

Role

The overarching aim of the operational commander is to protect life, property and the environment by ensuring that rapid and effective actions are implemented on the ground to save lives and minimise harm.

Commanders from all relevant responder organisations are responsible for working together to develop and execute the initial operational response and, where activated, the tactical plan.

Each commander is responsible for the response of their respective agency. They work with the commanders from other responder agencies to co-ordinate activities.

Responsibilities

- a) Protect life, property and the environment
- b) Make an initial assessment of the situation (using appropriate procedures including single service and M/ETHANE), ensuring that appropriate resources are requested and, where appropriate, declaring a major incident
- c) Co-locate with representatives/commanders from other responder agencies to agree timings and a forward command post for future meetings
- d) Convene joint meetings and use the joint decision model to share information, intelligence and risk information to make effective joint decisions and co-ordinate operational plans. Agree a common view of the situation, its consequences and potential outcomes and the actions required within a working strategy
- e) Using the Joint Decision Model (JDM), maintain shared situational awareness through effective communication between all multi-agency organisations to assist in the implementation of the operational plan
- f) Using the joint decision model, identify the challenges the organisation's operational plan may present to its multi-agency partners and take action to minimise or reduce them
- g) Make and share decisions according to the agreed level of responsibility, with an awareness of consequence management. Share the decisions with multi-agency colleagues
- h) Construct a working strategy and establish priorities for its execution in sufficient detail so that other agencies have a clear understanding its actions
- i) Carry out a briefing at the earliest opportunity and at regular intervals subsequently
- j) Understand the role of each agency in managing and co-ordinating the care of victims, survivors and relatives
- k) Consider the security of the scene and identify and agree triggers, signals and arrangements for emergency evacuation
- l) Using the joint decision model conduct, record and share ongoing dynamic risk assessments, putting in place control measures with appropriate actions and review
- m) Understand how continually changing hazards and risks affect each organisation and work with multi-agency colleagues to address them
- n) Ensure that statutory responsibilities for the health, safety and welfare of personnel are met during the incident

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- o) Determine whether the situation requires activating the next level of command support (Tactical Co-ordinating Group) and make appropriate recommendations
- p) Update the tactical commander on any changes, including any variation in agreed multi-agency tactics within their geographical or functional area of responsibility
- q) Ensure appropriate support by the organisation at the scene in terms of communications operatives and loggists. If available, support from a National Incident Liaison Officer (or equivalent) should be provided. The amount and type of support will be determined by the incident
- r) Maintain accurate records of information known, decisions taken and a concise rationale for those decisions. Records should be made contemporaneously
- s) Consider organisational post-incident procedures
- t) Carry out a post-incident hot debrief
- u) Consider any issues that negatively affected interoperability and ensure they are noted in any debrief reports for submission to [Joint Organisational Learning](#)

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