

Coast Guard Incident Management Assistance Team (CG-IMAT) Incident Area Command Activities Overview (2014-2015)

Overview

- CG Districts exist as subordinate commands within our Atlantic and Pacific Area Commands. CG Districts are a perfect fit for use and application of the Incident Area Command, and by extension, Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) Group concepts.
- Many aspects of day-to-day CG preparedness activities at our Districts align perfectly with the intended functions of incident Area Commands and MAC groups during an incident. CG-IMAT intends to leverage the District concept, function and activities to prepare these staffs to better apply incident Area Command/MAC Group concepts during exercises, events, and actual incidents.
- CG-IMAT currently aids furthering the understanding within the Coast Guard of these concepts
- Four ICS-620 Incident Area Command convening's were held with CG-IMAT attending. Two remain planned for 2015.

Incident Area Command Preparedness Highlights

- Courses (ICS-620)
 - Miami – CBP, Sector Miami, and District personnel were in attendance
 - Hawaii – District 14 and Sector Honolulu personnel were in attendance. The D-14 Commander, Admiral Thomas attended the entire course
 - Seattle – District 14 personnel, D14 Commander, Admiral Gromlich, and his counterpart from the Canadian Coast Guard, attended for the entire course as well.
 - Juneau – District 17 and Sector Anchorage personnel attended.
- Integrated Advance (IA) – 15 is a Biennial exercise of Homeland Security Task Force – Southeast (HSTF-SE) held in Miami, FL
 - Prepared the Unified “Area” Command to better understand the agencies and organizations processes, roles, and equities of a maritime mass migration.
 - Provided a forum to gain visibility on capabilities and capacities for a mass migration planning and response while noting gaps or conflicts in agency plans
 - Validated efforts to synchronize and integrate interagency processes, info sharing, operations, decision support and coordinated strategic comms.

Operational Highlights

- Response –Texas City “Y” spill response-Sector Houston/Galveston
 - 22 March, 2014: the UTV MISS SUSAN's (70', US flagged, Towing Vessel) lead double-hulled barge collided with M/V SUMMERWIND (606', LI flagged, Bulk Carrier) in the Houston Ship Channel (HSC) near channel Lights 25/26. The barge sustained severe damage resulting in a discharge of 4,000 barrels (168,000 GAL) of bunker C fuel.
 - 27 March, 2014: CG-IMAT assists Sector Houston with the establishment of an Incident Area Command due to the expansion of the impacts, activities concluded 08 April 2014.

Future Plans

- CG-IMAT is preparing to deliver an Incident Area / MAC Group workshop
 - The workshop materials have been drafted
 - Delivery of the first workshop is anticipated in the Summer of 2015 in Portsmouth, VA