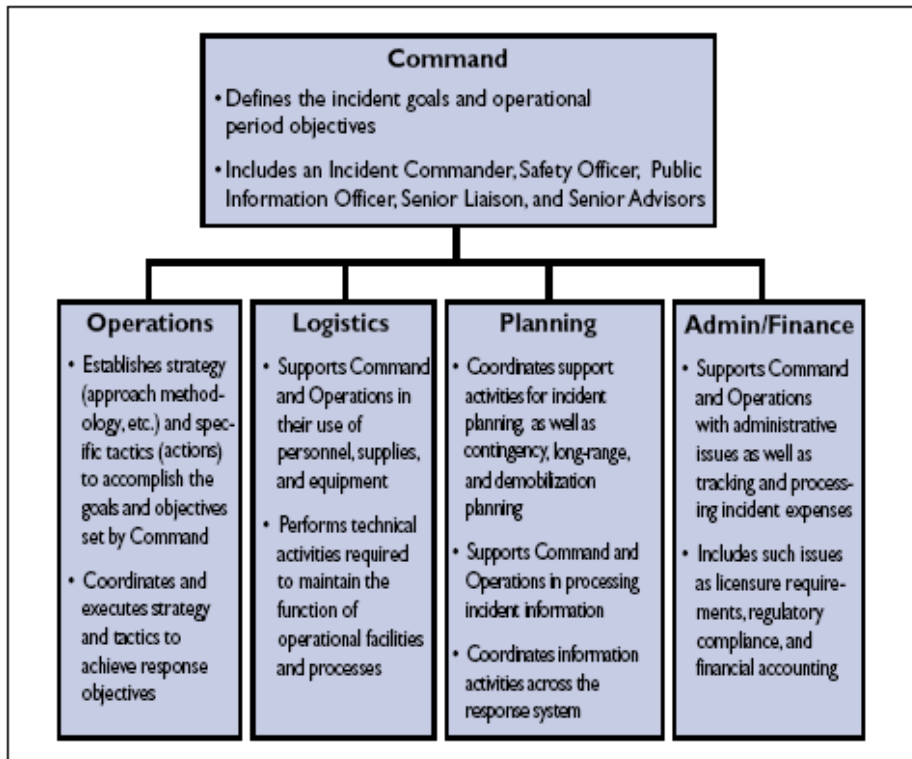


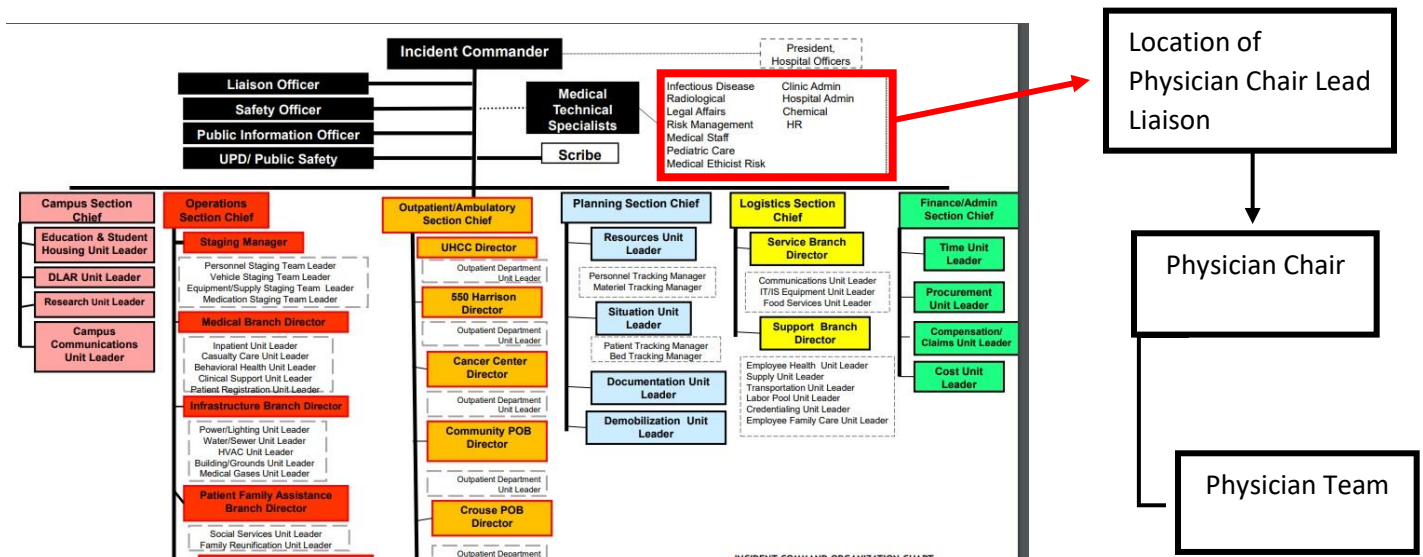
Incident Command System (ICS)

The ICS provides a process for how to organize assets to respond to an incident and manage the response through its successive stages. All response assets are organized into five functional areas: Command, Operations, Planning, Logistics, and Administration/Finance.



Increasingly, public health and medical entities are realizing the importance of organizing response according to ICS principles. Many hospitals have established response structures based on the Hospital Incident Command System (HICS).

SUNY Upstate HICS Model:



Operations: Incident Command is not a replacement or meant to supplant the daily operations of the Hospital. However, Incident Command has the authority to manage emergencies, and threats to the continuity of patient care through strategic decision making that may influence how operations would “normally” take place.

Reporting: When Incident Command is active, staff should use their normal mode of communication. As an example, a member of the physician team would report needs, issues, and status updates to their physician chair. The physician chair would compile the information from their team and give to the physician Chair Lead/Liaison, who would then report on behalf of the entire physician/medical specialists section. During incident command, it is imperative that communication flows in this manner to assure continuity of operations and communications. Information will flow into Incident Command, and information will be distributed from Incident Command in the same manner. Other staff will follow the same reporting structure, and report needs, issues and status updates to their department manager, who will then report to Incident Command based on their assigned section.