

## **HSEM 402: Incident Command for Emergency Medical Services**

**Prerequisites:** HSEM 301 or permission of instructor

**Semester:** Fall 2016

**Credits:** 3

**Location:** TBD based upon classroom availability

**Meeting Time:** TBD

**Instructor:** Chief Doug Schrage  
Phone: 907-474-7681  
Email: drschrage@alaska.edu

**Office hours:** By appointment only

### **Required Texts:**

*Incident Command for EMS*, OWENS, Karen, (2012) PennWell Corporation  
ISBN 978-1-59370-267-0 (required)

Additional readings assigned will be provided by the instructor

### **Course Description:**

Students will practice use of the Incident Command System (ICS) in coordination with other public safety responders. This course will present scenarios requiring responders to structure their EMS resources within the guidance of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) ICS, as appropriate to the needs of the different incident types. Students will demonstrate the implementation of EMS components in an ICS system at incidents.

This course is designed to teach the implementation of ICS in day-to-day EMS operations.

### **Course Objectives:**

1. Understand the Incident Command System (ICS) and its major components.
2. Understand the skills and competencies required to operate the ICS structure.
3. Identify the important personnel required for operating the ICS and understand their responsibilities and functions.
4. Understand the communication requirements of the ICS

### **Student Learning Objectives:**

Upon completion of this course, students shall be able to:

1. Identify the need for an organized approach to management of emergency medical incidents.
2. Describe the responsibilities and functions of the Incident Commander (IC) at all EMS incidents.
3. Describe responsibilities and functions of division/group supervisor and other command team members.
4. Describe the transfer-of-command process.
5. Describe responsibilities and functions of branch directors.
6. Describe the responsibilities of the four section chiefs.
7. Describe the purpose and use of progress reporting.
8. Design a command organization for a mass casualty incident (MCI) multi-agency emergency response.
9. Describe the interpersonal skills required to be an effective command officer.
10. Describe the safety strategies of ICS.
11. Describe the steps required for the ICS demobilization process.

**Instructional Method:**

The course format includes a hybrid of online (synchronous and asynchronous) based video lectures, discussion board forums, reading assignments, and lessons. The primary portal for delivery will be UAF Blackboard, which will be supplemented by Adobe Connect for video and face to face meeting purposes.

Recommended preparation 9 hours weekly, including assigned reading and online participation.

**Course Evaluation:**

Students in the course will be evaluated on the basis of two separate research papers as well as weekly participation from written assignments via discussion board.

67% Research Papers: Two research papers will be developed by each student during the course of the semester. The papers will focus on case studies wherein the Incident Command System has been employed in an EMS. The first paper, due Week 7 will focus on the implementation of ICS for EMS within the context of a large scale disaster. The research paper will require a 5-7 page paper, doubled spaced, with a cover page in APA format. A grading rubric will be provided to students in Week 1.

The second paper, due week 15 will focus on the independent research of an application of ICS for EMS in a less documented large scale disaster. The research paper will require a 5-7 page paper, doubled spaced, with a cover page in APA format. In addition to the paper, students will be required to provide a presentation of their second research project of not more than 15 slides to be covered in a 15 to 20 minute period. A grading rubric will be provided to students in Week 8.

Research Paper #1 = 200 points  
Research Paper #2 = 250 points

33% Participation/Discussion Board Assignments: Weekly discussion assignment posts will center on two page review of the readings and lessons of that week. The reviews, to be posted in a weekly discussion board forum embedded within each week will serve to reinforce the readings and provoke thought beyond the material provided. Beyond the review of the weekly reading materials, students will provide a research update narrative of what they are working on, week to week as an update to the remainder of the class. Students will be required to assist/comment on the updates for at least two other students.

15 Discussion Assignments X 15 points = 225 points

**Grading:**

Research Paper #1	= 30 % (200 points)
Research Paper #2	= 37 % (250 points)
<u>Participation/Discussion Assignments</u>	<u>= 33 % (225 points)</u>
	100 % (675 points)

Breakdown for grading

- A= 90-100% (900-1000 points)
- B= 80-89% (800-899 points)
- C= 70-79% (700-799 points)
- D= 60-69% (600-699 points)
- F= 59 % or less (599 points or less)

**Course Policies:**

You are expected to keep up with reading and assignments, and to participate in discussions generated. You will lose points for failure to engage in discussion forums in time to have meaningful interaction on the topics under discussion. Each day past the due date will result in a 10% deduction of points up to 100%. Plagiarism on assignments and cheating on papers will not be tolerated. Those caught plagiarizing or cheating will be disciplined according to the appropriate University of Alaska guidelines.

**Support Services:**

For assistance in improving written products, take advantage of the UAF Writing Center in 801 Gruening, 907 474-5314. Please reach out to me or support staff for subject matter support services relevant to the development of your classroom projects/topics.

**Students with Disabilities:**

Students with learning or other disabilities who may need special accommodations are encouraged to make an appointment with the Office of Disability Services, <http://www.uaf.edu/disability/> (907 474-5655 or TTY at 907 474-1827). Please inform me of any impediments to meeting course objectives which cannot be fully addressed by the Office of Disability Services. I will work with the Office of Disabilities Services (208 Whitaker Bldg) to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities.

## **Tentative Class Schedule**

**Week 1: Introduction and Overview**

- Course/ Syllabus Overview
  - Schedule Review
  - Introductions and expectations
- Introduction Discussion Assignment Week  
Introduce Research Paper #1 (due week 7)

**Week 2: Incident Command Responsibilities**

Readings:

- First half of Chapter 1 (pgs. 1-13 )in the Incident Command for EMS text
- Supplemental articles

Discussion Assignment Week 2

**Week 3: Incident Command Responsibilities (cont.)**

Readings:

- Second half of Chapter 1 (pgs. 13-42) in the Incident Command for EMS text
- Supplemental article

Discussion Assignment Week 3

**Week 4: Establishing the Command Organization**

Readings:

- First half of Chapter 2 (pgs. 45-60) in the Incident Command for EMS text
- Supplemental articles

Discussion Assignment Week 4

**Week 5: Establishing the Command Organization (cont.)**

Readings:

- Second half of Chapter 2 (pgs., 61-77) in the Incident Command for EMS text
- Supplemental articles

Discussion Assignment Week 5

**Week 6: Command and Communications Overview**

Readings:

- First half of Chapter 3 (pgs. 79-84) in the Incident Command for EMS text
- Supplemental articles

Discussion Assignment Week 6

**Week 7: Command and Communications Overview (cont.)**

Readings:

- Second half of Chapter 3 (pgs. 85-115) in the Incident Command for EMS text
- Supplemental articles

**Research Paper #1 due**

**Week 8: The Initial Response/Basic Organization**

Readings:

- Chapter 4 (pgs. 117-154) in the Incident Command for EMS text
- Supplemental articles

Discussion Assignment Week 8

Introduce Research Paper #2 (due week 15)

**Week 9: The Initial Response/Basic Organization (cont.)**

Readings:

- First half of Chapter 5 (pgs. 157-168) in the Incident Command for EMS text
- Supplemental articles

Discussion Assignment Week 9

**Week 10: The Command Toolbox**

Readings:

- Second half of Chapter 5 (pgs. 168-189) in the Incident Command for EMS text
- Supplemental articles

Discussion Assignment Week 10

**Week 11: The Command Toolbox (cont.)**

Readings:

- First half of Chapter 6 (pgs. 191-206) in the Incident Command for EMS text
- Supplemental articles

Discussion Assignment Week 11

**Week 12: The Expanded Organization/Reinforced Response**

Readings:

- Second half of Chapter 6 (pgs. 207- 223 in the Incident Command for EMS text
- Supplemental articles

Discussion Assignment Week 12

**Week 13: The Expanded Organization/Reinforced Response (cont.)**

Readings:

- Supplemental articles

Discussion Assignment Week 13

**Week 14: Escalated Organization - Branch and Section Overview**

Readings:

- Supplemental articles

Discussion Assignment Week 14

**Week 15: Incident Demobilization and Termination****Research Paper #2 and Presentation due**

Discussion Assignment Week 15 (Comments on Research Paper Presentations)

## **402 Case Study Rubric**

**Written Paper**

Students will be required to research two different Incident Command System applications where it was employed by EMS. The first paper will focus on the implementation of ICS for EMS during a large scale disaster and the second paper will focus on ICS for EMS in a less well-known disaster. Each paper will require students to introduce the topics, analyze the use of ICS, and provide lessons learned from the event.

Additionally, your paper needs to be double spaced, and include a cover page (this does not count as one of the 5-7 pages). It will be worth **200 points** and it will be evaluated using the grading criteria listed below. All papers must be written APA format and all sources need to be cited appropriately. This paper requires at least 2 acceptable sources.

**Rubric**

<i>Organization</i>	<i>/30</i>	<i>Style</i>	<i>/30</i>
<i>Content</i>	<i>/75</i>	<i>Grammar/spelling</i>	<i>/40</i>
<i>Sources</i>	<i>/25</i>		

**Presentation for Case Study #2**

The presentation conducted via Voice Thread (or another presentation tool you choose) should include a visual component (PowerPoint or Keynote) with 10-15 slides and should be 15-20 minutes in length.

Organization/Format	/10	Content	/20
Grammar/spelling	/5	Clarity	/10
Visuals	/5		

**Papers turned in after the due date will lose 10% per day up to 100%.**