



Characteristics of the Incident Command System: Part 4

No. CC-2013-11 November 25, 2013

Learning Objective: The student will understand the Planning Section Chief's (PSC's) responsibilities.

The PSC is a member of the General Staff and is responsible for the collection, evaluation, dissemination and use of information about the development of the incident and the status of resources. The PSC is responsible for facilitating the planning process and ensuring the safety and welfare of all Planning Section personnel.

Current information is needed to understand the current situation, predict the probable course of incident events, and prepare alternative strategies and control operations for the incident.

- Collect and process situational information about the incident.
- Supervise preparation of the Incident Action Plan (IAP).
- Provide input to the Incident Commander and Operations Section Chief in preparing the IAP.
- Reassign out-of-service personnel already on-site to Incident Command System organizational positions as appropriate.
- Establish information requirements and reporting schedules.
- Determine the need for any specialized equipment.
- Assemble and disassemble Strike Teams and Task Forces not assigned to Operations.
- Establish special information collection activities as necessary.
- Provide periodic predictions on the incident potential.
- Report any significant changes in the incident status.
- Compile and display incident status information.
- Oversee preparation and implementation of Incident Demobilization Plan.
- Incorporate plans (e.g., Traffic, Medical, Communications, Site Safety, etc.) into the IAP.

The PSC is responsible for leading the Planning meeting.

For additional information regarding the PSC's responsibilities, the U.S. Fire Administration/National Fire Academy Field Operations Guide can be accessed at <http://feti.lsu.edu/municipal/NFA/TRADE/materials/TRADE%20CD%20XVI//WebHelp/index.htm>.