TOPIC: CONCEPT OF A STRIKE TEAM/TASK FORCE LEADER

TIME FRAME: 1:00

LEVEL of INSTRUCTION: Level II

TERMINAL LEARNING OBJECTIVE: At the end of this topic, a student, given basic responsibilities of the Strike Team/Task Force Leader (ST/TFL), will be able to define the differences between a Strike Team and a Task Force, so that Strike Team/Task Force Leaders will maximize the use of resources, reduce the span-of-control and simplify communications.

ENABLING LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
1. Define a Strike Team
2. Define a Task Force
3. Describe the basic responsibilities of a ST/TFL
4. Describe the ST/TFL concept and where the leader fits into the Incident Command System
5. Differentiate between the types of Strike Teams

MATERIALS NEEDED:
- Writing board with markers/erasers
- Appropriate audio visual equipment
- Appropriate audio visual material
- ICS 420-1 Field Operations Guide

REFERENCES:
- ICS 420-1 Field Operations Guidebook (FOG), ICS 420-1, FIRESCOPE,
- Task Force/Strike Team Leader, S-330, NWCG,

PREPARATION: The Strike Team/Task Force Leader (ST/TFL) is an extremely important position. As a ST/TFL, you have the responsibility of directing your assigned resources to accomplish the operational objectives on your assigned incident. Objectives are an integral part of the overall Incident Action Plan. In order to perform as a ST/TFL, you must know the position description, expectations and responsibilities of the ST/TFL.
I. ENABLING LEARNING OBJECTIVES
   A. Define a Strike Team
   B. Define a Task Force
   C. Describe the basic responsibilities of a ST/TFL
   D. Describe the Strike Team/Task Force concept and where the leader fits into the Incident Command System (ICS)
   E. Differentiate between the types of Strike Teams

II. GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS

   NOTE: Refer students to the Field Operations Guide (FOG), "Resource Types and Minimum Standards"

   A. Strike Teams
      1. Definition
         a) Specified combinations of the same kind and type of resources, with common communications and a leader
      2. Strike Teams are a set number of resources of the same kind and type with an established minimum number of personnel

   NOTE: Refer students to Student Information Sheet 2-1-1, Strike Team Types and Minimum Standards, in the Student Supplement

      3. Strike Teams will always have:
         a) A qualified leader in a separate vehicle
         b) A qualified trainee if available
         c) Common communication among resource elements
         d) Example: Engine Strike Teams are made up of 5 engines and a leader

What is the definition of a Strike Team?
### B. Task Forces

1. **Definition**
   - a) A group of resources with common communications and a leader, that may be pre-established and sent to an incident or formed at an incident

2. **A Task Force is a group of resources**
   - a) With common communications
   - b) A qualified leader
   - c) A qualified trainee
   - d) Usually assembled for a specific mission

3. **A Task Force can include**
   - a) Any combination of resources that do not meet the criteria for a Strike Team
   - b) Any combination of one kind of resources with other kinds of resources, i.e.:
     - c) Dozers – engines
     - d) Hand crews – dozers
     - e) Water tenders – engines
     - f) Engines – ladder trucks

### C. ICS positions and mnemonics

1. **All ICS positions have a four letter mnemonic assigned that you need to be familiar with**

**NOTE:** Refer students to Student Information Sheet 2-1-2, ICS Positions and Mnemonics, in the Student Supplement

2. **Incident action plans, ROSS, MACS FIRESCOPE forms and other incident forms utilize these mnemonics**
3. Some mnemonics a ST/TFL may encounter are
   a) Strike Team Leader Crew (STCR)
   b) Strike Team Leader Heavy Equipment (STEQ)
   c) Strike Team Leader Engine (STEN)
   d) Task Force Leader (TFLD)
   e) Task Force Leader Water Handling (TFWH)*
   f) Division/Group Supervisor (DIVS)
   g) Liaison Officer (LOFR)
   h) Agency Representative (AREP)
   *Concurrent with Strike Team Leader Engine
4. Trainee positions are include and designated as (T)
   a) Example: STEN (T) would be the mnemonic for Strike Team Leader Engine Trainee

D. Management principles
   1. The management principles as well as many of the tactical concepts are the same or similar for either Strike Teams or Task Forces

NOTE: Hereafter in this course, the generic mnemonic STL will be used when not referring to a specific position (i.e. crew, heavy equipment, engine)
   2. The use of Strike Teams are encouraged whenever possible
      a) The ST concept when requesting and managing resources is designed to maximize the efficiency of multiple resources on an incident
         1) The ST concept does this by
### III. STRIKE TEAM LEADER

A. Strike Teams are a resource configuration within the ICS organization

1. The ST/TFL reports to a Division/Group Supervisor (DIVS) and is responsible for performing tactical assignments assigned to the ST/TF. The leader reports work progress, resources status, and other important information to a DIVS and maintains work records on assigned personnel (ICS Form 214)

B. The STL is the contact point for the DIVS

C. The STL typically reports to a DIVS on extended attack and major incidents

D. The STL is mainly responsible for supervising tactical assignments given to the ST

E. The STL reports progress of the ST in relation to the assigned tactical objectives to DIVS

1. The STL manages, supervises, and monitors
   a) Work progress
   b) Resource status of the team
   c) Other important information related to the logistical needs of the ST while on the incident (i.e. maintaining work and time records on assigned personnel and apparatus)
F. Other duties
1. Reviewing common ICS responsibilities with personnel

NOTE: Refer students to the FOG, “Common Responsibilities
2. Review assignments with subordinates and assign tasks
3. Monitor work progress and make changes when necessary
4. Coordinate activities with adjacent strike teams, task forces and single resources
5. Travel to and from assignment with assigned resources
6. Retain control of all assigned resources
7. Submit situation and resource status information to DIVS
8. Maintain Unit/Activity Log (ICS Form 214)

IV. STRIKE TEAM LEADER INTERACTIONS
A. ICS organizational interaction points with the STL
1. Typical contact on major incidents is the DIVS
2. Other points of contact
   a) Communications Unit Leader (COML)
   b) Food Unit Leader (FDUL)
   c) Supply Unit Leader (SPUL)
   d) Ground Support Leader (GSUL)
   e) Staging Area Manager (STAM)
   f) Medical Unit Leader (MEDL)
   g) Agency Representative (AREP)
3. Organizational interaction
   a) Incident work assignment(s) may be obtained from STAM, DIVS or COML
   b) Air support requests will be directed to the DIVS
   c) Personnel issues will require involvement of the AREP
   d) Medical requests may be through the DIVS
   e) Food and supply needs may be directed to DIVS for coordination with OSC for a larger order
   f) Fuel, repairs, or transportation needs may be directed to DIVS

**NOTE:** Consider showing the relationship of the STL to the Agency Rep or Liaison for the purposes other than line assignments
SUMMARY:

The use of Strike Teams and Task Forces are encouraged whenever possible to maximize the use of resources, reduce the manager’s span-of-control, and to simplify communications.

EVALUATION:

The student will complete a written quiz at a time determined by the instructor.

ASSIGNMENT:

Review your notes and read the appropriate section(s) of the Student Supplement in preparation for the upcoming quiz. Study for the next session.