



GERALD ROBINSON

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SHERIFF'S OFFICIALS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

COMMAND LEVEL TRAINING: Jefferson County, Arkansas – March 13, 2012 – March 5-8, 2012, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Top Officials successfully completed four (4) days, thirty-two (32) total hours of course instructions on Incident Command System (ICS) Training sponsored by the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management (ADEM) in cooperation with the Department of Homeland Security.

The ICS is a standardized, on-scene, all-hazards incident management approach that allows for the integration of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications operating within a common organizational structure. ICS also enables a coordinated response among various jurisdictions and functional agencies, both public and private. It establishes common processes for planning and managing response. ICS is flexible and can be used for incidents of any type, scope, and complexity. ICS will allow the sheriff's office to adopt an integrated organizational structure to match the complexities and demands of single or multiple incidents.

ICS is used by all levels of government; Federal, State, tribal, and local as well as by many nongovernmental organizations and the private sector. It is also applicable across disciplines. It is typically structured to facilitate activities in five major functional areas: Command, Operations, Planning, Logistics, and Finance/Administration. All of the functional areas may or may not be used based on the incident needs. Intelligence/Investigations are an optional sixth functional area that is activated on a case-by-case basis. As a system, ICS is extremely useful; not only does it provide an organizational structure for incident management, but it also guides the process for planning, building, and adapting that structure. Using ICS for every incident or planned event helps hone and maintain skills needed for the large-scale incidents.

On February 24, 2007, Dumas was struck by a tornado at around 3 p.m. More than 40 people were injured and many homes and business were damaged or destroyed. The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office responded to Desha County, AR (Dumas) and provided personnel and resources to the recovery and cleanup efforts. ICS would have been very helpful during our efforts in Dumas in 2007.