INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM FOR TRANSPORTATION FIELD PERSONNEL- NCHRP 20-59 (30)

Research Questions

• How can transportation field personnel be trained to use ICS before first responders arrive?
• How can they join existing ICS?
• How can they remember this seldom-used skill?

Methodology

Literature review, course study, interviews, field testing, pilot testing

Rationale: Transportation Needs ICS

• Transportation field personnel are frequently assigned to join ICS to assist first responders at accident scenes, wildland fires, disasters
• Transportation personnel are frequently present at accidents before public safety personnel arrive
• Transportation organizations must use ICS in multi-agency events to be eligible for Federal Preparedness Grants.

Strategies

• In-person courses
• Practical exercises – “sand table”
• Use of position checklists
• Use of ICS forms
• Use of supervisor’s folder
• Build-it-yourself
• Videos for self-study or group refreshers
• Morning briefing refreshers
• Tail gate refreshers

Remembering works best with:

• Good initial training
• Frequent refreshers that supervisors can easily offer at briefings and tailgate meetings
• Good supporting materials
  ° Videos to review
  ° Position checklist cards that describe the steps for the first 15 minutes
  ° Supervisor’s folder for organized field response
    • Cardboard folder
    • Plastic packing sleeves
    • Position checklist cards
    • ICS forms
    • ICS Field Operations Guide (FOG)
    • Note pads and pens

Outreach

• Transportation field staff training at all 12 Caltrans districts and headquarters
  ◦ Class instruction
  ◦ Sand table exercises
• Train-the-trainer courses in five state DOTs
• All materials and videos are available for free at the project’s website

Findings

• In-person instruction with practical application is most effective method for learning a seldom-used skill
• Supervisor’s folder with resources supports remembered actions
• Periodic refreshers maintain ICS concepts & skills

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