

# Emergency Response & Management Overview for Executives/ Senior Officials

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# Overall Priorities

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All decisions made and all objectives established are based on these priorities:

**#1: Life Safety**

**#2: Incident Stabilization**

**#3: Property/Environmental Conservation**



# Emergency Response & Management

- **Command**
- **Support and Coordination**
- **Policy & Delegation of Authority**

# Command

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- **Command**: The act of directing, ordering, or controlling by virtue of **explicit** statutory, regulatory, or delegated authority
- **Chain of command** is an orderly line of authority within the ranks of the incident management organization.
- **Unity of command** means that every individual has a designated supervisor to whom he or she reports at the scene of the incident

# Incident Commander's Role

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## **The Incident Commander:**

- Provides overall leadership for incident response.
- Takes policy direction from the Executive/Senior Official.
- Delegates authority to others.
- Ensures incident safety.
- Provides information to internal and external stakeholders.
- Establishes and maintains liaison with other agencies participating in the incident.
- Establishes incident objectives.
- Directs the development of the Incident Action Plan.

# Executives'/Senior Officials' Role & Responsibilities

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## Executives/Senior Officials:

- Provide policy guidance on priorities and objectives based on situational needs and emergency plans
- Assist with resource acquisition and support to the on-scene command through the Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
- Assist with public messaging

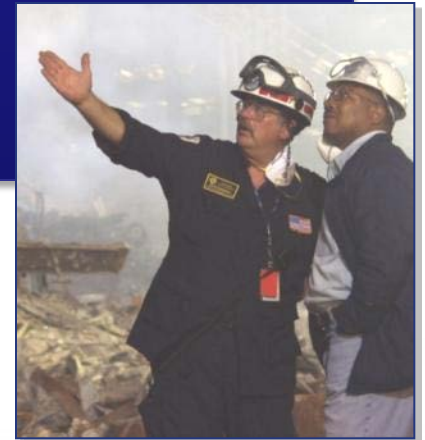




# Executives/Senior Officials Delegate Command Authority

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- Executives/Senior Officials delegate authority to the designated Incident Commander for on-scene operations
- The Incident Commander has direct tactical and operational responsibility for conducting incident management activities



# Delegation of Authority

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Delegation of authority may be in writing (established in advance) or verbal, and include:

- Legal authorities and restrictions.
- Financial authorities and restrictions.
- Reporting requirements.
- Demographic issues.
- Political implications.
- Agency or jurisdictional priorities.
- Plan for public information management.
- Process for communications.
- Plan for ongoing incident evaluation.



**Delegation  
of  
Authority**



# Incident Management Roles

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## **Incident Commander's Role**

### **The Incident Commander:**

- **Commands all resources at the incident scene and manages the incident**
- **Requests & receives support & coordination services from the EOC (e.g., logistics, planning, public information)**

## **Agency Executives'/Senior Officials' Role**

### **Officials provide the Incident Commander with the following:**

- **Policy**
- **Mission**
- **Strategic direction**
- **Authority**
- **Political support**

# Reliance on an Incident Action Plan

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**The Incident Commander creates an Incident Action Plan (IAP) that:**

- **Specifies the incident objectives**
- **States the activities to be completed**
- **Covers a specified timeframe, called an operational period**
- **May be oral or written**
- **Takes into account legal and policy considerations and direction**
- **Should be communicated to the Elected Officials who have delegated the authority and responsibility**



**Incident  
Action Plan**

# Managing Public Information

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## Command's Public Information Officer (PIO):

- Represents and advises the Incident Command (EOC / Emergency Management supports & coordinates)
- Manages on-scene media and public inquiries & establishes a Joint Information System (JIS) with the EOC

A **Joint Information Center (JIC)** is the location for the JIS participants to manage

- Critical emergency information
- Crisis messaging
- Other Public Affairs functions

# Speaking With One Voice

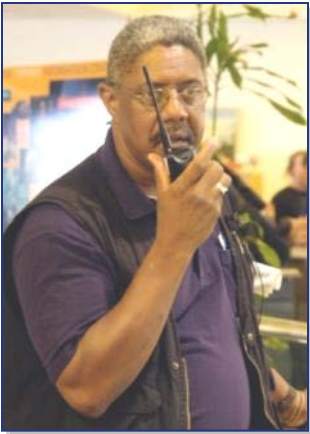
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- Executives/Senior Officials must coordinate and integrate messages with PIOs, the JIS, EOC, and other agencies
- The **Joint Information System** with its procedures and protocols is used to help ensure coordination of all public messages.

# Leadership

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**Most importantly, Executives/Senior Officials provide leadership.**

**Leadership means . . .**

- **Motivating and supporting trained, on-scene responders so that they can accomplish difficult tasks under dangerous, stressful circumstances.**
- **Instilling confidence in the public that the incident is being managed effectively.**

# Thank you

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## Comments & Questions