

ICS 200 – Lesson 1: Course Overview

Lesson Overview

The **Course Overview** lesson:

- Provides a brief tutorial on the structure and layout of the course.
- Familiarizes you with the incident scenario and how it will be integrated into the lessons throughout the course.

This lesson should take approximately **25** minutes to complete. **Remember, you must complete the entire lesson to receive credit.**

Lesson 1 Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to:

- Use the course features and functions.
- Identify the benefits of using ICS.

Purpose and Use of the Incident Scenario

A disaster-related scenario and exercises are used in this course to help present and support the Incident Command System subject matter.

The scenario is introduced in Lesson 1 and used throughout the remaining instructional lessons and exercises.

Roaring River Flood: Scenario Introduction

Franklin is located at the northern end of the Roaring River Valley. The valley itself is one of the most fertile and productive farming areas in the State of New Liberty. Although the local farms and ranches are small by commercial standards, they afford their owners a reasonable living and a great deal of pride in their products.

This year has been particularly harsh on the Roaring River Valley. The valley is one of the most fertile and productive farming areas in the State of New Liberty. Heavy snows during the previous winter, combined with much higher-than-average rainfall throughout the spring and early summer, delayed planting and increased the local ranchers' costs for feed.

Due to heavy rains, severe flooding is now inundating the Roaring River Valley, causing widespread flooding throughout the valley. This flooding has resulted in a large crop loss and livestock fatalities and displacement. There are numerous reports of electrical and water service outages throughout the valley. The Franklin stockyard has been flooded. Several food processing plants were shut down because of flooding in the buildings.

Of special concern is the flooding of and heavy damage to a USDA fruit fly research facility. This damage resulted in the release of thousands of fruit flies—a biosecurity breach of huge proportions.

There is no relief in sight. The rain is continuing and the river is not forecasted to crest for at least 3 more days.

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Roaring River Flood: Initial Assessment

The reports of widespread damage have triggered initial assessments. Initial assessments of agricultural issues have just come in.

Food Safety Inspection Service Issues

The primary area of concern is damage to and contamination of food processing plants. Initial reports indicate that five food processing plants are shut down due to flooding, which has contaminated plants, and may have damaged systems and equipment that keep food safe during processing.

Plant Protection and Quarantine Issues

Another concern is the accidental release of the fruit flies. There are a number of critical facilities located within the 81 square miles that must be regulated. These facilities include:

- 5 commercial growers that produce potentially impacted host products representing more than 7,500 acres and another 15,000 acres further downstream.
- 5 food processing plants.
- 1 fruit-packing shed.
- 1 juicing plant.
- 3 grocery stores selling host material.
- 6 nurseries selling propagative host material.

In addition, there's an unknown number of other retail establishments selling various host materials. There are no Federal/State-approved treatment facilities in the regulated area. Host material produced in other locations is routinely shipped into the regulated area for processing and/or packing. And finally, the production area will require surveying, monitoring, and regulating for a minimum of 3 fruit-fly lifecycles—at least 120 days.

Veterinary Service Issues

There have been widespread livestock losses, including:

- 50 cattle.
- 10 horses.
- 2 mules.

A local sow-farrowing operation is reporting 400 dead sows and 2,500 dead piglets. The poultry industry has also been hit, with at least 100,000 dead chickens at 3 different sites.

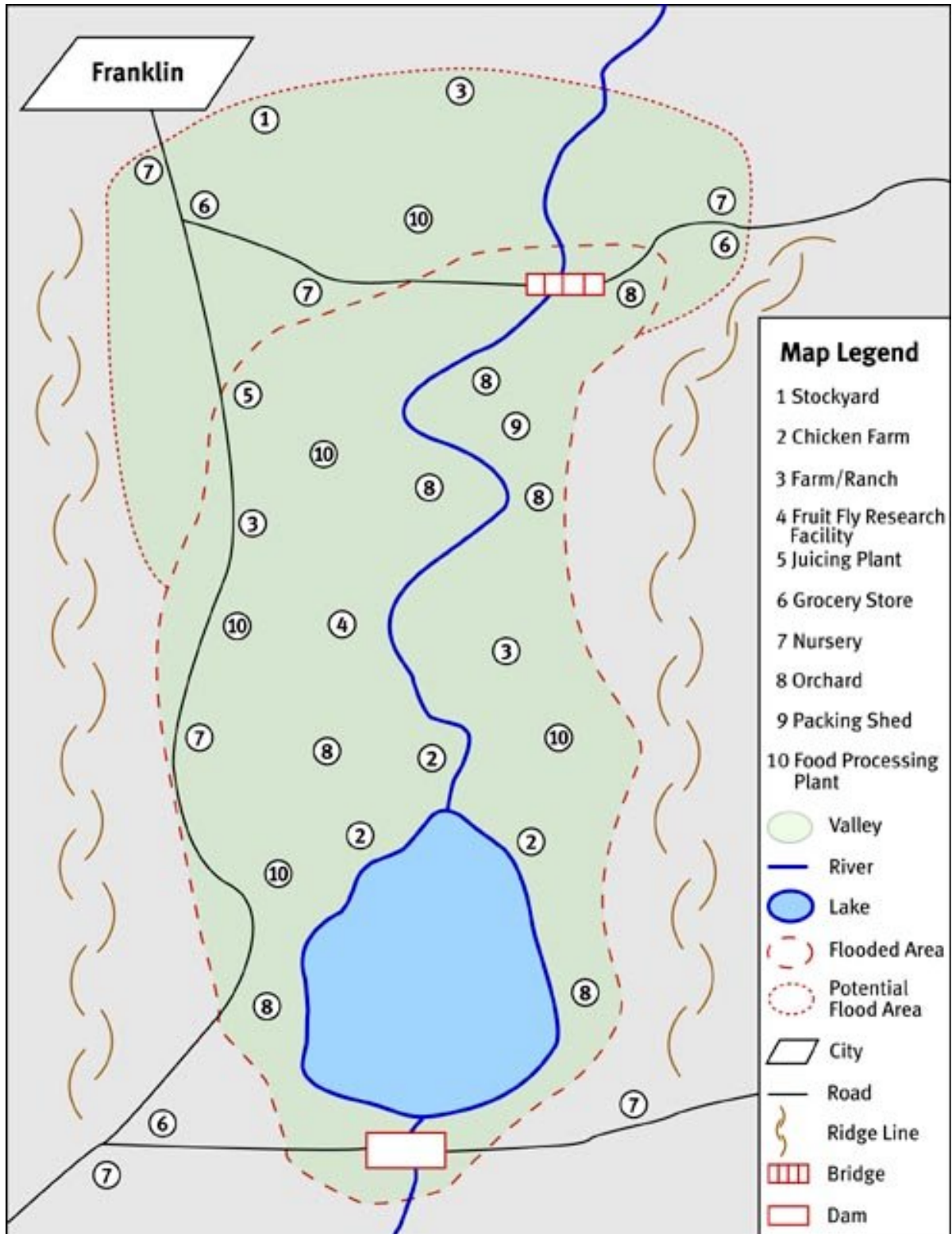
In addition, more than 500 cattle and 8 horses need to be relocated. The following animals require euthanasia:

- 10 cattle
- 7 horses
- 30 chickens

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Roaring River Flood: Incident Map

The incident is affecting a large geographic area. Given the initial assessments, it is likely that numerous resources and facilities will be required.



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Roaring River Flood: Response Challenges Activity

Given what you learned in the ICS-100 course, what do you think are the management and organizational challenges in responding to the Roaring River Flood?

Possible Management and Organizational Challenges:

- **Coordination:** Local, State, and Federal personnel all have a role in responding to this incident. Within USDA, multiple agencies/services will need to work closely together.
- **Information:** The producers, farmers, distributors, and other external groups need accurate, timely information about potential hazards and actions that they should take. The public needs to be assured that the Government is acting to protect the food supply and prevent potential health hazards associated with the dead livestock and poultry.
- **Resources and Facilities:** Specialized personnel are needed to address the fruit fly release, food contamination issues, and veterinary needs. Multiple facilities will be needed throughout the area including an airport and helibase.
- **Safety:** Attention must be paid to the safety of the general public and the response personnel. Controls need to be established for the storage and application of pesticides and veterinary drugs. Vectors (pests, snakes, etc.) and polluted waters also pose safety risks.

Roaring River Flood: Why Use ICS?

As you learned in the ICS-100 course, the Incident Command System is an effective method for managing incident response activities. Using ICS in the Roaring River Flood response:

- **Allows for the efficient delegation of responsibilities.** This is a big incident and is more than one person can manage. It will require all five ICS functions operating to manage effectively. Effective incident management reduces potential chaos, establishes priorities, and helps manage workloads and resources.
- **Establishes a clear chain of command.** All incident personnel know where they fit in the organization, who their supervisors are, and what they are responsible for achieving.
- **Avoids unclear communications.** The use of common terminology allows personnel from different organizations to communicate with each other without being misunderstood.
- **Ensures key functions are covered.** Command staff are assigned key functions such as safety, liaison for coordination with other organizations, and public information. One voice is used to disseminate clear, accurate information.

Why Use ICS? Effective Management

ICS is a management system, not just an organizational chart. The organization is just one of ICS's major features.

The information that you acquire from this training will help to sharpen your management skills, and better equip you to be a fully effective incident or event manager. In the upcoming lessons, you will learn how the ICS management tool is used to address the challenges facing the Roaring River Valley.

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Lesson Summary

You have completed the **Course Overview** lesson. This lesson provided a brief tutorial on the structure and layout of the course. It also familiarized you with the incident scenario and how it will be integrated into the other lessons in the course.

The next lesson will describe the features and principles that constitute the Incident Command System.