HICS and Hiccups

Epidemiologists Join the Hospital Incident Command System

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Learning Objectives

- Describe priority roles during a response
- Demonstrate the incident management process
- Describe how, where, and when epidemiologists fit into the HICS
What Are You Worried About?

How Do We Know Something Has Happened?
What’s Really Going On?

Broken Water Pipe  Main Water Break  Massive Disruption  What Do You Think?

Are We Activating?

Event

Is it safe?  Can we use daily operations?  How big is it?

Command Center
First Steps to Take

The Command Center is open

How did you find out?

You join the Command Center

What’s going on?

You get a (new) job

What happens once you put on that vest?

I need an incident commander;
I am not the incident commander.
Priority Roles

Incident Commander
- Public Information Officer
- Safety Officer
- Specialist
- Liaison Officer
- Command Center Coordinator

Operations
Planning
Logistics
Finance

General Responsibilities

Command Staff

“LEAD”
- Make decisions
- Communicate with response partners

Operations

“DO”
- Put the plan into action

Planning

“THINK”
- Gather information about the incident and its impact
- Develop and maintain the Incident Action Plan

Logistics

“GET”
- Provide stuff, staff, space, and support

Finance

“PAY”
- Monitor all incident-related costs

California Emergency Medical Services Authority. www.emsa.ca.gov/Media/default/HICS/HIMS%20Chart_02.pdf.

California Emergency Medical Services Authority. www.emsa.ca.gov/disaster_medical_services_division_hospital_incident_command_system.
Incident Management—Start Here

Assess the Situation
- What happened?
- How has it impacted us?

Make a Plan
- What are our priorities?
- How are we going to do it?

Communicate
- Who needs to know?
- What do they need to know?
- How will we tell them?

Incident Management

1. Assess the situation. (Planning)
2. Make objectives. (Planning)
3. Share the plan. (Everyone)
4. Figure out how to implement the objectives. (Everyone)
5. Go do it. Be safe. (Operations Everyone)
6. Reconvene the team. Report, assess, and review progress/challenges. (Planning)
7. Add or modify objectives as needed. (Planning)
8. Share the new plan. Continue to employ or modify strategies. (Everyone)
9. Repeat steps 6-8 until the issue is resolved. (Planning)
Additional Resources

- Hospital Incident Command System. California Emergency Medical Services Authority. www.emsa.ca.gov/disaster_medical_services_division_hospital_incident_command_system_resources
ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS
HICS and Hiccups

EPI = epidemiologist
HICS = Hospital Incident Command System