



Incident Command Policy

Purpose:

To ensure EPS members are prepared to respond to anticipated or unanticipated critical incidents, high-risk incidents, major events, disasters and emergencies.

Statement of Principle:

The EPS is responsible for providing an organized and coordinated response in order to safeguard the security and safety of the public, emergency response personnel including EPS members, and limit damage to property.

Definitions:

Definitions listed in this section apply to this document only with no implied or intended organization-wide or EPS Policy and Procedure Manual wide use.

Critical Incident – An event where there is an anticipated or known threat that must be assessed and managed through the use of negotiations and tactics. This includes situations where a high-risk warrant service is being considered, and events where a Level I Incident Commander is required.

Disaster – A natural catastrophe, technological accident, or human caused event that has resulted in severe property damage, deaths or multiple injuries.

Emergency – An unanticipated event that warrants action to save lives and to protect property, public health, and safety.

High-Risk Incident – Any event or situation that involves a command planning component, and presents a risk to the public, emergency response personnel or public property.

Incident Command System (ICS) – A management system designed to enable effective, efficient incident management by integrating a combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications operating within a common structure.

Level I Incident Commander – A member who has successfully met the requirements of the Level I Incident Commanders Certification. The Level I Incident Commander is responsible for taking command of critical incidents and assessing the nature of the



incident, assessing and confirming the need for resources, establishing command, initiating the Incident Management System (SMEAC) and consulting a Level II commander as per **SP2-2PR High-Risk and Critical Incidents Procedure**.

Level II Incident Commander – A member who has successfully met the requirements of the Level II Incident Commanders Certification. The Level II Incident Commander assumes responsibility of a critical incident once there is an anticipated or known elevation in risk to victims, hostages, the public, emergency response personnel and/or subjects, and is given the authority to deploy a broader set of resources to respond to a critical incident.

Major Event – Any anticipated community, municipal, provincial or international event(s) where the EPS contributes professional law enforcement services in support of the safety of the event. A major event is also distinguished by the implementation of an enhanced command structure which includes a Staff Sergeant rank or higher trained to address the scale and scope of an event.

Tier 1 Command (Emergency Operations Centre Command) – The stream of Incident Command that oversees emergencies and disaster events in a unified command with other public agencies and emergency services during an Emergency Operation Centre activation.

Tier 2 Command (Level I and II Incident Command) – The stream of Incident Command that oversees Critical Incident events that can be handled by a single agency (EPS), and do not require a unified command structure. Examples include armed and barricaded persons, armed persons in public places, and hostage takings.

Tier 3 Command (Major Event Command) – The stream of Incident Command that is responsible for managing planned civic events which have a scope larger than those managed by Special Event Staffing Unit. The scope includes high profile events that: could cause significant media attention; involve multiple other public agencies or emergency services; or require significant resources to manage due to the geographical areas involved or the crowd demographic.

Tier 4 Command (Public Safety Unit Command) – The stream of Incident Command that assumes command of an event should crowd behavior need to be managed with the use of crowd management tactics in order to restore public order.

Unified Command (UC) – An Incident Command System approach used when more than one agency has incident jurisdiction or when incidents cross political jurisdictions. Agencies work together to establish a common set of objectives and strategies and a single Incident Action Plan to respond to an emergency or disaster.

Policy Statement:



- A.** The EPS uses the ICS when a situation requires an organized and coordinated response. ICS is a standardized approach to the command, control, and coordination of emergency response that provides a common structure that is scalable and responsive to an incident.
- B.** The EPS is required to assume the emergency response functions as set out in the City of Edmonton's Municipal Emergency Plan.
- C.** The EPS Incident Command Committee is responsible for the management and deployment of the ICS for the organization.