

Evaluating Usefulness of an Electronic Resource for ICS Activities

Overview

A broad range of electronic resources are used in the National Response Framework and are available to local responders engaged in Incident Command activities.

This exercise will access some of these tools and help determine how each can assist in functioning within the Incident Command System (ICS).

Objectives

When complete, participants will be better able to:

- Access tools available electronically
- Describe how the tool can be used to carry out the activities in a specific role in the ICS

Facilitator Information

Time Requirement: 45 minutes

Number of Instructors: 1 or more, consistent with ratio in Minimum Criteria

Individual or small group activity

Materials

- Participant Guide
- Laptops, tablets and/or smartphones to access the internet
- Internet access
- Whiteboard or equivalent; markers

A list of possible websites could include, but is not limited to:

- IAFF: <https://www.iaff.org/>
- CAMEO: <http://www.epa.gov/cameo>
- FEMA: <https://training.fema.gov/emiweb/is/icsresource/>
- Emergency Response Guidebook online: <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/sites/phmsa.dot.gov/files/2021-01/ERG2020-WEB.pdf>
- NIOSH Pocket Guide online: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npg/>

Preparation

- Prepare multiple laptops and tablets for participant use; smartphones brought by participants may also be used
- Ensure internet access is available
- The class may be split into small groups for this exercise
- Review the participant materials
- Supplement the list of electronic resources above
- Prepare a website listing for distribution or posting

Presentation of the Exercise

Background: Increasingly, technology is available to assist in managing complex problems, such as emergency incident mitigation and Incident Command System functions. This exercise will allow students time and resources to identify some of the technology resources that could assist them in the performance of their job duties.

A scenario has been provided in the Participant Guide or you may develop your own scenario to better suite your participants.

Ask participants to fill in the ICS duties/role. As appropriate, divide participants into small groups based on the duties/role.

Ask participants to access the internet.

Direct them to find an electronic resource through the internet that could assist them in implementing the ICS for the duties/role, using the list of possible web sites and the app stores that you provide. Other websites may be suggested by the participants.

Once participants have accessed a site, App, or resource they will complete the worksheet.

Ask each individual or group to report back. This allows each to share how they would use this tool to assist them in accomplishing their duties within the Incident Command System; they may also point out problems or note the need for an alternative.

Record responses for all participants to view during the discussion.

Record additional websites or tools suggested by participants for use with this exercise in the future.

Developed by Lakeshore Technical College trainers