

SECTION II

FERGUS COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

Command and Control contains information on response and recovery efforts. This includes the National Incident Management System, Emergency Response Matrix and extra ordinary powers

2011

SECTION II **COMMAND AND CONTROL**

II.1. NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) was adopted in Fergus County in 2004 by the Local Emergency Planning Committee. Fergus County Board of Commissioners approved Resolution 20-B2004, and City of Lewistown approved Resolution 3600, "A Resolution Adopting the National Incident Management System."

NIMS is a comprehensive national approach to incident management that is applicable to all jurisdictions and across all functional disciplines. The intent of "NIMS" is to be applicable across a full spectrum of potential incidents and hazards regardless of size or complexity. It will enhance coordination and cooperation of all entities involved in a variety of domestic incidents management activities.

NIMS provides a framework for interoperability and compatibility by balancing flexibility and standardization.

NIMS Components:

There are several components that provide a framework for preparing for, preventing, responding to and recovering from emergency and disaster incidents.

These components include:

- Command and management.
- Preparedness.
- Resource management.
- Communications and information management.
- Supporting technologies.
- Ongoing management and maintenance.

NIMS employs two levels of incident management structures, depending on the nature of the incident; and provides for strategic coordination.

II.1.1. MULTI-AGENCY COORDINATION

Multi-agency Coordination Systems (MACS) are a combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications integrated into a common framework coordinating and supporting incident management.

Multi-agency Coordination Entities:

- Ensure that each involved agency is providing situation and resource status information.
- Establish priorities between incidents and /or Area Commands.
- Acquire and allocate resources required by incident management personnel.
- Coordinate and identify future resource requirements.
- Coordinate and resolve policy issues.

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- Coordinate and identify future resource requirements.
- Coordinate and resolve policy issues.
- Provide strategic coordination.

II.1.2. INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM

Incident Command System (ICS) is an on scene all-hazard incident management system, which is used for a wide range of events. ICS is interdisciplinary and organizationally flexible to meet the needs of incidents of any size or level of complexity.

ICS Features for the management of incidents:

- Common terminology.
- Organizational resources.
- Manageable span of control.
- Organizational facilities.
- Use of position titles.
- Reliance on an Incident Action Plan.
- Integrated communications.
- Accountability.

Unified Command is an application of ICS that is used when:

- There is more than one responding agency with responsibility for an incident.
- Incidents cross-political jurisdictions.

Under Unified Command agencies work together through designated members of the command to analyze intelligence information and establish a common set of objectives and strategies for a single Incident Action Plan.

Area Commands are used when incidents are not site specific, not immediately identifiable, or are geographically dispersed. Area commands may become a unified Area Command when incidents are multi-jurisdictional or involve multiple agencies. Area Commands are established to:

- Oversee the management of multiple incidents that are each being managed by an ICS organization.
- Oversee the management of large incidents that cross-jurisdictional boundaries.

ASSIGNMENT:

The County Commissioners/Mayor/Chief Executive Officer may assign incident command responsibility for a specific disaster to an agency officially judged to be best suited to respond.

- Such assignments shall follow statutory responsibilities when applicable.
- Assignments shall be based on consideration of the following factors:
 - Specific and implied statutory responsibility;
 - Expertise of the official and agency personnel;
 - Resources of the agency – equipment, materials and personnel;
 - Willingness of the selected official to assume responsibility; and
 - Recommendations from the Local Emergency Planning Committee.

DUTIES

Duties used in this section, means those tasks, other than powers, which an Incident Commander has voluntarily accepted as a result of the assignment.

- Planning Duties:
 - Oversee preparation of assigned policies and procedures to be entered into these Guidelines.

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- Complete Incident Command pre-plans and procedures for assigned incidents. These documents are not included in these guidelines.
- Emergency/Disaster Duties:
 - Safety of the responders.
 - Protection of life, health and property.
 - Recovery operations to critical facilities and infrastructure.

II.1.2.1. INCIDENT COMMANDER

Has overall management responsibility at the incident and establishes priorities based on the nature of the incident, available resources, and local policies; oversees tactical operations; assigns command staff (safety officer, liaison officer, public information officer, and communications officer) and general staff (operations chief, finance/administration chief, logistics chief, planning chief) as needed during the incident; implements Emergency Operations Procedures requirements; authorizes media releases and media access and normally operates from the Incident Command Post (ICP) at the scene. The Incident Commander may also determine to implement the Intelligence Branch information and intelligence function to provide analysis and sharing of information and intelligence during an incident. Intelligence can include national security or classified information but also can include operational information such as risk assessments, medical intelligence, weather information, structural designs of buildings and toxic contaminant levels.

II.1.2.2. SAFETY OFFICER

Monitors incident safety conditions both present and future, identifies unsafe conditions or practices, ensures safety compliance requirements are met, and develops measures for assuring the safety of all assigned personnel.

II.1.2.3. PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

A public information officer acts as the point of contact for the media or other organizations seeking general information from the incident and coordinates the release of information about the incident and media access to the incident.

II.1.2.4. LIAISON OFFICER

The liaison officer acts as primary contact for representatives of other agencies to coordinate their involvement in the incident.

II.1.2.5. OPERATIONS

Develops the tactical organization and directs resources to carry out the action plan and coordinates the activities of the response units.

II.1.2.6. PLANNING

Develops the incident action plan to accomplish the incident objectives. Collects, records, and evaluates incident information and damage assessment information, and maintains status of assigned resources and significant incident events. Plans the mobilization and demobilization.

II.1.2.7. LOGISTICS

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Provides or arranges for resources and services to support the organization (on-scene and EOC), including facilities, food, supplies, equipment, services, and other items.

II.1.2.8. ADMINISTRATION/FINANCE

Monitors and tracks costs related to the incident, provides accounting, procurement, time recording, cost analysis, and overall fiscal guidance. Arranges or provides administrative support.

II.1.2.9. TECHNICAL EXPERT

Certain incidents or events may require the use of Technical specialists who are individuals with specialized knowledge and expertise in a particular area and whose role in the response has not been previously planned for. There are no pre-determined qualifications as technical specialists, rather they should be experts in their field of work.

** National Incident Management System Incident Command System ICS Forms provide all updated forms used during an incident. (Attachment II-1)

II.2. Extra-Ordinary Powers

PURPOSE:

In some instances there may be a need to exercise powers beyond the scope of the Incident Commander. These events must endanger the safety and well-being of the public, responders or there is an inability to locate the individual with the authority to exercise the power.

OPERATING CONCEPTS:

- Incident commanders decide when to use an extraordinary power.
- Notwithstanding questions of authority, Incident Commanders have a duty to immediately and unilaterally use powers identified in these Guidelines whenever all of the following conditions exist:
 - Persons or property are directly exposed to severe danger,
 - The impact of the danger is in progress or is imminent; and
 - The time lost in obtaining approval from authorities would prevent successful protective measures.
- The use of an extraordinary power, which has not been approved by specified authorities, shall be limited to the measures needed to eliminate the immediate danger.
- Having used an extraordinary power without the benefit of approval, the Incident Commander shall immediately seek confirmation from the specified authority.

II.3. DIRECTION, CONTROL COORDINATION

Fergus County Emergency Operations Plan assigns coordination, primary or supporting responsibilities to departments and agencies in the jurisdiction (Attachment II-2) The primary agency has significant authorities, roles, resources or capabilities related to a specific hazard or Emergency Support Function (Section III). Support agencies are those agencies with specific capabilities or resources that support the Primary agency in executing its mission during an emergency.

Normally, activation of the jurisdictions' Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will result in the activation of the affected Emergency Support Function(s) (ESF). The EOC may sometimes co-locate at the Incident Command Post (ICP) during a single incident and coordinate support for the

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Incident Commander. However, during area emergencies involving multiple incidents or other resource/logistics demands; the EOC will serve as the location of Unified Command and will allocate additional support and replacement of the exhausted resources.

