ACTIVITY: ICS FUNCTIONS

Purpose: This activity will give you an opportunity to relate the ICS functions to specific situations.

Instructions:

1. Break into small table groups.

2. This exercise will provide you with the opportunity to decide under which ICS functions the listed activities will fall.

3. Review the list of activities and use the initials, "IC/TL," "O," "P," or "L" to indicate which ICS function would cover each activity.

While Finance/Administration is a part of ICS, it is generally not used by CERTs.

Instructions:

Using your knowledge about the five ICS functions, decide under which function the following CERT activities would fall. Some activities may involve more than one function to be completed.

Use the following key to fill in the blanks before each activity:

> IC/TL = Incident Commander/Team Leader

> O = Operations

> P = Planning

> L = Logistics

	1. It's dark, all the lights are out, you need additional flashlights to continue your response.
	2. The designated first aid site has a downed power line.
	3. A neighbor reports the smell of gas in his house, but he cannot shut off the gas at the meter.
	4. The batteries for the portable radio are dead.
	5. The city wants to know the overall status of your neighborhood.
	6. Several of your neighbors have minor injuries and need first aid.
	7. Fire from another neighborhood is moving toward your neighborhood.
	8. There is a pit bull-type dog seen wandering near the first aid station.
	9. A news crew has arrived with a camera to film your activities.
	10. Two hysterical neighbors are demanding help. One cannot find her adolescent child who was playing outside when the disaster struck. The other wants help moving a bookcase off of his wife. He says she's bleeding from a wound on the head.
	11. It's starting to rain. Your command post and the first aid area are not under shelter.
	12. Too many people are coming to the Incident Commander to ask questions. The IC/TL asks for someone to act as a "gatekeeper."
	13. There is a great increase of car and foot traffic through your neighborhood because other roadways are blocked.
	14. The IC/TL is very tired and is going to hand over responsibilities to someone else. He or she wants a report on the status of the neighborhood before doing so.
	15. Many neighborhood residents have come to volunteer their help.
	16. Reports have come in of damage and injuries in the next block. Teams must be assigned to assess the situation.
	17. A professional responder has arrived at the scene and would like a briefing on situation status.

Activity: Tabletop Exercise

Purpose: This exercise is an interactive tabletop activity that gives you an opportunity to apply what you have learned about ICS for CERT activation.

Instructions:

1. Break into small table groups.

2. As a group, go through the exercise as if you were in command and in charge of decision-making.

3. Remember that CERT command objectives are to:

   ▪ Identify the scope of the incident

   ▪ Determine an overall CERT strategy

   ▪ Set priorities and deploy resources

UNIT SUMMARY

The key points from this unit:

- The ICS is the system used by emergency response agencies and CERT to manage emergency operations. ICS provides a flexible means of managing personnel, facilities, equipment, and communication and can be expanded as necessary.

- The key question that CERT Incident Commanders/Team Leaders must always ask is: "Is it safe for CERT members to attempt the rescue?" Whether or not to attempt a rescue depends on the degree of damage to the structure involved. Remember: CERT members' safety is the number one priority.

- It is vital to document and communicate information about situation and resource status to all CERT levels.

  - Sections, Groups, and Teams must provide the Command Post with ongoing information about damage assessment, incident status, and ongoing needs.

  - The command post must document the situation status so that the overall disaster situation can be tracked and reported to emergency response agencies.

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT

Read and become familiar with the unit that will be covered in the next session.