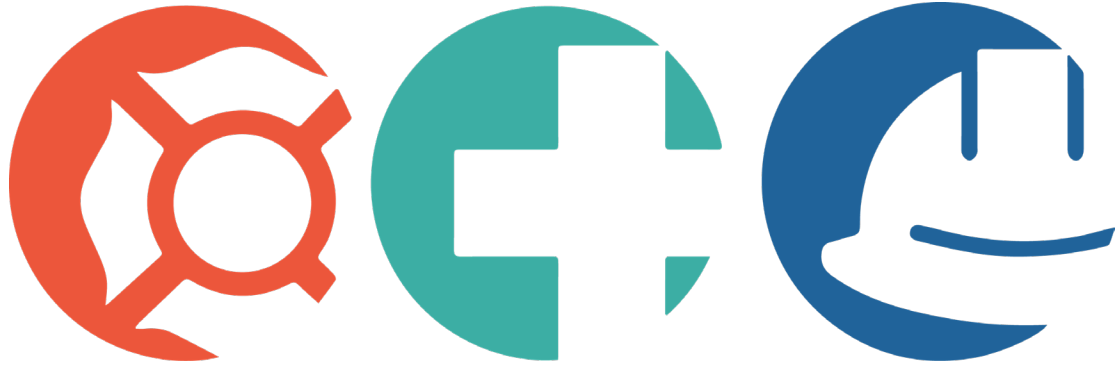




# **BOATWRIGHT**

## **C O N S U L T I N G**

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & SAFETY



# **Pipeline Emergency Response Considerations**

*Effective Liaison Activities – Tabletop Exercises*

# Emergency Management Cycle





# History of ICS

- Developed in the 1970's in California during several major wildfires

- Developed in response to identified shortcomings:

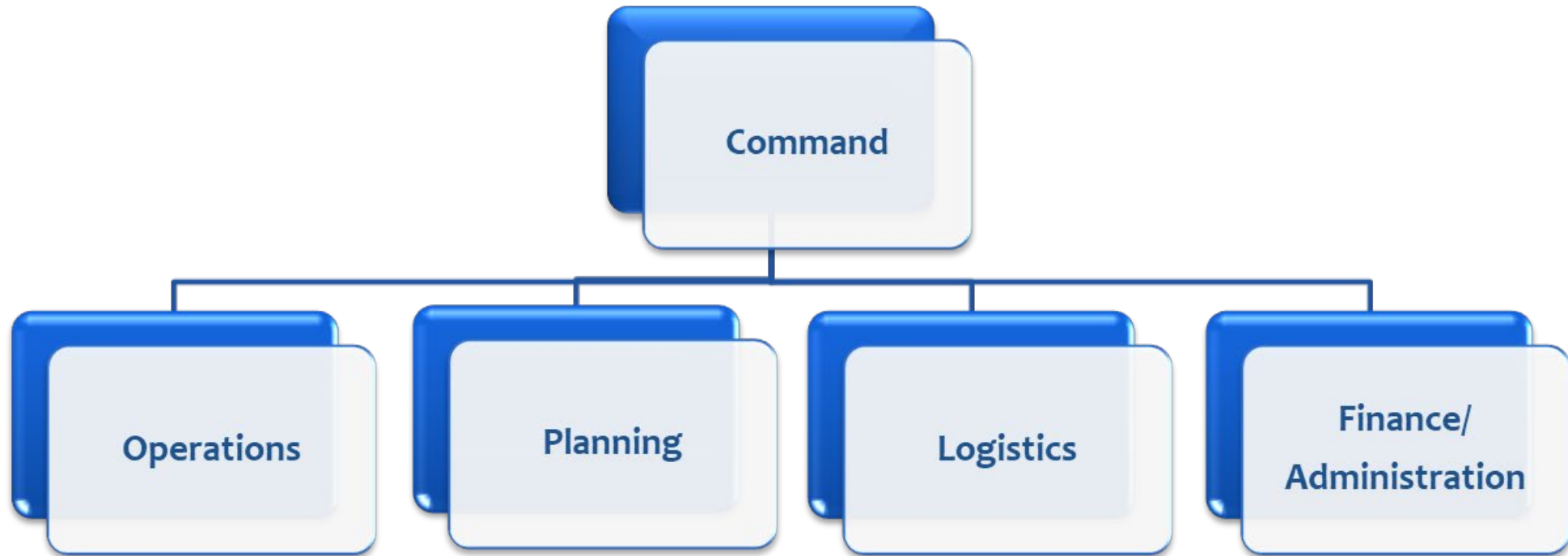
- ☐ *Non-standard terminology*
- ☐ *Too many people reporting to one supervisor*
- ☐ *Lack of ability to expand and contract*
- ☐ *Non standard/non-integrated communications*
- ☐ *Lack of consolidated action plans*
- ☐ *Lack of designated facilities*



- ICS is the foundation of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) developed in response to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001



# ICS Organization



## **Five Major Components:**

*Command, Operations, Planning, Logistics, & Finance/Administration*



# Incident Commander



- All incidents, regardless of size will have an incident commander
- First on the scene is typically the IC until relieved by a higher authority
- On most incidents, the command activity is carried out by a single IC

- Establishes Incident Command Post (ICP)
- The IC has three major priorities:

***Life Safety***

***Incident Stabilization***

***Property Conservation***

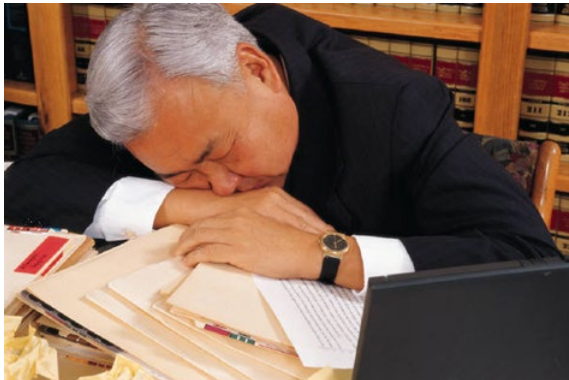




# ICS Key Points

- ICS is a modular concept – resources are organized into Sections, Branches, Groups, Divisions, Units, or Teams when the span of control exceeds seven
- ICS organizations should only reflect what is required to meet tactical objectives
- ICS is adaptable to any type of incident regardless of complexity
- ***Public and private sector responders can operate jointly within an ICS structure***

# Emergency Management Plans



- Thicker isn't always better
- Comprehensive, Concise, and User Friendly
- Ensure plans are maintained and current – including contact lists
- Does everyone understand their roles and are they trained?
- Does the Plan incorporate an organized structure – Incident Command System
- Do you exercise the Plan?

# Pipeline Emergency Response Initiative (PERI)

- Partnership among pipeline industry, emergency responders, regulatory officials, and 811
- Objective to improve communication between pipeline operators and emergency responders
- Initiated in Georgia in 2012
- Supported and encouraged by PHMSA
- Consistent training based on the “Pipeline Emergencies” program – delivered by emergency responder trainers with industry support
- Focus on entire emergency response community: Fire Service, Law Enforcement, Emergency Management, 911



***“Round 2” of SCPERI training is currently on-going and includes tabletop exercises***

***<https://statefire.llr.sc.gov/scfa/pdf/2025/Pipeline%20Awareness%20Flyer.pdf>***



# Liaison with Emergency Officials

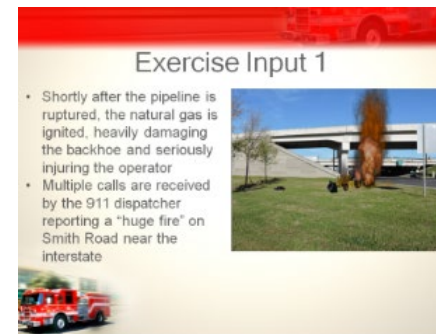
## *The Old Way*

- 5 to 15%; don't touch our mainline valves...
- I pitch....you catch



## *The “New” Way*

- Realistic, challenging, scenario-based training
- Capabilities based (honest) discussions



- Learn from each other!



# Why Exercise?

- Validates existing competency and procedures
- Tests strategic and tactical decision making
- Solidifies relationships (when conducted with public sector responders)
- Contributes to Pipeline Safety Management System (PSMS) execution – Element 8 “Emergency Preparedness & Response”
- Helps prepare your organization for when the real one occurs



# Why Train?

*“People don’t rise to the occasion. They fall to their level of training”*

Kevin Shea, FDNY (Ret.)

# Emergency Response Tabletop Exercise

*Natural Gas Distribution*



# Goals & Objectives

- Apply the concepts discussed during training sessions
- Serve as a coordination tool for public sector responders and pipeline company personnel

## ***Focus***

***Scene Size-Up***

***Development of appropriate Strategy & Tactics***

***“Execution” of tactics to initially make the scene safe***



# Ground Rules

- ☐ Everyone needs to actively and realistically participate
- ☐ Focus on strategy and tactics development and execution to manage the emergency
- ☐ Respect differences of opinion and insights
- ☐ Simulate notifications to other outside officials
- ☐ Take notes for participation in the end of exercise debrief



# Scenario Overview

It is 4:00 p.m. on a Friday afternoon. Dig-Right Contracting Service, is hurrying to finish digging a footing for a new traffic camera on XXXX Road at the I-XX overpass before the weekend and in advance of winter weather forecasted for next week. The backhoe operator strikes a pipeline and gas is escaping. The operator, using a cell phone, calls 911 and requests assistance.



- **Weather is partly cloudy and the temperature is 40°F**
- **The overnight low is forecasted to be 18°F**
- **Winds are from the east at 5-10 mph**





# Exercise Input 1

- Shortly after the pipeline is ruptured, the natural gas is ignited, heavily damaging the backhoe and seriously injuring the operator
- Multiple calls are received by the 911 dispatcher reporting a “huge fire” on XXXX Road near the interstate



- The damaged pipeline is a 6-inch steel main and is a single feed to the area



# Discussion Points

- What are the response priorities at this point?
- What resources are needed? How are they assigned based on the response priorities?
- What does the Incident Command System structure look like for this incident?
- What are the safety concerns? Have they changed from the initial report?



# Exercise Input 2

- Emergency responders arrive on the scene and find a large natural gas fed fire
- The backhoe operator has sustained severe burns over fifty percent of his body



- Flames and radiant heat from the gas fed fire are reaching the I-XX overpass.



# Discussion Points

- Based on the size-up information what is the response plan at this point?
- What are the strategy and associated tactics based on the incident?
- Has the Incident Command System structure changed at this point?



# Exercise Input 3

- The backhoe operator, Morris Thompson, was transported to XXX Medical Center. He is listed in critical condition.
- Calls from citizens begin to flood the 911 Dispatch Center reporting the incident. Traffic is gridlocked on XXXX Road and I-XX



- Gas company personnel respond to the incident and implement pipeline isolation procedures



# Discussion Points

- What are the response priorities now?
- What information is needed from the gas company personnel?
- How are communications being coordinated?



# Exercise Input 4

- A television crew from CBS Y XXXX-TV and a reporter and photographer from the XXXX Newspaper have arrived on the scene and are requesting information from the Incident Commander and gas company personnel



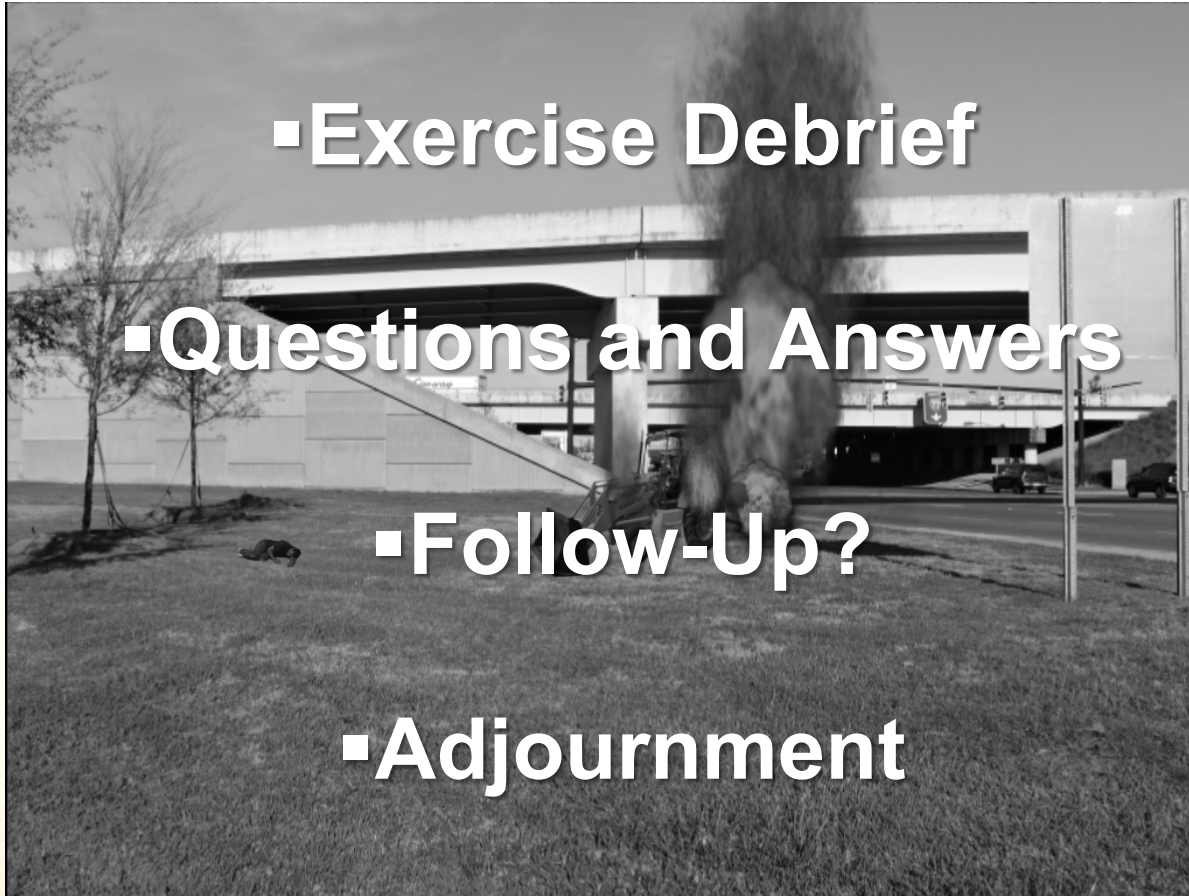
# Discussion Points

- How are the requests from the media outlets addressed?
- How does the Incident Commander/PIO and gas company spokesperson communicate and coordinate information?



# Wrap-Up

- Exercise Debrief
- Questions and Answers
- Follow-Up?
- Adjournment



# Incidents will Occur

- Despite best efforts and vigorous operations and maintenance activities, incidents **WILL** occur
- There are triggers which are out of our control:

Weather

Outside force damage; lack of use of 811

Unpredictable events

Intentional acts

- Not being prepared is simply unacceptable!





# Mission

*Create a more disaster-resilient utility industry*



## Contact Glen



[glen@boatwrightconsulting.com](mailto:glen@boatwrightconsulting.com)



803-360-9890



[www.boatwrightconsulting.com](http://www.boatwrightconsulting.com)



[www.linkedin.com/in/boatwrightconsulting](http://www.linkedin.com/in/boatwrightconsulting)





# **BOATWRIGHT**

## **C O N S U L T I N G**

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & SAFETY