



HMA – Role Description

Aims & Objectives

The aim of this sessions is to introduce the role of the HMA and the capabilities and responsibilities required

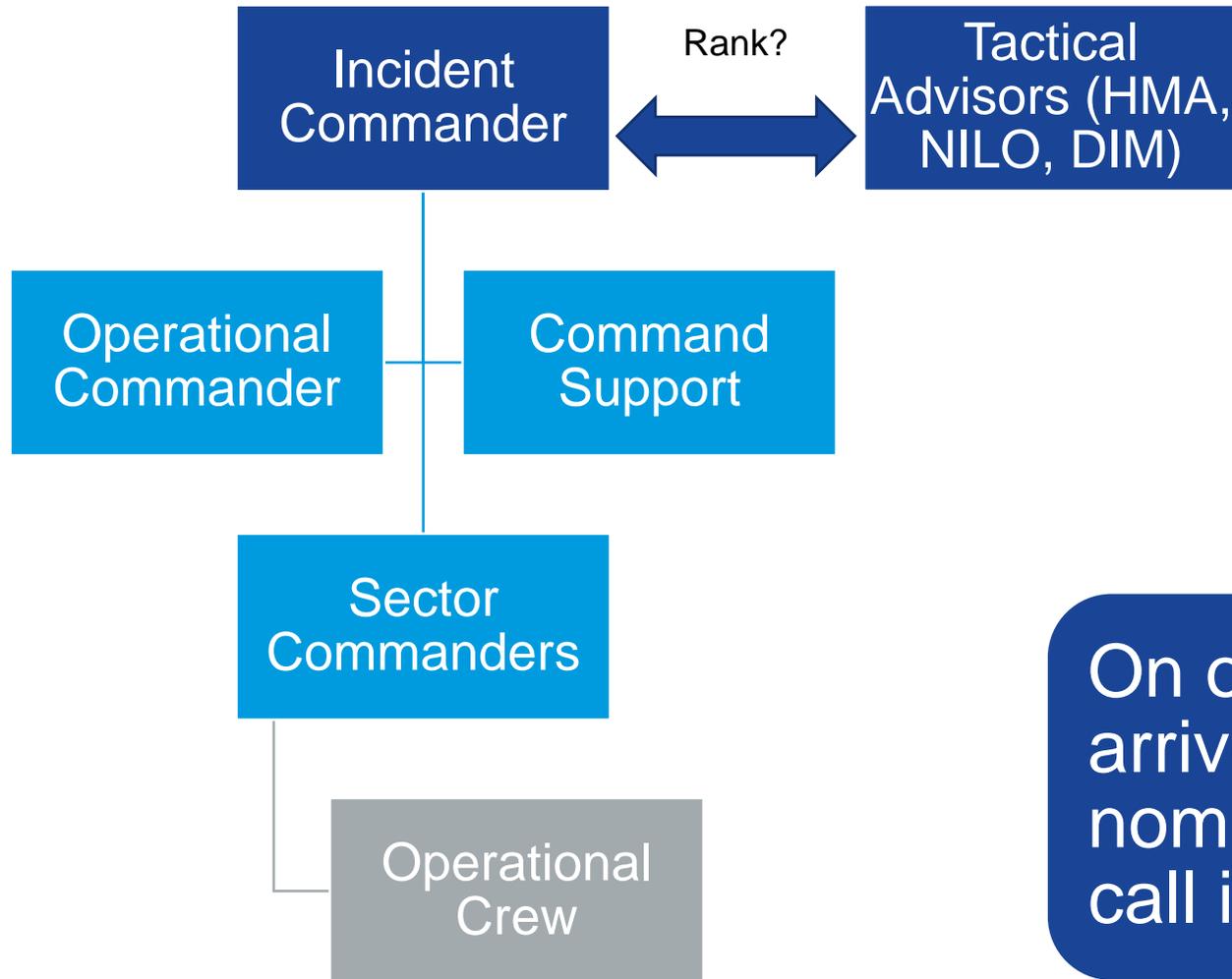
Objectives

- Describe the responsibilities of the HMA
- Understand the 8 phases of a Hazmat Incident
- Identify the advantages that the HMA has to offer Incident Commanders
- Detail the place the HMA takes within the command structure
- Describe the challenges that a HMA faces

The 8 Phase Approach

- **Phase 1.** Pre-planning and risk awareness (information prior to attending)
- **Phase 2.** Mobilisation and a safe approach to a hazmat incident
- **Phase 3.** Arrival at the incident
- **Phase 4.** Tactical planning at a hazmat incident
- **Phase 5.** Implementing the tactical plan
- **Phase 6.** Development of the incident. scale up or scale down
- **Phase 7.** Closing down and handover at a hazmat incident
- **Phase 8.** Returning back to home station - post incident considerations

The Incident Command Structure



On occasions, the HMA may arrive at the incident before the nominated IC, here a judgement call is required (discuss)

HMA – Initial Actions

The HMA should present to the command point and introduce themselves as the HMA. They should wear the appropriate Tabard.



The HMA should initially liaise with the IC to identify priorities and what actions are needed.



The HMA will often conduct a visual assessment of the incident to gain situational awareness. At this time, notes are often made (Risk Assessment form) A review of the first 4 phases should be made



The HMA may seek specialist or technical advice - via their mobile phone / tablet / responsible persons / specialist personnel

List of 'do nots'

- The HMA should not bypass the IC in terms of assistance or informative messages to Control.
- Likewise, the HMA should not normally be making operational decisions which bypass the IC / Ops Commander / Sector Commander
 - However, advice and guidance can be given which may influence to course of operations.

HMA Priorities - **People**

Are people involved or at risk?

This includes **members of the public** either directly involved in the incident or at some distance.

At many incidents involving Hazardous Materials, simply putting adequate cordons in place is enough to stabilise the incident to ensure public protection.

Are **responders** at risk? Is the correct PPE being worn? Has appropriate decontamination been identified and set up? Are inner cordons adequate?

Environment

- Has the incident got the potential to damage the environment? Has an environmental impact assessment been carried out? Are the tactics in-use adversely affecting the environment (especially so in fire situations)

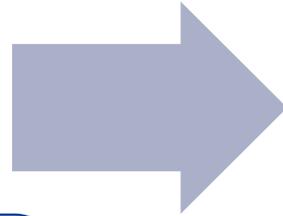
Assets / Buildings / Infrastructure

- Are any assets such as buildings, machinery, businesses or infrastructure at risk? What is the risk vs benefit of attempting to prevent damage?

HMA Priorities - Context

The context of why the FRS is at an incident should always be considered.

- Why has the FRS been called? Is it because no other agency will turn out?
- What is the FRS remit?
- What is the **actual** risk? What is the **potential** risk?



The context will have an important bearing on the direction an incident can take.

- What is the **intent**?
- Is it fly tipping?
- A criminal act (drug production, explosive manufacture)
- Is scene preservation required?

- Often the FRS attend, achieve a SAFE HOLD* and identify the most appropriate agency to bring the incident to a safe conclusion.
 - **SAFE HOLD- a situation where an incident is stabilised, it is not going to escalate and public safety is no longer compromised.*

HMA – Other Functions

It is often the case that a HMA's involvement at an incident continues after all other FRS resources have left the scene, this may involve remaining at the incident or returning at a later time, for example:

- Recovery- Phases 7 &8 - in instances where a third-party contractor is brought in to remove a hazardous material or recover a tanker, the HMA may wish to be in attendance during these operations. This may be to ensure that environmental considerations are carried out, to provide them with a personal handover and advice to ensure safety, or in the case of a particularly hazardous recovery, have some FRS resources on standby in case of an emergency

HMA – Identifying the Responsible Person- Phase 7

Identifying responsibility for a hazardous material- (Phase 7 handover) this can be one of the most challenging aspects of a HMA's role!

- NEVER take a hazardous material back with you
- NEVER accept responsibility for a hazardous material (baby-sitting)
- It is the FRS role to ensure public safety in the *emergency phase*
- To bring an incident to SAFE HOLD, use cordons, containment, over-drums, dilution, neutralisation or ventilation.
- Once 'safe hold' has been achieved, FRS should be looking for an exit strategy (liaise with Police, L.A, building owners etc)

HMA – Identifying the Responsible Person

- Once safe or relatively safe (SAFE HOLD) use the following guidelines:

Public Highway or publicly accessible land

• **Local Authority** (Google 'Relevant Land')

Private Land

• **Land-owner**

National Parks

• **NP authority / Local Council**

Private dwelling house

• **House owner**

Local Authority house / Housing Association

• **LA HA**

Motorway or Trunk Road

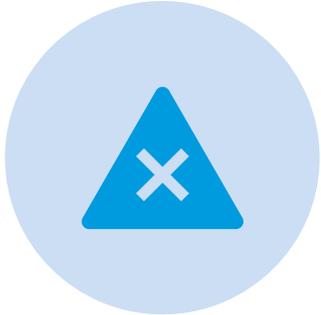
• **National Highways**

Farmland

• **Landowner**

- There will be occasions, especially at weekends or out of hours where it is very difficult to make contact with one or more of the above. This is especially so when dealing with fly tipping.

HMA – Things I wish I knew earlier



If the situation is **UNSAFE** for the general public, then the FRS must remain in attendance until a **SAFE HOLD** is achieved

- responsibility can then be taken by others



If a **SAFE HOLD** is reached, then local arrangements (LRF) should be instigated



Note for large quantities of fly tipped material, the EA may take it away (Over 20 tonnes)



Note **NEVER** request a third-party waste contractor - you will be liable to pay for it! £££££



Mini Exercise

Mini Exercise – Incident Details

Incident Details:

- It is 5pm on a Friday afternoon.
 - Residential street in a busy town / city
 - Children playing

- Two pumps and HMA mobilised to reports of chemical from a large industrial type wheelie bin in a cul-de-sac.
 - On arrival, crews discover 20+ glass and plastic containers containing unknown chemicals, dumped in the bin.
 - Some of the glass containers have smashed and liquid is dripping from the bottom of the bin and reacting with the metal bin wheels.

In groups of 3

Five minutes per task

Mini Exercises – Task No. 1

1 –

- What are your actions in phases 1 -4

- Who do you think can take responsibility for the chemicals?
 - How do you make contact with them?

Mini Exercises – Task No. 2

2 - Reply from out of office hours supervisor – “we don’t accept hazardous waste as we only have two guys on call with a van, and they won’t take anything that is unsafe”

– What Is your next move to achieve Phase 7?

Mini Exercises – Task No. 3

3 - Containers are now all divided into compatible over-drums and containers, the roadway made safe using dilution into foul sewer and soda ash. *SAFE HOLD - ETA from LA is two hours*

- Do you stay?
- Do you leave it with the Police?

Mini Exercises – Task No. 4

4 - What handover information do you provide?

- What information do you require?
- What follow up actions would you take? (phases 7 and 8)

Summary – Key Takeaways

- Consider the place of the HMA within the Incident Command Structure (do not supersede or bypass the IC), and abide by organisational practice and policy with ranking
- Make arrangements to keep close contact with the IC regarding the advice discussed
- Ensure Risk Assessments are proportional to the risks / incident – consider time and resources
- Take into account HMA priority actions alongside tactical plan – assertiveness may be required for some ICs
- Consider the context of the incident – very easy to make assumptions or miss key information
- Be prepared to liaise with numerous agencies / personnel – anticipate early on in the incident
- Identify exit strategy early on – build in possibility of your personal involvement e.g. recovery / mitigation
- It will often be up to the HMA to identify the responsible person(s) / agency
- Never take the hazmat home with you.



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Any Questions?