PLANNING SECTION CHIEF JOB AID

Overview

Position: Planning Section Chief

Personnel assigned to this position should have a good operational background and experience with the type of incident to which they are responding. Since this is a key position in the response organization, assignment should be based on experience level versus rank. Past experience as a Situation Unit Leader and/or Resource Unit Leader is highly desirable.

Section: Planning Section

Mission:

To provide the overall collection, evaluation and dissemination of all operational information concerning the incident in order to understand the current situation, predict incident course, and to assist in the preparation of response objectives and strategies. Key goals include:

- Make decisions on resource needs
- Prepare an approved Incident Action Plan

Duties:

- Report to the Incident Commander for situation briefing and assist in preparation of initial response objectives and strategies.
- □ Establish information requirements and reporting schedules for all ICS organizational elements for operational periods, incident action plan preparation, and information dissemination.
- Invoke duties of unit leaders to undertake initial preparation of deployment of staff and resources.
- Determine need for specialists to undertake resource and site assessments, and arrange for contract services in consultation with chiefs of Logistics and Finance/administration Sections.
- □ Brief unit leaders on duties, safety, communications and other field requirements.
- Introduce any contract resource or oil spill specialists to response team and its organization.
- Represent the state on federal regional environmental emergency teams (REET) for exchanging resource information and setting protection priorities.
- Coordinate with other section chiefs on preparing established situation reports, status summaries, and Incident Action Plans for the next operational period.

Overview (Cont'd)

References

Below is a list of references that may be required during the use of this job aid:

- Field Operations Guide (ICS OS-420-1)
- NIIMS I-440 Planning Section Chief Guide
- NFES Planning Section Position Manual (ICS 221-1)
- NIIMS Planning Section Chief Position Task Book (NFES 2331)
- Incident Command System (COMDTINST 3120.14)

Materials

Ensure that these materials are available to the Planning Section Chief during an incident, if not already provided in a unit or section specific support kit.

ICS Forms Catalog	In boxes or large
Field Operations Guide	envelopes
	Stapler
Local charts and maps	Push pins
Rulers	3 or 6 part folders
Mylar sheets	2 hole punch
Felt tip pens	Pre-printed Mtg Agendas
Dry erase markers (wide	Stack pack
and thin line)	ICS forms on disk
Pencils (lead and grease)	Laptop computer with
Paper, sticky notes	printer, software
Scissors	T Cards
	Position Manuals for Planning Section positions
Notebooks (some waterproof)	ICS 215 (Operational Planning Worksheet)
ICS 213 General Msg Forms	Other IAP forms
White out	Intercom headsets for
Masking tape	PSC and Unit Leaders
Easel chart	Copy enlarger/poster printer

General Information

Use clear text and ICS terminology (no codes) in radio transmissions and address Incident Communications Center: "(Incident Name) Communications".

Initial Actions

General Tasks

Below are initial responsibilities for the Planning Section Chief.

STEP	ACTION	✓		
1.	Receive assignment.			
2.	Upon arrival at the incident, check-in at designated check-in locations. Check-in locations may be found at:			
	Incident Command Post			
	Base or Camps			
	Staging Areas			
	Helibases			
3.	Obtain an initial brief from Incident Commander (IC)			
	Expectations of the IC			
	Incident objectives			
	Agencies/organizations/stakeholders involved			
	Incident activities/situation			
	Special concerns			
4.	Obtain ICS 201 from IC if this is the initial assignment of a PSC. If this is a relief or transition assignment, then obtain IAP/briefing from the current PSC			

General Tasks (Cont'd)

Initial responsibilities for the Planning Section Chief are continued below.

STEP	ACTION			✓	
5.	Review ICS 20)1 (pages 1-4)			
	ICS 201 Section (page)	Contains	Consider		
	Map/sketch (page 1) Geographic scope of incident and layout of organization, divisions/groups , facilities, boundaries, resource locations Need for changes to geographic layout of organization				
	Summary of current actions (page 2)	Actions taken to date	Any additional actions needed		
	Current organization (page 3)	Understanding of personnel assignments to date	Adequacy of current organization to meet incident needs		
	Resource summary (page 4)	Resources on- scene and ordered in Resource location/status	Need for resources in addition to those on scene/order ed in		
6.	6 Regin/maintain Unit Activity Log (ICS 244)				
7.	Begin/maintain Unit Activity Log (ICS 214) Acquire work materials listed on page 2				
8.	'	<u> </u>			
0.	Complete forms and reports required of the assigned position and send these documents to Documentation Unit at end of each operational period				

Decision on Resource Needs

Assess Personnel Already Assigned to Incident

Determine optimal assignments for Incident personnel.

STEP	ACTION		✓	
1.	Determine assignmalready on scene a	nents/status of personnel at incident		
	IF ICS 201 THEN Determine from			
Available ICS 201, page 3 (Current Organization)				
ICS 201, page 4 (Resources Summary)				
	NOT available	Initial brief with IC		
		Check-in List (ICS 211 or equivalent)		
		Organization charts		
		Personal observation/interview		
2.	Determine qualifications of assigned personnel			
	IF ICS 201 THEN			
	Completed	Check resources summary for qualifications		
		NOTE: The ICS 201 does NOT currently require that this information be recorded		
	Not complete	Look at alternative sources for information		
		Check-in List (ICS 211, Block 15)		
		Unit Watch Quarter and Station Bill		
		Personal interview/ observation		
3.	Assign on scene po availability & qualif Steps 1 and 2			

Decision on Resource Needs (Cont'd)

Activate Planning Section Units

Use the worksheet below to calculate staffing needs for the Planning Section.

STE P	ACTION					
1.						
	NOTE: When ord Section also con- recorders, field o processors.	sider t	he nee	d for chec		Planning in Number
	Size of Incident (Number of Number Divisions) Needed					
		2	5	10 or more		
	Planning Section Chief	1	1	1	1	
	Deputy Planning Section Chief	0	0	1		
	Resource Unit Leader	1	1	1	1	
	Situation Unit Leader	1	1	1	1	
	Documentation Unit Leader	0	1	1		
	Demobilization Unit Leader	0	0	1		
				Total		
2.	Multiply the Tota operations	I in Ste	ep 1 by	(2) for 24	hour	
3.	Subtract number to Planning Section		rsonnel	already a	ssigned	
4.	Order remainder using ICS 213 (G Logistics Section	ènera	al Mess			

Conduct Section Briefing

The checklist below should be completed at the BEGINNING OF EACH OPERATIONAL PERIOD.

STEP	ACTION	✓
1.	Meet with Unit Leaders	
2.	Discuss status of objectives from previous operational period	
3.	Establish and post short-term objectives for upcoming operational period	
4.	Provide feedback on Unit Leader performance	
5.	Assess size of Planning Section and determine need to order/demobilize personnel	
6.	Query Unit Leaders for problems or concerns to be addressed (personnel issues, training needs, etc.)	

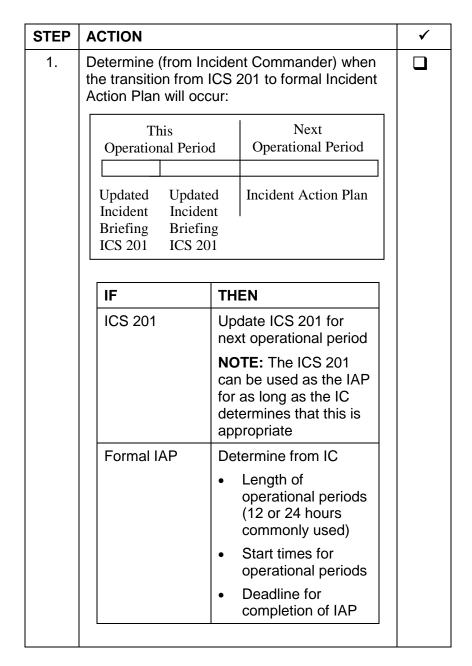
Assign Technical Specialists

Technical specialists need to be properly checked-in and assigned.

STEP	ACTION		✓			
1.		When a technical specialist reports to the Planning Section, determine status and assign:				
	IF	THEN				
	Properly					
	checked-in Notify Resources Unit of status					
	Not properly checked-in					
		Assign to requestor				
	NOTE: Track technical specialists and observe continued need for assignment durin operational planning					

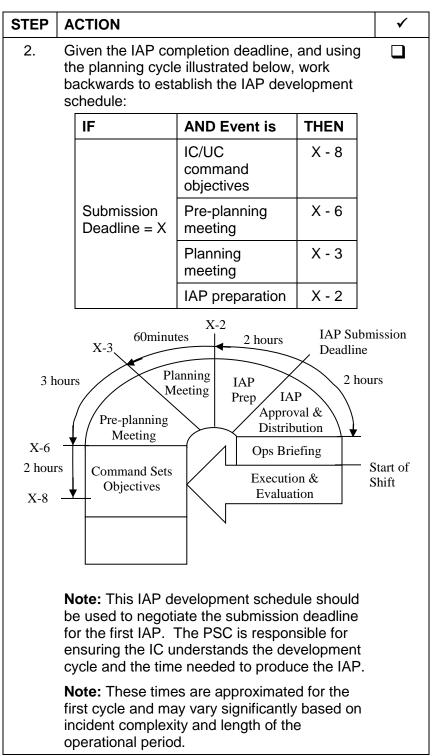
Transition from ICS 201 to IAP

The Planning Section Chief is responsible for preparing the IAP.



Transition from ICS 201 to IAP (Cont'd)

The checklist for preparing the IAP is continued below.



Facilitate Meetings

The Planning Section Chief serves as the facilitator for several key meetings during each operational cycle.

STEP	ACTION	✓
1.	Based on times determined in previous steps, instruct the Situation Unit Leader to prepare ICS 230 (Daily Meeting Schedule)	
	NOTE: These are not the only meetings/events that need to be included on the ICS 230. Ensure the SUL also includes press briefs, VIP visits, IC updates, command staff meetings and other significant events during the operational period.	
2.	Ensure completed ICS 230 is posted on Situation Status display and distributed to all Command Staff, Section Chiefs, Division/Group Supervisors and appropriate Unit Leaders	
3.	15-30 minutes before meeting, send reminders to meeting attendees to ensure prompt attendance	
	NOTE: This can be done via ICS 213, email, messenger, announcement, or any other method that is effective at getting the word out.	
4.	At designated time, facilitate each meeting to maintain schedule, cover all required aspects, and produce expected deliverables. Ensure presenters are prepared to cover their portion of the meeting agenda. Determine the need for and ensure attendance of Technical Specialists if necessary.	
	See IF/THEN table on the next pages	
	NOTE: Agendas can be preprinted in ICS 231 (Meeting Description) and used for various meetings.	

Facilitate Meetings The meeting facilitation job aid continues below. **(cont'd)**

IF Meeting	THEN				
ls	Attendees Are	Agenda Is	Presenter Is	Deliverables Are	
Pre- Planning (Tactics)	PSC OPS RUL LSC SO	Objectives for the next operational period (clearly stated and attainable with the resources available, yet flexible enough to allow OPS to choose tactics)	OPS	Primary strategies	
		Strategies (primary and alternatives) Prepare a draft of ICS 215 to identify resources that should be ordered through LSC. This process can be completed by OPS and RUL after the meeting adjourns, with RUL preparing an enlarged ICS 215 for the Planning Meeting	OPS with PSC RUL	Alternative strategies Draft ICS 215 (Operational Planning Worksheet)	
Planning	IC IO LO SO OPS PSC LSC FSC RUL SUL Air Ops Technical Specialist s (as needed)	Incident objectives/policy issues Briefing of situation, critical and sensitive areas, weather/sea forecast, resource status/availability Primary and alternative strategies to meet objectives Designate Branch, Division, Group boundaries and functions as appropriate, using maps and ICS 215	IC/UC PSC with SUL, RUL OPS with PSC, LSC		

Facilitate Meetings The meeting facilitation job aid continues below. **(cont'd)**

IF Meeting	THEN						
ls	Attendees Are	Agenda Is	Person Tasked	Deliverables Are			
Planning (cont'd)	AIC	Specify tactics for each Division; Note limitations	OPS with SUL				
		Specify resources needed by Division/Groups	OPS with PSC, LSC				
		Specify operations facilities and reporting locations – plot on map	OPS with LSC				
		Develop resources, support and overhead orders	PSC, LSC				
		Financial concerns/reports	FSC				
		Communications, traffic, safety, medical, and other support	LSC with PSC				
		Contributing organization/agency considerations regarding work plan	LO				
		Safety considerations regarding work plan	so				
		Media considerations regarding work plan	Ю				
		Finalize/approve ICS-	IC/UC	Final ICS 215			
		215s for next operational period		Conceptual approva of IAP with input from all organizational elements			

Facilitate Meetings The meeting facilitation job aid continues below. **(cont'd)**

IF Meeting		THEN				
ls	Attendees Are	Agenda Is	Person Tasked	Deliverables Are		
IAP Prep	LSC	Establish deadlines	RUL	ICS 202,		
NOTE:	PSC	for following:		ICS 203/207		
This is not a formal	OPS	Incident Objectives (ICS 202)		ICS 204		
meeting –	RUL	Organization				
the tasking required to	SUL	List/Chart (ICS 203 or 207				
complete this step can	SO	Assignment List (ICS 204)	(w/OPS assist)			
be handed out immediately following		Communications Plan (ICS 205) Medical Plan (ICS 206)	LSC	ICS 205/206		
the Planning Meeting		Traffic Plan		Traffic Plan		
-		Incident map	SUL	Incident maps ICS-OS-209 ICS-OS-232		
		Operational Components (use as pertinent):				
		Air Operations Summary (ICS 220)	OPS	ICS 220		
		Daily Safety Message	so	Daily Safety Message		
		Demobilization Plan	PSC	Demobilization Plan		

Facilitate Meetings The meeting facilitation job aid continues below. **(cont'd)**

IF Meeting	THEN					
Is	Attendees Are	Agenda Is	Person Tasked	Deliverables Are		
Ops (shift)	IC	Current response	PSC	Convey IAP		
Brief	Ю	actions and last shift's		objectives and assignments to		
	LO	accomplishments		oncoming shift		
	so	Review of IC/UC	OPS			
	OPS	objectives,				
	PSC	Review changes to IAP				
	LSC FSC Div/Group Superviso	Division/Group and air operations assignments Weather and sea	SUL			
	rs Task Force Leaders Strike Team Leaders Unit Leaders	conditions forecast Trajectory analysis Transport, communications, supply updates Safety issues Financial report Media report Contributing organization/ agency reports/concerns	SO FSC IO LO			

NOTE: If the incident is spread out over a large geographic area consider conducting the shift briefs in the vicinity of the actual work areas. The Division/Group Supervisors would carry out these shift briefs.

NOTE: Meeting occurs approximately 1 hour prior to start of each shift.

Strategies

Evaluate Alternative The Planning Section Chief is responsible for developing alternatives to proposed strategies.

STEP	ACTION			✓
1.	Determine alternate plan(s) for each primary strategy proposed by OPS during the preplanning meeting			
2.	Determine if alternate plans are precluded by any policy, regulation or other incident specific constraint			
	IF Alternate Strategy	AND	THEN	
	Not feasible		Present only primary plan	
	Feasible	Precluded by constraints	at planning meeting	
		NOT precluded by constraints	Present at planning meeting as alternative	
3.	For each alternative strategy determine:			
0.	Resources needed to execute			_
	Resource availability			
	• Cost	· ,		
4.	Be prepared to of alternate str	•	discuss pros/cons nning meeting	

Prepare the IAP

Use the checklist below to properly prepare and assemble the IAP.

STEP	ACTION	✓
1.	At conclusion of IAP prep meeting ensure assignments/expectations are clear	
2.	Instruct those responsible for developing portions of the IAP to provide advance notice if deadlines will not be met	

Prepare the IAP (cont'd)

The IAP preparation checklist is continued below.

STEP	ACTION			✓
3.	Ensure duplication services available/adequate			
4.	Assemble forms for IAF)		
	Form # (Name)	Prepared By	Draft	Final
	IAP Cover	SUL		
	ICS 202 (Response Objectives)	PSC or IC		
	ICS 203 (Organization Assignments)	RUL		
	ICS 204 (Division/Group Assignment)	OPS/RUL		
	ICS 205	Comms Unit		
	(Communications Plan)	Leader		
	ICS 206 (Medical Plan)	Medical Unit Leader		
	OS 232 (Resources at Risk)	SUL		
	ICS-OS-209	SUL/RUL		
	ICS 220	OPS		
	Daily Safety Message	Safety Officer		
	Traffic Plan*	Ground Support Unit Leader		
	Incident map(s)	SUL		
	Demobilization Plan*	Demob Unit Leader		
*As necessary				

Prepare the IAP (cont'd)

The IAP preparation checklist is continued below.

STEP	ACTION	✓
5.	Proofread IAP, ensure forms complete and signed by originator	
6.	Present to IC/UC for final approval/signature	
7.	Duplicate as needed	
8.	Route signed original to DUL	
9.	Have DUL distribute as needed	

Assemble Task Forces and Strike Teams

Task Forces and Strike Teams are organizational tools that help the ICS effectively manage large groups of response personnel.

STEP	ACTION	✓	
1.	Determine need for Task Force/Strike Team		
	IF Need is for THEN Assemble as		
	Group of resources with same type/kind		
	Group of resources with different type/kind		
	NOTE: Task Forces are much more common in Coast Guard operations		
2.	Identify and group appropriate resources		
3.	Assign a Task Force/Strike Team Leader		
4.	Provide Task Force/Strike Team with Comms		
5.	Designate assembly area/time		
6.	Assign via ICS 204		
7.	Have RUL track grouped resources as Task Force/Strike Team		

Order Appropriate Resources

In order to ensure the availability of resources for operations beyond the next operational period, the Planning Section Chief must work closely with the Operations Section Chief to anticipate resource needs.

NOTE: Pre-planning and planning meetings will produce a list of resources required for the chosen objectives, strategies and tactics during the next operational period.

STEP	ACTION			✓
1.				
	IF Anticipated Operation Will Occur	AND They	THEN	
	During next operational period		Resource needs covered by ICS 215	
	Beyond next operational period	Are similar in scope and complexity to current operation	Resources are likely to already be on scene	
		Go beyond scope and complexity of current operations	PSC and OPS should ID resources needed to conduct anticipated operations	
2.	Order necessary anticipated opera		arrive in time for	

General Staff

Advise Command & The Planning Section Chief is responsible for keeping the IC/UC staff informed about incident status changes.

STEP	ACTION			✓
1.	Identify changes in incident status from field reports			
2.	Determine if change	s are signific	cant:	
		HEN E	Brief	
	require a no	ot p	At next blanning neeting	
	May require change in operational period objectives/ strategies	gnificant li	mmediately	
3.	Notify command and general staff of ALL significant changes			
	NOTE: Make notifications via quickest method (radio, phone, fax, messenger)			

Provide Status Reports to Requesters

The Planning Section may be tasked to provide specific information regarding the incident to various requestors.

STEP	ACTION	✓
1.	Receive request for incident information	

Provide Status Reports to Requesters (cont'd) The checklist used to provide information to various requestors is continued below.

STEP	ACTION		
2.	Determine if information is available via the Situation Unit		
	IF Situation Unit THEN		
	Maintains information Task SUL to provide		
	Does NOT have requested information	Determine best source	
		Obtain information/task source to provide	
		source to provide	

Recommend Release of Resources From early in the incident response, the Planning Section Chief must be alert for excess resources that can be reassigned or demobilized.

STEP	ACTION		✓		
1.	Identify excess resources via ICS or feedback from the field.				
	NOTE: If resource is a Task Force or Strike Team, disassemble into single resources before proceeding to Step 2				
2.	Determine if resources are needed elsewhere at the incident				
	IF Resources THEN				
	Needed PSC and OPS and notify RU incident status change	L of			
	Not needed at incident Place on list of resources proposed for demobilization				
3.	Present list of resources proposed demobilization to IC/UC				

Recommend Release of Resources (Cont'd) The checklist used to demobilize excess resources is continued below.

STEP	ACTION			
4.	Demobilize resources that IC/UC approves for release			
	IF Resource THEN			
	Approved for demobilization	Demobilize in accordance with approved demobilization plan		
	Not approved for demobilization	Determine reason Keep at incident Notify RUL of status		

Develop General Plan

The General Plan is used to generate a proposed timeline for the overall response. It can be used to make resource decisions, estimate costs for the response and manage expectations both in and outside of the response organization.

STEP	ACTION			✓	
1.	Е	Estimate time-frame for response			
2.	Determine if General Plan is feasible				
		IF Response Time-Frame Is	THEN General Plan Is		
		7 days or less	Not feasible		
		8-14 days	Can be used		
		More than 14 days	Should be used		
3.	Develop General Plan if indicated by the above or required by IC/UC				

Develop General Plan (cont'd)

The checklist for developing the General Plan is continued below.

STEP	ACTION	✓
4.	Assign a Detailed Incident Assessment Team (DIAT) to assemble information needed for the General Plan	
	NOTE: This team is typically made up of representatives from operations and planning that have incident specific experience	
5.	Draft the General Plan in accordance with the instructions in the ICS Forms Catalog	
6.	Submit to IC/UC for approval	
7.	Distribute copies of approved plan to IC/UC, Command and General Staff	
8.	Have DIAT update plan every 3-4 days, resubmit for approval, and distribute	

Section/Unit Demobilized Tasks

Below are demobilization responsibilities applicable to supervisory personnel assigned to this section/unit.

STEP	ACTION	✓	
1.	Provide input to the Demobilization Unit Leader who develops the Demob Plan		
2.	Brief subordinates regarding demobilization		
3.	Debrief appropriate personnel prior to departing incident Incident Commander Logistics Section Chief		
4.	Supervise demobilization of section, including storage of supplies		
5.	Provide Supply Unit Leader with a list of supplies to be replenished		
6.	Forward all Section documentation to Documentation Unit		
7.	Complete Check-out Sheet		

Information Exchange Matrix

Information Exchange Matrix

Inputs/Outputs

Below is an input/output matrix to assist the Planning Section Chief in exchanging information with other ICS positions.

MEET With	WHEN	PSC OBTAINS	PSC PROVIDES
Incident Commander	Initial incident brief	ICS 201 or verbal brief on incident status	Feedback on initial response activity/organization
	During initial response phase	Operational Periods	Feedback on operational period and IAP deadline
		Deadline for initial IAP submission	Feedback on objectives
		IC/UC objectives	,
	Planning meeting	Restatement of response objectives	Proposed IAP
			Briefing on situation, critical/sensitive areas, resource status/availability, weather
	IAP approval process	Approved IAP	IAP for approval
Safety Officer	cer Planning meeting	Concerns regarding safety issues in IAP	Proposed IAP
			Briefing on situation, critical/sensitive areas, resource status/availability, weather
	IAP prep process	Safety messages	Feedback on safety messages
			Update on response operations
Liaison	Planning meeting	Concerns regarding liaison issues	Proposed IAP
Officer			Briefing on situation, critical/sensitive areas, resource status/availability, weather
Information Officer	During initial response phase	Estimated time of press briefings	Completed ICS 230 (Meeting Schedule)
	Planning meetings	Media concerns considerations	Proposed IAP
			Briefing on situation, critical/sensitive areas, resource status/availability, weather

Information Exchange Matrix (continued)

MEET With	WHEN	PSC OBTAINS	PSC PROVIDES
Operations	Pre-planning	Strategy/tactics	Input on alternative strategies
Section Chief	meeting	Resource needs	
	Planning meeting	Primary/alternative strategies	Proposed IAP
			Briefing on situation, critical/sensitive areas, resource status/availability, weather
		Branch/Division and Group boundaries/functio ns	
		Tactics	
		Resource needs	
		Ops facilities	
	IAP prep meeting	Information to	Completed ICS 204's
		complete ICS 204's	Feedback on IAP submissions
		ICS 220 (Air Operations Summary)	
Logistics Section Chief	During initial response phase	Confirmation of staffing order	ICS 213 with resource order to staff Planning Section
	Planning meeting	Feedback on resource availability	Proposed IAP
			Briefing on situation, critical/sensitive areas, resource status/availability, weather
		Facility details	
		Support plan input	
	IAP prep	ICS 205	Feedback on IAP submissions
		ICS 206	
		Support plans (Traffic Plan)	
Finance/		Update on finance concerns	Proposed IAP
Administration Section Chief			Briefing on situation, critical/sensitive areas, resource status/availability, weather
	Shift brief	Financial Report	Review of IC/UC objectives
Technical	As they report in	Check-in information	Assignment
Specialists			Brief on incident status