



Ensuring Global Preparedness and Response Capabilities in a Staff- and Cost-Constrained Environment

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The Challenge



The preparedness cycle is essential to ensure a company's ability to respond. We all face challenges in a time when staff and costs are stretched.

- How do you develop and maintain these critical skills in your global operations?
- How can you support global affiliates to deliver a safe and effective response to an oil spill or other major event?
- How do you address the needs of multiple countries and different resource capabilities?

It begins with a corporate-level plan to define standards, requirements, accountability, and key notification and communications processes.

Senior executive participation in training and exercises reinforces the importance of the plans and standards.

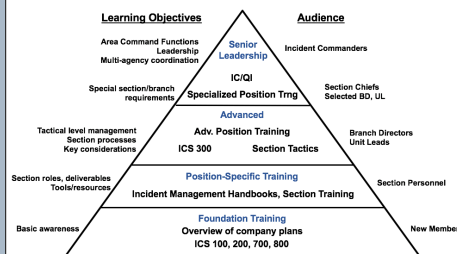
Here are some recommendations to help achieve your organization's preparedness and response objectives.

1. Establish ICS as a Global Standard

- Proven program
- Benefits include ability to effectively incorporate global resources into a response.
- Use global standards and templates with planned flexibility for local requirements, conditions, and resources.

2. Develop a Core Training Program

- Consistent training objectives
- Train people to a global standard:
 - Personnel demonstrate a basic understanding of ICS
 - Personnel familiar with company plans and other resources
 - Able to execute key processes
- Global modules with sections designed to be adapted for local conditions and requirements.
- Materials should be available in the corporate global language and also in local languages.
- Schedule train-the-trainer sessions to build understanding in the regions. A great way to build knowledge and skill is to teach.



3. Global Templates for Response Plans

- Global templates:
 - In corporate and major local languages
 - Core sections for company philosophy, global contacts, etc.
 - Caution: don't allow people to be lazy and substitute a template for thinking through what their location requires.

4. Audit Your Programs

- Ensure compliance with standards
- Use audits not to criticize or punish, but to identify regions/operations that require support
- Use audits to promote exchange of best practices.

5. Integrate Planning, Training and Exercises

- Plans written to global standards; specify training and exercise requirements
- Synchronize training and exercise objectives
- Exercises to test plans, apply knowledge, and practice skills
- Share lessons learned across all operating areas

6. Prepare Exercise Development Kits

- Build generic scenarios designed to test elements of the plans and also designed for adaptation to local conditions and requirements.
- Provide templates for developing injects, timelines, after-action meeting agendas and reports, etc.

7. Leverage Your Resources

- Establish Regional Response Teams
- Train-the-trainer programs to build proficiency, reduce costs
- Develop internal planning and exercise design SMEs
- Use exercises to support other business objectives:
 - Build and strengthen relationships with key stakeholders
 - Demonstrate corporate commitment to safe operations and prompt, safe, and effective response if there's an incident.
 - Broadcast lessons learned to other regions to improve their plans and processes.

In Summary

In summary:

An effective global preparedness program can be achieved in a time of cost and staff constraints. An integrated global approach, with standards and common tools, will help you achieve the preparedness and response capability goals of your company.

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