Lesson 6: Resource Management

Lesson Overview

Resource management involves the coordination and oversight of personnel, tools, processes, and systems that provide incident managers with timely and appropriate resources during an incident. Historically, resource management has been an issue at incidents, both large and small. Resource management is an area of special attention under NIMS.

This lesson will cover requirements for resource management under NIMS. At the end of this lesson, you should be able to describe how NIMS affects the way resources are managed before, during, and after an incident.

What Is Resource Management?

Resource management involves four primary tasks:

- Establishing systems for describing, inventorying, requesting, and tracking resources
- Activating those systems prior to, during, and after an incident
- Dispatching resources prior to, during, and after an incident
- Deactivating or recalling resources during or after an incident

The basic concepts and principles that guide resource management and allow these tasks to be conducted effectively are addressed by NIMS. These concepts and principles are described on the following screens.

Resource Management Concepts

Resource management under NIMS is based on:

- Providing a uniform method of identifying, acquiring, allocating, and tracking resources.
- Classifying kinds and types of resources required to support incident management.
- Using a credentialing system tied to uniform training and certification standards.
- Incorporating resources contributed by private sector and nongovernmental organizations.

Resource Management Principles

Five key principles underlie effective resource management:

1. **Advance planning:** Preparedness organizations working together before an incident to develop plans for managing and using resources
2. **Resource identification and ordering:** Using standard processes and methods to identify, order, mobilize, dispatch, and track resources
3. **Resource categorization:** Categorizing by size, capacity, capability, skill, or other characteristics to make resource ordering and dispatch more efficient
4. **Use of agreements:** Developing preincident agreements for providing or requesting resources
5. **Effective management:** Using validated practices to perform key resource management tasks

Managing Resources

Resource management involves the coordination and oversight of tools, processes, and systems that provide Incident Commanders with the resources that they need during an incident.

To assist local managers, NIMS includes standard procedures, methods, and functions in its resource management processes.

By following the standards established by NIMS, resource managers are able to identify, order, mobilize, dispatch, and track resources more efficiently.

Resource "typing" involves categorizing resources by capability based on measurable standards of capability and performance—for example, a 500-kilowatt generator.

Resource typing defines more precisely the resource capabilities needed to meet specific requirements—and is designed to be as simple as possible to facilitate frequent use and accuracy in obtaining resources.

Certification and credentialing help ensure that all personnel possess a minimum level of training, experience, physical and medical fitness, or capability for the position they are tasked to fill. NIMS also ensures that training material is current.

Resource managers use various resource inventory systems to assess the availability of assets provided by public, private, and volunteer organizations.

And resource managers identify, refine, and validate resource requirements throughout the incident using a process to identify:

- What and how much are needed.
- Where and when it is needed.
- Who will be receiving it.

Because resource requirements and availability will change as the incident evolves, all entities must coordinate closely beginning at the earliest possible point in the incident.

Requests for items that the Incident Commander cannot obtain locally must be submitted through the EOC or Multiagency Coordination Entity using standardized resource-ordering procedures.

Resource managers use established procedures to track resources continuously from mobilization through demobilization.

Resource tracking and mobilization are directly linked. When resources arrive on-scene, they must check in to start on-scene in-processing and validate the order requirements.

Managers should plan for demobilization at the same time that they begin the mobilization process. Early planning for demobilization facilitates accountability and makes transportation of resources as efficient as possible.

Recovery involves the final disposition of all resources. During recovery, resources are rehabilitated, replenished, disposed of, or retrograded.

Reimbursement provides a mechanism for funding critical needs that arise from incident-specific activities. Processes and procedures must be in place to ensure that resource providers are reimbursed in a timely manner.

Together, each of these resource management processes create an integrated, efficient resource management system.