method	Duration
Understanding the Situation	Presentation	20 Minutes
Agency Administrator Briefing to IMT	Presentation What Right Looks Like: Cadre may role-play an AA briefing (inbrief) demonstrating how it is conducted and how each functional area interacts in the meeting. Demonstrate how C&G interact with the AA by asking questions and seeking out information.	20 Minutes
Incident Briefing from the Initial IC to Incoming IMT	Presentation and Discussion	20 Minutes
Total Unit Duration		1 Hour

Materials:

- Ability to display images and video on large screen.
- White board or easel access for group breakout.

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- Review unit objectives.

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Understanding the Situation

- Developing an understanding of the situation is part of the leg of the Planning P.
- The planning activities that may occur at this time include:
 - Initial response and assessment.
 - AA briefing.
 - Incident briefing.
 - Initial Unified Command meeting if in Unified Command.

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- The primary focus is to increase situational awareness to build and maintain a common operating picture. The information gathered informs both strategic and operational planning efforts.
- To increase situational awareness, the C&G gathers information from a variety of sources such as Delegation of Authority, WFDSS Decision Document, Incident Complexity Analysis, inbriefing, Incident Status Summary (ICS-209).
- Understanding the situation is an ongoing effort throughout the incident. Situational awareness is maintained and information from strategic planning efforts is continually fed into the operational planning cycle.

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Agency Administrator Briefing to IMT

- AA's leader's intent and expectations for managing the incident.
- Description of the situation (history, status, weather, fire behavior, effectiveness of tactics).
- Documentation (briefing package) which includes delegation of authority, WFDSS Incident Decision, etc.
- Procedures for communications, resource ordering, media, business management, and key agency personnel to be involved.

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- The AA's briefing (also known as an IMT inbrief) is a critical briefing because it provides information, guidance, and direction to the IMT for managing the incident.
- The AA hosts this meeting. The IC attends and invites others to attend. If C&G does not attend the briefing, it is their responsibility to find out what happened and to get a copy of the briefing package and read relevant documents.
- The Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations (Red Book) contains the following:
 - Information about the AA's briefing.
 - An example Delegation of Authority from the AA to the IMT, and leader's intent.
 - A briefing template for the AA's briefing.
 - A list of things that should be included in a briefing packet.
 - Elements to include in a transfer of command (transition plan).
- On FEMA all hazard assignments, there will not be a delegation of authority, instead the IMT receives a mission tasking.

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Incident Briefing from the Initial IC to Incoming IMT

- Initial IC provides more specific incident information, resources assigned, and current actions.
- C&G must note information relevant to their position and to team.
- Incident briefing is based on the ICS 201 and transfer of command plan.
- The *Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations* (Red Book) has a template for a local IC briefing to an IMT.

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- The initial IC (or other fire management official) gives an initial incident briefing to the incoming incident management organization to provide more specific incident information, resources assigned, and current actions.
- On longer duration incidents, the outgoing IC (who may not be the initial IC) gives the incident briefing to the incoming incident management organization.
- The C&G who attend this briefing need to pay attention to information that is relevant to their specific position as well as information that is relevant to the team.
- The incident briefing is based on the details recorded on the Incident Briefing form (ICS 201) and the transfer of command plan, which are completed by the outgoing IC and team.
- The *Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations* (Red Book) has a template for a local IC briefing to an IMT.

Discussion:

- Who typically attends these briefings? What are their roles?
- What products may be distributed and how are they relevant to C&G?
- What are examples of information that each C&G position could obtain from these briefings?
- Where can C&G find information to increase situational awareness?

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Review unit objectives.