
UNIT 2: ICS OVERVIEW

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Unit 2: ICS Overview

Unit Objectives

At the end of this unit, the participants should be able to:

- Identify three purposes of the Incident Command System (ICS).
 - Identify requirements to use ICS.
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Scope

- Unit Introduction
 - ICS Overview
 - Activity: ICS and Planned Events
 - National Preparedness and ICS Requirements
 - ICS Benefits
 - Activity: Management Challenges
 - Unit Summary
-

Methodology

The instructors will introduce the unit by displaying a visual that outlines the unit objectives. After this introduction to ICS, the instructors will lead a discussion about when participants have used ICS in the past and when they might use it in the future.

The instructors will show a video presentation that explains the benefits of ICS in promoting response partnerships. After the video, the instructors will summarize the key points of the video. To ensure comprehension, the participants will take part in an activity about using ICS for planned events.

The instructors will introduce the group to the importance of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and its impact on ICS.

The participants will then break into small groups to participate in a scenario-based activity in which they explore how ICS can help to address incident management challenges.

After answering any questions that the participants have, the instructors will summarize the key points from the unit and transition to Unit 3.

Materials

- PowerPoint visuals 2.1 – 2.15
 - Instructor Guide
 - PowerPoint slides and a computer display system
 - Student Manual
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Unit 2: ICS Overview

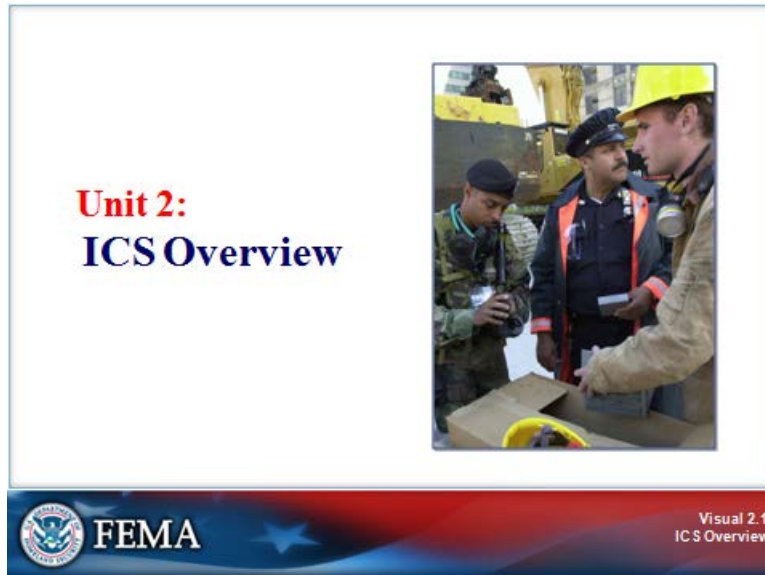
Time Plan

A suggested time plan for this unit is shown below. More or less time may be required, based on the experience level of the group.

Topic	Time
Unit Introduction	5 minutes
ICS Overview Activity: ICS and Planned Events	15 minutes
National Preparedness and ICS Requirements	10 minutes
ICS Benefits	10 minutes
Activity: Management Challenges	15 minutes
Unit Summary	5 minutes
Total Time	1 hour

UNIT INTRODUCTION

Visual 2.1



Instructor Notes: Present the following key points.

Unit 2 provides a general overview of the Incident Command System, or ICS. The next visual will outline the objectives for this unit.

UNIT INTRODUCTION

Visual 2.2

Unit Objectives

Identify:

- Three purposes of ICS.
- Requirements to use ICS.

Unit List

- ✓ Course Overview
- ICS Overview
- ICS Features & Principles
- Incident Commander & Command Staff Functions
- General Staff Functions
- Unified Command
- Course Summary – Putting It All Together

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Visual 2.2
ICS Overview

Instructor Notes: Present the following key points.

By the end of this unit, you should be able to:

- Identify three purposes of the Incident Command System (ICS).
- Identify requirements to use ICS.
 - National Incident Management System (NIMS)
 - Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) – 1986
 - Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Rule 1910.120
 - State and local regulations

UNIT INTRODUCTION

Visual 2.3



Instructor Notes: Present the following key points.

The following video summarizes the purposes of ICS.

Video Transcript:

Disaster can strike anytime, anywhere. It takes many forms—a hurricane, an earthquake, a tornado, a flood, a fire or a hazardous spill, or an act of terrorism. An incident can build over days or weeks, or hit suddenly, without warning.

A poorly managed incident response can undermine our safety and well being. With so much at stake, we must effectively manage our response efforts.

Although most incidents are handled locally, partnerships among local, tribal, State, and Federal agencies as well as nongovernmental and private-sector organizations may be required.

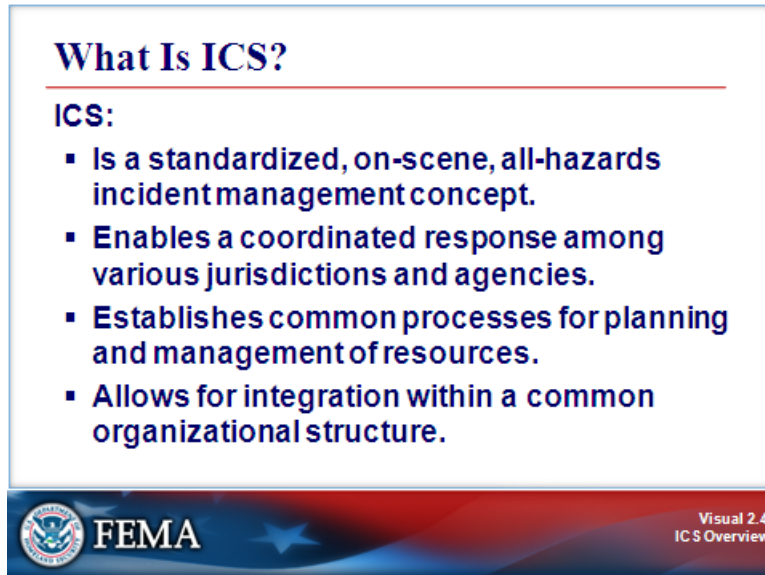
As partners, we must respond together in a seamless, coordinated fashion.

The Incident Command System, or ICS, helps ensure integration of our response efforts. ICS is a standardized, on-scene, all-hazards approach to incident management. ICS allows all responders to adopt an integrated organizational structure that matches the complexities and demands of the incident while respecting agency and jurisdictional authorities. Although ICS promotes standardization, it is not without needed flexibility. For example, the ICS organizational structure can expand or contract to meet incident needs.

In this course, you'll learn ICS principles. And more importantly, you'll learn to interface better with your response partners.

ICS OVERVIEW

Visual 2.4



Instructor Notes: Present the following key points.

ICS:

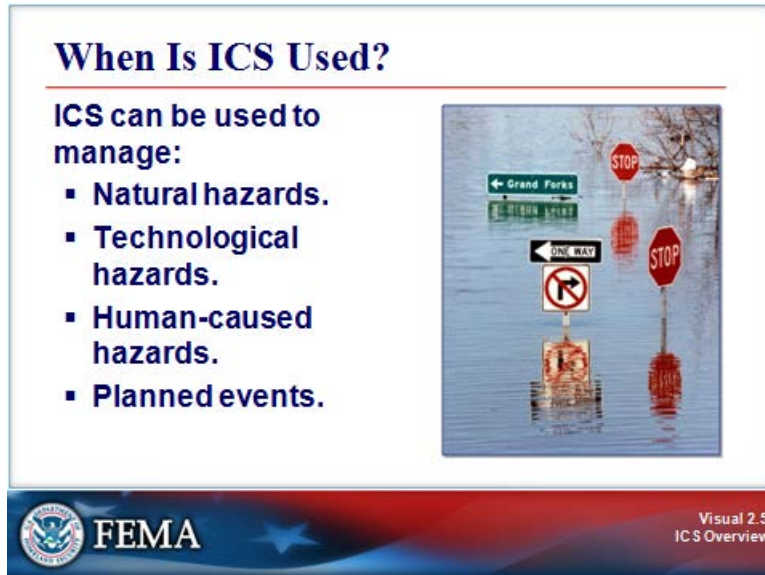
- Is a standardized, on-scene, all-hazards incident management concept.
- Enables a coordinated response among various jurisdictions and agencies.
- Establishes common processes for planning and managing resources.
- Allows for the integration of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications operating within a common organizational structure.

ICS was developed in the 1970s following a series of catastrophic fires in California. Property damage ran into the millions, and many people died or were injured.

The personnel assigned to determine the causes of these disasters studied the case histories and discovered that response problems could rarely be attributed to lack of resources or failure of tactics.

ICS OVERVIEW

Visual 2.5



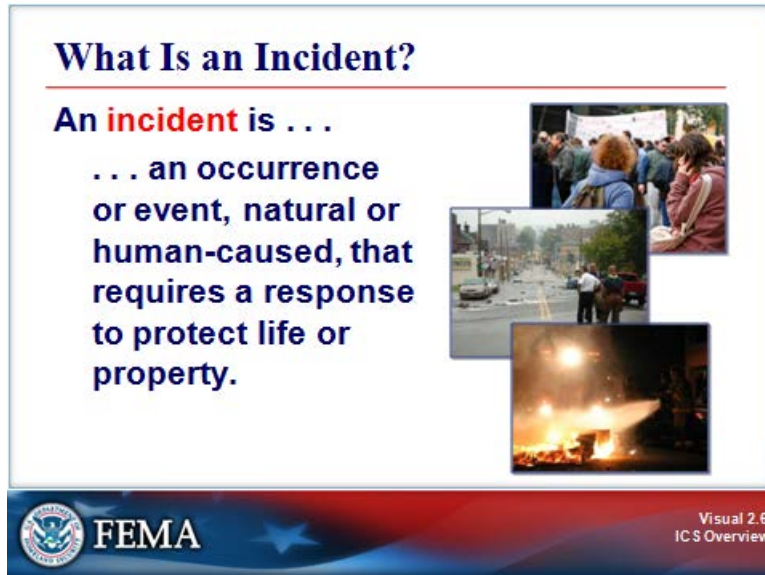
Instructor Notes: Present the following key points.

ICS can be used to manage:

- Natural hazards.
- Technological hazards.
- Human-caused hazards.
- Planned events.

ICS OVERVIEW

Visual 2.6



Instructor Notes: Present the following key points.

An incident is an occurrence or event, natural or human-caused that requires a response to protect life or property.


ICS OVERVIEW

Visual 2.7

Activity: ICS & Planned Events

Instructions: Working as a team . . .

1. Briefly describe one example where ICS could be used to manage a planned event (e.g., sporting event).
2. Identify the benefits of using ICS for the selected event.
3. Select a spokesperson. Be prepared to present your example in 5 minutes.



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Visual 2.7
ICS Overview

Instructor Notes: Present the following key points.

Activity Purpose: To illustrate how ICS can be used to address incident management issues, using planned events as an example.

Instructions: Follow the steps below to conduct this activity:

1. Assign the participants to teams.
2. Ask them to work with their teams to develop a brief description of one example where ICS could be used to manage planned events. Participants should also identify the benefits of using ICS for the selected event.
3. Tell the groups to write their examples on chart paper.
4. Ask the participants in each group to select a spokesperson to present the group's response.
5. Tell the groups that they will have 5 minutes to complete this activity.

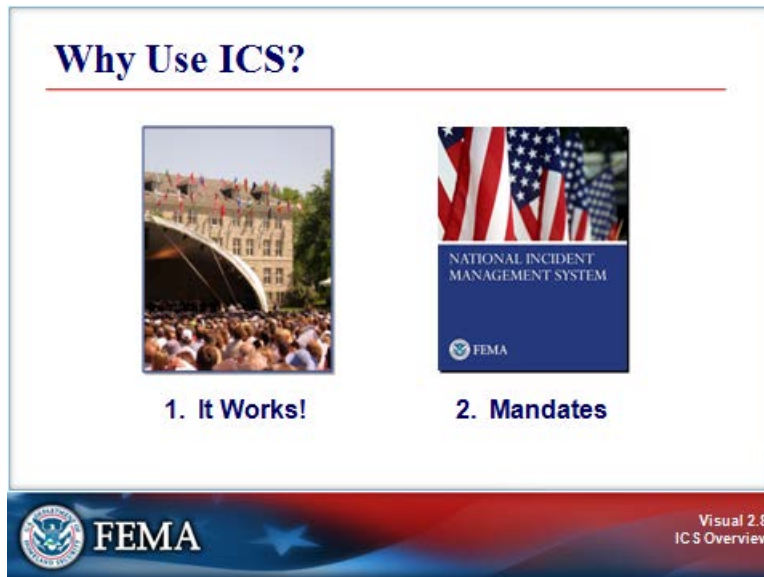
Time: 5 minutes

Debrief Instructions:

1. Monitor the time. Notify the participants when 2 minutes remain.
2. Have each spokesperson present their group's answers.
3. Point out the importance of practicing ICS in planned events.
4. If not mentioned by the groups, emphasize the importance of including outside response agencies in the ICS organization for planned events.

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS AND ICS REQUIREMENTS

Visual 2.8



Instructor Notes: Present the following key points.

Review the following points about the value of using ICS:

- ICS works! It saves lives! Life safety is the top priority for ICS response.
- The use of ICS is mandated by the National Incident Management System (NIMS). NIMS provides a systematic, proactive approach guiding departments and agencies at all levels of government, the private sector, and nongovernmental organizations to work seamlessly to prepare for, prevent, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of incidents, regardless of cause, size, location, or complexity, in order to reduce the loss of life and property, and harm to the environment.

In addition to the NIMS mandate, the following laws require the use of ICS:

- The Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986 established Federal regulations for handling hazardous materials. SARA directed the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to establish rules for operations at hazardous materials incidents.
- OSHA rule 1910.120, effective March 6, 1990, requires all organizations that handle hazardous materials to use ICS. The regulation states: "The Incident Command System shall be established by those employers for the incidents that will be under their control and shall interface with other organizations or agencies who may respond to such an incident."

Note that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires States to use ICS at hazardous materials incidents.

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NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS AND ICS REQUIREMENTS

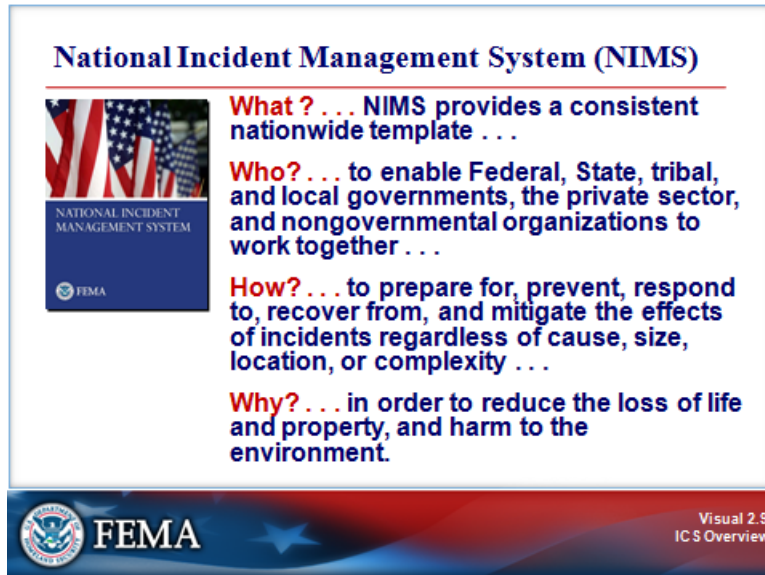
Visual 2.8 (Continued)

According to the National Integration Center, “institutionalizing the use of ICS” means that government officials, incident managers, and emergency response organizations at all jurisdictional levels must adopt ICS. Actions to institutionalize the use of ICS take place at two levels:

- **Policy Level:** At the policy level, institutionalizing ICS means government officials (i.e., Governors, mayors, county and city managers, tribal leaders, and others) must:
 - Adopt ICS through executive order, proclamation, or legislation as the jurisdiction's official incident response system; and
 - Direct that incident managers and response organizations in their jurisdictions train, exercise, and use ICS in their response operations.
- **Organizational Level:** At the organizational/operational level, evidence that incident managers and emergency response organizations are institutionalizing ICS would include the following:
 - ICS is being integrated into functional and system-wide emergency operations policies, plans, and procedures.
 - ICS training is planned or underway for responders, supervisors, and command-level officers.
 - Responders at all levels are participating in and/or coordinating ICS-oriented exercises that involve responders from multiple disciplines and jurisdictions.

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS AND ICS REQUIREMENTS

Visual 2.9

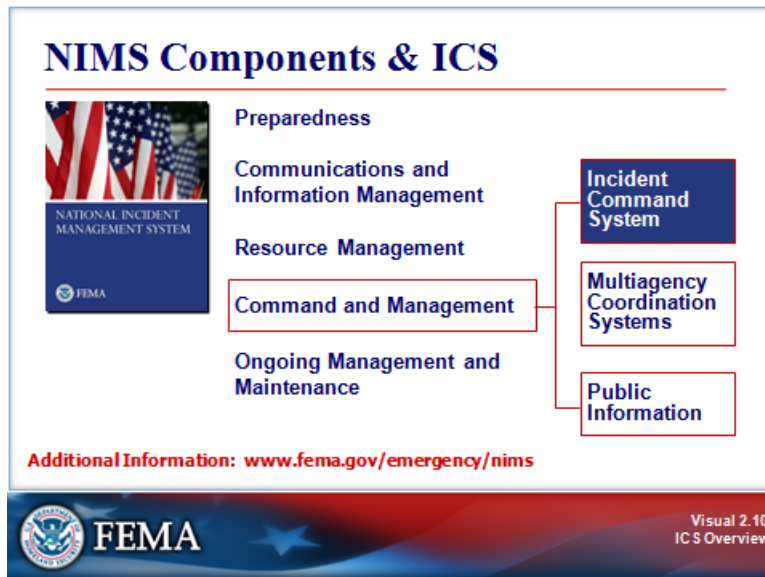


Instructor Notes: Present the following key points.

The National Incident Management System provides a consistent framework for incident management at all jurisdictional levels regardless of the cause, size, or complexity of the incident. NIMS is not an operational incident management or resource allocation plan.

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS AND ICS REQUIREMENTS

Visual 2.10



Instructor Notes: Present the following key points.

NIMS represents a core set of doctrine, concepts, principles, terminology, and organizational processes that enables effective, efficient, and collaborative incident management.

- **Preparedness:** Effective emergency management and incident response activities begin with a host of preparedness activities conducted on an ongoing basis, in advance of any potential incident. Preparedness involves an integrated combination of planning, procedures and protocols, training and exercises, personnel qualifications and certification, and equipment certification.
- **Communications and Information Management:** Emergency management and incident response activities rely upon communications and information systems that provide a common operating picture to all command and coordination sites. NIMS describes the requirements necessary for a standardized framework for communications and emphasizes the need for a common operating picture. NIMS is based upon the concepts of interoperability, reliability, scalability, portability, and the resiliency and redundancy of communications and information systems.
- **Resource Management:** Resources (such as personnel, equipment, and/or supplies) are needed to support critical incident objectives. The flow of resources must be fluid and adaptable to the requirements of the incident. NIMS defines standardized mechanisms and establishes the resource management process to identify requirements, order and acquire, mobilize, track and report, recover and demobilize, reimburse, and inventory resources.

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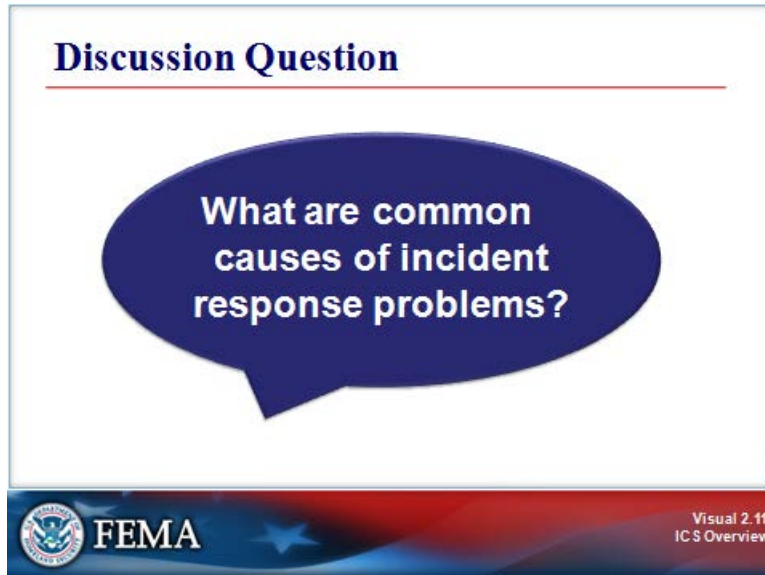
NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS AND ICS REQUIREMENTS

Visual 2.10 (Continued)

- **Command and Management:** The Command and Management component within NIMS is designed to enable effective and efficient incident management and coordination by providing flexible, standardized incident management structures. The structures are based on three key organizational constructs: **the Incident Command System, Multiagency Coordination Systems, and Public Information.**
- **Ongoing Management and Maintenance:** Within the auspices of Ongoing Management and Maintenance, there are two components: the National Integration Center (NIC) and Supporting Technologies.

DISCUSSION QUESTION

Visual 2.11



Instructor Notes: Present the following key points.

Ask the participants: What are some common causes of incident response problems?

Acknowledge the participants' responses. If not mentioned by the group, include the following:

- After-action reports from ineffective incident responses find that response problems are far more likely to result from inadequate management than from any other single cause.

The following page further explains causes of weaknesses in incident management.


ICS BENEFITS


Visual 2.12

Lessons Learned

Without ICS, incident responses typically:

- Lack accountability.
- Have poor communications.
- Use unsystematic planning processes.
- Are unable to efficiently integrate responders.



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Visual 2.12
ICS Overview

Instructor Notes: Present the following key points.

Without ICS, incident responses typically result in:

- Lack of accountability, including unclear chains of command and supervision.
- Poor communication, due to both inefficient uses of available communications systems and conflicting codes and terminology.
- Lack of an orderly, systematic planning process.
- No common, flexible, predesigned management structure that enabled commanders to delegate responsibilities and manage workloads efficiently.
- No predefined methods to integrate interagency requirements into the management structure and planning process effectively.

Using ICS enables us to avoid these weaknesses in all types of incident responses.


ICS BENEFITS


Visual 2.13

ICS Benefits

ICS helps to ensure:

- The safety of responders, workers, and others.
- The achievement of response objectives.
- The efficient use of resources.



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Visual 2.13
ICS Overview

Instructor Notes: Present the following key points.

By using management best practices, ICS helps to ensure:

- The safety of responders, faculty, workers, and others.
- The achievement of response objectives.
- The efficient use of resources.


ICS BENEFITS

Visual 2.14

Activity: Management Challenges

Instructions: Working as a team . . .

1. Review the scenario presented in your Student Manuals.
2. Identify the top three challenges in managing this incident. Write these challenges on chart paper.
3. Using what you have learned so far, describe how ICS could be used to address these challenges.
4. Select a spokesperson. Be prepared to present in 10 minutes.



Visual 2.14
ICS Overview

Instructor Notes: Present the following key points.

Activity Purpose: The purpose of this activity is to demonstrate the benefits of ICS.

Instructions: Follow the steps below to conduct this activity:

1. Assign the participants to groups of five or six.
2. Tell the participants to work as a team to review the scenario presented on the next page in their Student Manuals.
3. Explain that each group should identify the top three challenges for officials to manage this incident. Each group should write the challenges on chart paper. The groups should also discuss how ICS could be used to address these challenges.
4. Ask the participants in each group to select a spokesperson.
5. Inform the group that they will have 10 minutes to complete this activity.

Time: 10 minutes

Debrief Instructions:

1. Monitor the time. Notify the participants when 5 minutes remain.
2. Have each spokesperson present their group's answers.

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ICS BENEFITS

Visual 2.14 (Continued)

Scenario: Continuing severe weather is causing widespread damage. 9-1-1 operators are receiving conflicting reports about life-safety needs, including a possible structural collapse of an assisted living facility.

Discussion Questions:

What are the priorities?

What are the incident management challenges? (Think about how ICS may address these challenges!)

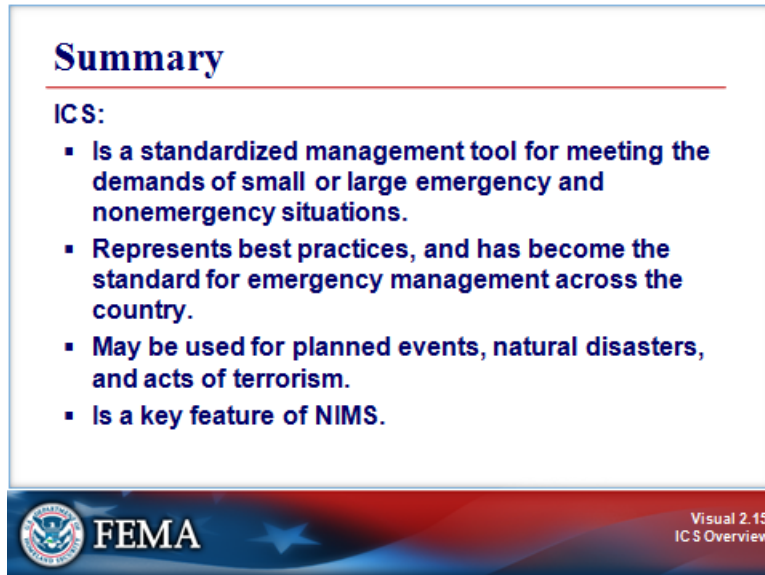
Who needs to be involved?

There is no one correct answer, but if not mentioned by participants, note that using management best practices, ICS helps to ensure:

- The safety of responders and others.
- The achievement of tactical objectives.
- The efficient use of resources.

UNIT SUMMARY

Visual 2.15



Instructor Notes: Present the following key points.

ICS:

- Is a standardized management tool for meeting the demands of small or large emergency and nonemergency situations.
- Represents best practices, and has become the standard for emergency management across the country.
- May be used for planned events, natural disasters, and acts of terrorism.
- Is a key feature of NIMS.

Ask if anyone has any questions about anything covered in this unit.

The next unit will cover the basic features of ICS.