

## Incident Command System Training

### The Challenge

After the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area was asked by the Secretary of Agriculture and the Fire Department of New York (FDNY) to develop, coordinate, and present Incident Command System (ICS) and Incident Management Team (IMT) training for the city's fire department. The goal was to enhance the abilities of the FDNY to respond to large-scale incidents ranging from fires and other natural disasters to breaches in national security.

New York City remains a key target for future terrorist attacks on the United States. The FDNY must be prepared to provide a seamless transition from emergency response to recovery operations if and when the city experiences another disaster. However, the fire department's IMTs lacked the opportunity to use their ICS skills on actual incidents within the fire department's jurisdiction. The FDNY also lacked the National Wildfire Coordination Group (NWCG) qualifications and FEMA recognition as a viable incident management resource.

### The Solution

A memorandum of understanding was signed between the Secretary of Agriculture and the New York City Fire Commissioner on January 15, 2003, that outlines how training for the FDNY would address National Homeland Security and long-duration incidents in New York City. The USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area entered into a cooperative agreement with the FDNY to help them develop all-hazard Incident Management Teams to increase the department's capacity to respond to future acts of terrorism and other forms of mass-casualty disasters. The

*The USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area Fire and Aviation Management Program is helping the Fire Department of New York improve its emergency response capabilities.*



*FDNY Type 1 Team Members completed a training assignment with Frey's Type 1 Team on the Central Complex Fire in Alaska. Photo credit: John Grosman, USDA Forest Service*

Northeastern Area has developed a mobilization plan for dispatching FDNY trainees through the Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS). In January 2003, the USDA Forest Service initiated ICS training to provide FDNY IMT candidates with hands-on training and incident management skills. The IMT training is ongoing.

### Resulting Benefits

- The FDNY has developed the capacity to form Type-2 IMTs for all-hazard incidents within their jurisdiction.
- Shadow assignments for the FDNY with Type-1 IMTs have been developed. The FDNY currently has 50 firefighters who have completed NWCG Position Task Books for a variety of ICS positions.

### Sharing Success

- The FDNY provided an IMT during the Hurricane Katrina response. They also plan to continue making IMTs available for deployment in national emergencies on urban all-risk incidents, support national incident management needs, and maintain the skill levels of their teams.
- A Cooperative Incident Management Agreement with the FDNY for future FEMA incidents is being developed.
- The Northeastern Area continues to facilitate trainee assignments for the FDNY with additional Type-1 IMTs.
- The Northeastern Area will look for opportunities to integrate FDNY training with other agencies.



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