



# Pennsylvania State Fire Academy

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## Minimum Standard for Accreditation (MSA)

**Date:** August 1999

**Last Revision:** October 2000

**Course Title:** Incident Command System for Emergency Medical Services (NFA)

**SFA Course Code:** ICSEMS

**Course Length:** 16 hours

**Lecture/Lab Breakdown:** 16/0

**Prerequisites:** Completion of the NFA *ICS Self-Study Course* is recommended.

**Referenced Text(s):** NFA Instructor Guide and Student Manual for the course in question

**Course Goal:** Students completing this course will gain knowledge of the principles of the Incident Command System (ICS) and its application to the specifics of the pre-hospital emergency medical care environment.

**Course Description:** This course is best suited for those persons involved with providing pre-hospital emergency medical care who have limited or no acquaintance with the Incident Command System as advocated by the National Fire Academy and in predominate use by emergency responders throughout the Commonwealth. It will introduce the principles and components of ICS, relate them to the EMS environment, and allow students to apply these principles in various EMS scenarios.

**Description of Methodology:** Lecture, guided discussion, case study, and individual/small group activities as an application phase.

**Student Equipment & Supplies:** Pen/pencil & notebook; student manual for course in question.

**Equipment/Audiovisual/Facility/Supply Requirements:** Classroom w/ the usual amenities; easel pads, stand, masking tape, and markers (1 pad/marker set per each 8 students); 35 mm slide projector; 2 screens (see instructor guide for arrangement) VHS VCR/player & sufficient monitors; audiotape player; adequate sound system to support video & audio equipment; AV kit for the course in question; one copy of Student Manual per student.

**Special Notes & Conditions:** student manual must remain in student's possession at class conclusion. Maximum enrollment: 32 students.

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### **Course Outline**

<b><u>Time</u></b>	<b><u>Topic</u></b>	<b><u>Notes</u></b>
2:00	Registration, Introduction, and Overview	<b><u>Brief</u></b>
1:45	ICS Responsibilities	
1:15	Establishing the Command Organization	
1:15	Command & Command Overview	
2:30	The Initial response/ Basic Organization	
1:15	The Command Toolbox	
3:30	The Expanded Organization/Reinforced Response	
1:00	Escalated Organization – Branch & Section Overview	
1:00	Incident Demobilization & Termination	
:30	Examination & Grading; Summary & Conclusion	

Note: Instructor during introduction should ascertain the general level of ICS knowledge within the class. Times may need to be adjusted accordingly.

**Competency Evaluation Mechanism:** Directed questioning by instructor; student performance during application phase (individual/group) activities; 20 question written test supplied with course materials at conclusion (recommended passing grade – 14 correct).

**Learning Outcomes (Behavioral Objectives):** upon completion of this course, the student will be able to correctly:

1. Identify the need for an organized approach to management of EMS incidents.
2. Describe the:
  - 2.1. Incident Command System (ICS) and its major components;
  - 2.2. responsibilities and functions of the Incident Commander at all EMS incidents;
  - 2.3. communications order model and its purpose;
  - 2.4. responsibilities and functions of division/group supervisor and other command team members;
  - 2.5. transfer of command process;
  - 2.6. responsibilities and functions of branch directors;
  - 2.7. responsibilities of the four section chiefs;
  - 2.8. purpose and use of progress reporting;
  - 2.9. communication system necessary for an effective ICS structure;
  - 2.10. interpersonal skills required of an effective command officer;
  - 2.11. safety strategies of ICS; and
  - 2.12. steps required for the ICS demobilization process.
3. Design a command organization for a mass-casualty incident multi-agency emergency response.
4. Demonstrate competencies required to operate within an ICS structure at any type of emergency incident or training exercise.
5. Given a simulated community resource description, a written EMS scenario, and working individually, develop an organizational chart for incident management.

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**Learning Outcomes (Behavioral Objectives) (continued)**

6. Working in small groups and given:
  - 6.1. a command function, identify the responsibilities and procedures applicable to the position.
  - 6.2. an audiotaped EMS incident, prepare a list of concerns about the radio communications
  - 6.3. a videotaped EMS incident, analyze the incident presented for organization, communication, and use of resources.
  - 6.4. an audiotaped EMS incident and sample tactical worksheets, profile the responding resources.
  - 6.5. a simulated community resource description and an expanded, written EMS incident scenario, prepare organizational charts, resource lists, and a description of potential problems.
  - 6.6. a simulated community resource description and an escalated written EMS incident scenario, prepare organizational charts, resource lists, and a description of potential problems.
  - 6.7. a simulated community resource description and an escalated written EMS incident scenario, develop a demobilization plan.
  - 6.8. Given an ICS unit designation, identify at least three key factors affecting that sector.

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