OPERATIONAL NEEDS – INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM

INITIAL FACILITATOR INFORMATION—NOT TO BE SHARED WITH STUDENTS

Author(s)

- Clay Yazzi, San Juan Hotshots
- Jon Lucas, Los Padres National Forest
- Eric Walker, Boise BLM Smokejumpers

Target Audience

Incident Management Team (IMT) and Command and General Staff (CG)

Training Objective

Given the following scenario, the players will address and identify all operational needs and concerns for each functional area on an Incident Management Team during the three phases of the operation presented (arrival at incident, mid-operation, prior to end of operation).

Resources Referenced

- Incident Commander
- Information
- Liaison
- Operations
- Planning
- Logistics
- Finance
SCENARIO INFORMATION TO BE SHARED WITH STUDENTS

Facilitator Briefing to Student(s)

INPUT ONE:

You are an Incident Management Team that has just arrived on an incident with potential for large fire growth, social and political concerns, and all of the CG is present. You are face to face with your team.

The current conditions are as follows “Arrival at Scene” (reflect local conditions and fire environment per facilitator notes and instructions stated below).

- Fire name and location: _______________________
- Fire size: ____________
- Temperature: ____________
- Relative humidity: ____________
- Wind speed and direction: ____________
- Local fire conditions at high indices (PL 5): _______________________________
- Local representative fuel model: __________________
- Terrain: _____________________________________
- Resource, social and political concerns: ___________________

You now have an opportunity to discuss what needs to take place to assume command of the incident. In three minutes assess the situation, and then be prepared to discuss your operational needs and concerns given the current situation.

INPUT TWO:

You are now in the middle of the operation. The fire has grown in size and complexity is increasing. There are multiple resources on the incident (facilitator to identify the number of resources and type).

- Fire size: ____________
- Temperature: ____________
- Relative humidity: ____________
- Wind speed and direction: ____________
- Local fire conditions at high indices (PL 5): _______________________________
- Resource, social and political concerns: ___________________

In three minutes assess the situation, prepare and communicate how your operational needs and concerns have changed to the rest of the CG.

INPUT THREE:

Your incident is now winding down and you are a few days away from turning the incident over to the local district. You still have all resources on the incident but are now in a position to start releasing them and need to consider how you want to transition the fire back to the local area.

In three minutes, assess the situation and be prepared to discuss what are your thoughts and concerns now to ensure appropriate measures are taken to effectively transition the fire back to the district?
Facilitator “Murphy’s Law” Suggestions

Murphy’s Law suggestions should be put together and posed as questions at the end of each seminar style discussion. They should be used to address things that could significantly alter the operational needs and concerns of the CG (e.g. fatality on the incident, subdivision significantly threatened, sensitive areas, lack of resources to meet objectives, archeological site, etc.)

Facilitator’s Notes

This TDG should focus on the operational needs and concerns in each functional area on and Incident Management Team during the three phases of an operation (arrival at scene, mid-operation, and just prior to the end of the operation). This scenario will be implemented as three seminar decision points.

The facilitator should create a fire environment that represents local conditions and indices that will cater to large fire growth during National Preparedness Level 5. The indices should include:

- Fire name and location
- Temperature
- Relative humidity
- Wind speed and direction
- Local fire conditions at high indices (PL 5)
- Local representative fuel model

**Facilitator should utilize a map that represents the local area.**

Arrival at Scene

After the table orientation and the “arrival at scene” fire environment is presented, the roll players should be given several minutes to consider what incident concerns they have. After the allotted time, the following questions should be presented to the CG of the IMT (IC, Liaison, Information, Safety, Operations, Plans, Finance, and Logistics):

- What are your concerns and needs given the current fire situation?

Mid-Operation

The facilitator will now need to orient the table and fire environment to represent conditions standard to an incident mid-operation. The fire should grow in size and complexity and reflect local issues and concerns that typically arise in the local area. After orientation the facilitator should take a tactical time out and ask the following question individually to each CG functional position:

- How have your needs and concerns changed and what are they?
Prior to End of Operation

The facilitator can now state that the incident is winding down. It should be assumed that you are a couple days from transitioning the fire back over to the district. The table will not need to be reoriented. The following question should be asked:

- What are your thoughts and concerns now to ensure appropriate measures are taken to effectively transition the fire back to the district?

After Action Review

Conduct an AAR with focus on the training objective, using the AAR format found in the *Incident Response Pocket Guide* to facilitate the AAR. There are four basic questions in the AAR.

1. What was planned?
2. What actually happened?
3. Why did it happen?
4. What can we do next time?

TDGS shouldn't have a single solution, keep the focus of the AAR on what was done and why.