**

*This video explains in some detail the ICS concept and where to find more information on it (FEMA offers free online courses).*

**Transcript**

*Most first responder organizations such as the National Guard, fire, and police departments, follow the organizational structure known as the Incident Command System—the ICS—when deploying their emergency response team.*

*Deciding to use this same structure when activating your emergency response team (or ERT) has several advantages.*

*First, the system can facilitate a free flow of information between your ERT and the first-responders who will support you during a crisis.*

*Second, an ICS has a set of well-defined job descriptions for each role within it. Reviewing these job descriptions can aid in defining the scope and responsibilities of the corresponding jobs in your ERT organization.*

*Third, following the ICS model can help streamline decision-making because there is a clear command and control line connecting everyone on the team to the overall manager, the Incident Commander.*

*In summary, the ICS model is a well-tested and successful organizational structure that can help improve your organization’s response to any crisis.*

*You can learn more about the detailed structure of the Incident Command System by visiting the FEMA website or simply enter the phrase “ICS Training” in any search engine.*