

Role

The role of the tactical commander is to protect life, property and the environment by ensuring that rapid and effective actions that save lives and minimise harm are implemented through a tactical co-ordinating group (TCG).

They work between the strategic and operational levels of command.

Tactical commanders are responsible for interpreting strategic direction (where strategic-level command is in use) and developing and co-ordinating the tactical plan.

The Joint Decision Model (JDM) should be used as the standing agenda for tactical co-ordinating group meetings.

Responsibilities

- a) Protect life, property and the environment.
- b) Be aware of and understand the multi-agency command structure, commander roles, responsibilities, requirements and capabilities (including gaps), and monitor the operational command structure, including functional roles.
- c) Determine whether the situation merits the activation of the strategic level of co-ordination and recommend accordingly.
- d) Establish shared situational awareness between the responder agencies.
- e) Initiate, if appropriate, and identify a chair for a multi-agency tactical co-ordinating group meeting at the earliest opportunity, and convene them at regular intervals to maintain shared situational awareness.
- f) Construct and agree the overall joint intent, objectives and concept of operations, and their achievement within a joint plan. Regularly assess and disseminate the information and intelligence available through appropriate communication to evaluate threats, hazards, vulnerabilities and actions. Establish and maintain multi-agency shared situational awareness and promote effective decision-making.
- g) Provide accurate and timely information to inform and protect communities using the media and social media.
- h) Understand how ever-changing threats and hazards affect each organisation, and work with multi-agency colleagues to conduct joint dynamic risk assessments, putting in place appropriate mitigation and management arrangements to continually monitor and respond to the changing nature of emergencies for the organisation.
- i) Ensure that statutory responsibilities are met and doctrine considered for the health, safety, human rights, data protection and welfare of individuals during the incident.
- j) Share and co-ordinate operational plans to ensure multi-agency compatibility and understanding of initial tactical priorities and ongoing tactics.

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Joint Doctrine Supporting Document

Tactical Command Role & Responsibilities

- k) Manage and co-ordinate multi-agency resources and activities where required, providing a joined-up and directed response.
- l) Liaise with relevant organisations to address the longer-term priorities of restoring essential services and the recovery of affected communities.
- m) Ensure that all tactical decisions made, and the rationale behind them, are documented in a decision log, ensuring that a clear audit trail exists for all multi-agency debriefs and future multi-agency learning.
- n) Make de-briefing facilities available and de-brief the operational commander.
- o) Consider any issues that have negatively affected interoperability and ensure they are noted in any debrief reports for submission to [Joint Organisational Learning](#)

Tactical Co-ordinating Group

The tactical commanders of all the responder agencies should come together to form a Tactical Co-ordinating Group (TCG).

The group should meet at an appropriate and mutually agreed location as soon as practicable. The location should be capable of providing appropriate administrative support and should be suitable for holding effective meetings. For some sites, pre-existing locations may have already been identified. Tactical commanders should familiarise themselves with any existing local plans.

The group should meet as frequently as required by the circumstances of the incident. The meetings should be agreed between the tactical commanders at intervals that ensure continuity in managing the incident without disrupting the implementation of agreed plans.

The group should ensure that updates are available for the Strategic Co-ordinating Group if one is in place. Commanders attending the Tactical Co-ordinating Group should be decision-makers for their organisation and suitably trained to command. Decisions should be recorded for audit purposes and a multi-agency decision log should be used.

While it is acknowledged that local arrangements may exist, the stages of the joint decision model can be used as the standing agenda for Tactical Co-ordinating Group meetings.

Clear lines of communication between responding agencies and the TCG are required. Where agencies are responding at strategic co-ordinating group level or above, it is the role of the strategic co-ordinating group chair to ensure that Tactical Co-ordinating Group are updated with the appropriate information.

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