

# Building Safety Officer Capacity in Local Health Departments

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# ICS Safety Officer

- NIMS ICS
- 29 CFR 1910.120 HAZWOPER
- Role in Developing Incident Action Plans



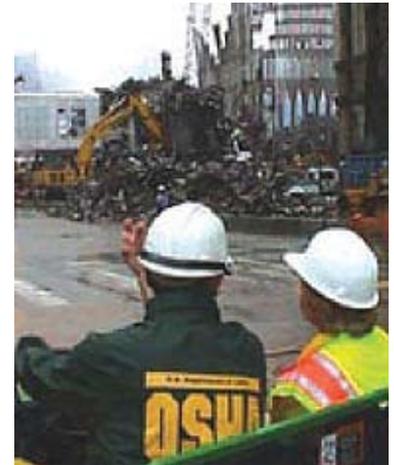
# *“Protect the Protectors”*

- Local Health Departments protect and promote the health of the public, during both day-to-day operations and during emergencies
- For many, public health service is highest calling—may not be focused on own safety and health
- To enable workers to perform these duties effectively and efficiently, worker health and safety is critical



# Safety Officer at NYC Health Department

- Command staff position in DOHMH ICS as of 2008
- Staffed by Director of Employee Health and Safety
- Leadership to work out of Emergency Operations Center
- 5-deep back up Leadership needed



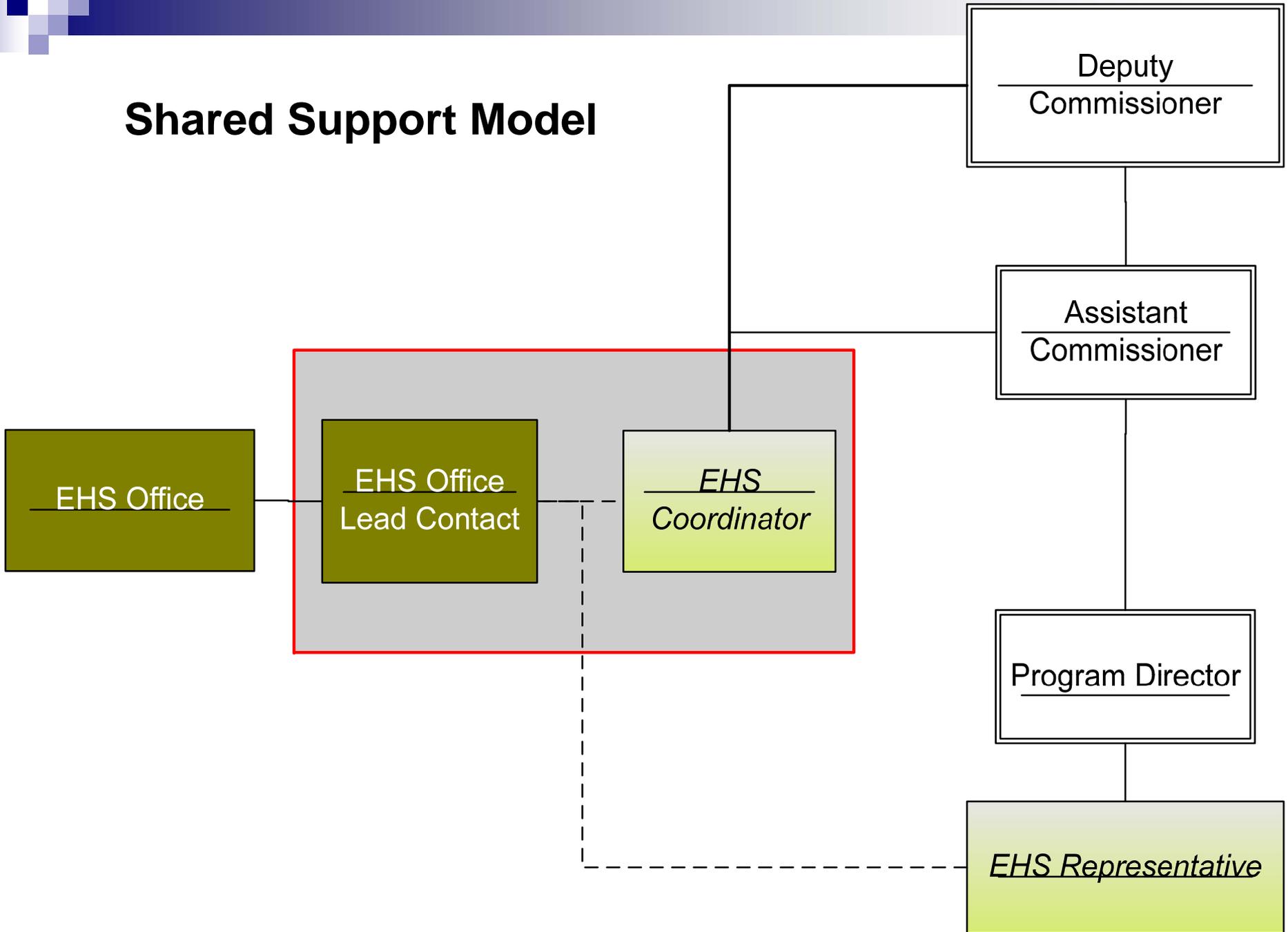
# Safety Officer at NYC Health Department



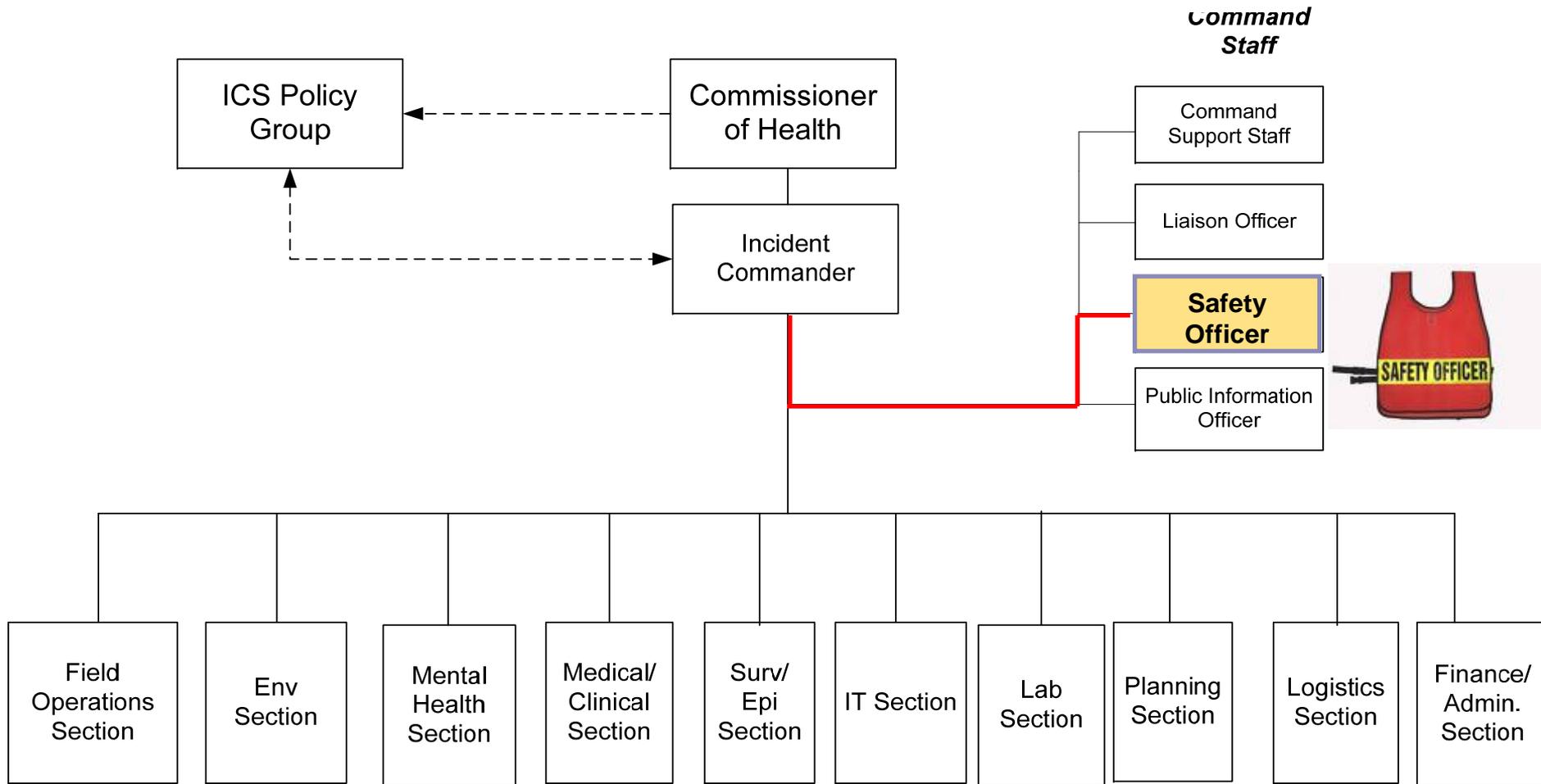
- Scope limited to protecting DOHMH employees conducting response activities
- At the Time, Lacked Assistant Safety Officers /Safety Staff for large-scale incidents



# Shared Support Model



# NYC DOHMH ICS Structure



# Creating a New Role: Assistant Safety Officers (ASOs)

Target: 50 Highly Trained Staff

Goal: Have sufficient safety officer staff to support city-wide activation of Points of Dispensing (POD) or other large scale/complex incident.



# Creating a New Role: ASOs

- Purpose: Support field operations; Develop and recommend measures for ensuring responder safety; Monitor and/or anticipate hazardous and unsafe situations; Provide just in time training.
- Report to DOHMH Safety Officer (SO) leadership during an activation.
- Multiple ASOs depending on the complexity (disciplines involved) or geographical scale.
  - Extended durations
  - Shift work (Manhattan Steam Pipe Incident)



# Critical Elements to Success

- Existing Comprehensive EHS Management System
- Management Commitment
- Existing Model of Worker Involvement
  - EHS Representatives
- Natural In House Capacity
  - Environmental and Clinical

# Fundamental Skills Needed

## Site Inspections

- Incident Investigations
- Respirator Fit Testing
- Emergency Response Management (Leadership)



*Source:*

[www.ehopac.org](http://www.ehopac.org) US PHS

# Recruitment Criteria

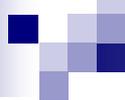
- Previous safety & health experience and/or training
- City/Agency-wide and/or public health knowledge or experience
- Excellent communication skills
- Bachelor's Degree



# Preferred Personnel Skills

- Persons interested in, and available for, basic and advanced training
- Able to work under field conditions
- Hands-on experience with ICS





# Benefits and Incentives (WIFM)

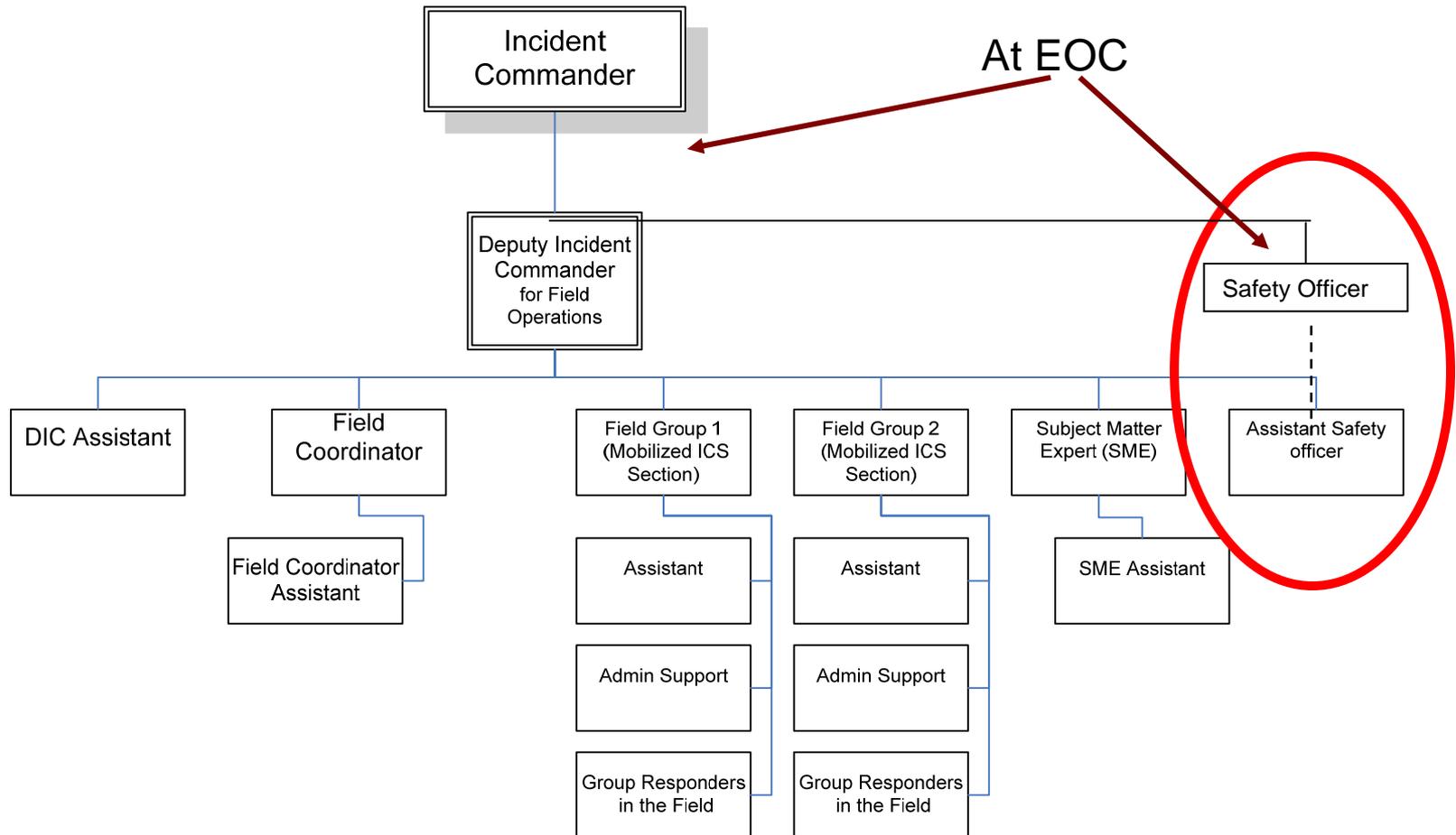
- Protect co-workers during emergencies
- Critical to advancing agency's mission
- Opportunities for advanced level training
- Opportunity to stay involved in health and safety
- Network with other parts of the Agency
- Potential overtime
- Participation in DOHMH drills and exercises both internal and "City-wide"

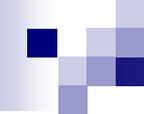


# Operations-level Safety Support

- Environmental Emergency Response
- Public Health Labs
- Staffed by subject matter experts
- Responsible solely for staff in their respective program (usu. at “ground zero”)
- Positions are in close communication with central Safety Officer

# DOHMH Field Operations





# **Building Skills, Confidence and Capacity**

# Training, Initial



	Safety Officer Training	Disaster Worker Training	HAZWOPER	Respiratory Protection	FEMA ICS Training** (ONLINE)
How Often	1x	1X	Initial	Initial	1x
Length	2 days	2.5 days	24 hour	1.5 hour	~ 1 hour / module

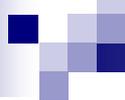


\*\* FEMA Independent Study Courses: IS-100, IS-200, IS-700  
<http://training.fema.gov/IS/crslist.asp>

# Training, *Initial*

- Safety Officer Hazard Recognition (DOHMH or external provider)
- OSHA Disaster Site Worker
- HAZWOPER 24 hr
- Respiratory Protection
- FEMA ICS Classes 100, 200, 700
- FEMA ICS 300 & 400 required for Leadership





# Training, *Ongoing*

- Annual Refreshers
  - HAZWOPER refresher
  - Respirator training/fit-test
- Participation in exercises to drill Safety Officer mobilization and functions
- OSHA 10 hour Construction Safety
- Conducting Job Hazard Analysis
- POD set up

# Safety Officer (SO)

## Job Action Sheet

Position Assigned To: \_\_\_\_\_

This position reports to the Incident Commander

Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mission:** Develops and recommends measures to the DOHMH Incident Commander to assure personnel health and safety and to assess and/or anticipate hazardous and unsafe situations. THE SAFETY OFFICER HAS ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY TO STOP OR MODIFY WORK CONDITIONS THAT MAY BE UNSAFE.

### Immediate

- \_\_\_\_\_ Receive appointment and briefing from Incident Commander.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Occupy and set up DEOC workstation, review your position responsibilities.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Establish and maintain a log which chronologically describes your actions taken during shift
- \_\_\_\_\_ Determine your staffing needs:
  - Identify Section Desk Officer from pool and staffing rotation for that position
  - Identify Assistant Safety Officer's (ASO's) to report to site(s) (see Section Staffing List)
  - Request additional staff from Safety Officer Section personnel.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Complete operational risk assessment/hazard analysis to anticipate, identify and control incident hazards.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Participate in the development of Incident Action Plan (IAP) and review to ensure safety messages are included.
  - Provide IAP Safety Message
  - Review and approve Medical Plan (ICS Form 206)

### Intermediate

- \_\_\_\_\_ Communicate with and/or request assistance from health and safety professionals or incident safety officers from other agencies as needed through Liaison Officer.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ensure hazards are being controlled. Ensure adequate levels of protective equipment are available and being used.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ensure preparation, implementation, and enforcement of Health and Safety Plan.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Present safety briefings to Command and key sections
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ensure high level of communication with response staff on all safety issues.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ensure all activity is documented using appropriate ICS forms.

### Extended

- \_\_\_\_\_ Assist Finance Section Chief with preparations of State and federal reimbursement documents and participate in post-event debriefings
- \_\_\_\_\_ Assist in development of Health and Safety after-action report to Incident Commander.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Brief on-coming Safety Officer

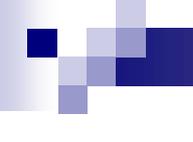
# Program Support

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**NIEHS**

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences –



# *Thank You!*

- DOHMH BEM staff
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