Transcript for Maria and Aaron

Maria and Aaron – slide 6

Maria: I'll try to clear up some technical information to help you be more effective in your role as a READ.

Aaron: I'll give you some insights from my deployment experience on what you can expect when you are in the field.

Key Skills – Documenting – slide 32

Maria: Lots of documentation can be intimidating, but don't fret. Thanks to the ICS structure, many standard forms will help you through.

With everything that you see and do as a READ, and all of the people you collaborate with, there can be lots of documentation to complete. But don't fret, many standard forms are available to help you communicate within your chain of command.

Understanding forms such as ICS 214, the Daily Unit Log, and ICS 209 the Emergency Management Situation Report, will take you a long way.

The Daily Unit Log, or ICS 214 records the daily activities of you and your team. Be as precise and specific as you can in this report, because it will help others to fill in ICS 209 which is the Emergency Management Situation Report, sometimes listed as the Incident Status Summary.

So rely on these and the other forms provided to you, but also, if you do have a specific concern that needs attention and that you've noted on the daily unit log, you can still bring that up verbally to others in your chain of command.

A READ's Location in the ICS – slide 47

Aaron: The IMT can be a big structure. How do I know when to speak up in a briefing?

The structure of the Incident management team can be large and intimidating; even if you have good information to convey.

There are different types of briefings that range from the General Morning Briefing, led by the Incident Command staff, to smaller division or sub-unit briefings. Generally the Morning Briefing is not the place to speak up, unless you've been asked to give information or you have a serious safety issue to report. If you do need to speak up during the briefing, keep your message succinct. As an example, you may simply ask for a side-bar meeting with a dozer crew to let them know of a sensitive habitat area you've been documenting.

After the morning briefing, typically IMT divisions or sub-units will hold mini briefings. This is the place to bring up information or concerns. Your immediate supervisor will likely be in these meetings and will be able to relay your information up the chain of command if appropriate.

The Built Environment II – slide 89

Maria: Many cultural resources can be observed as part of a larger whole. The resource may consist of multiple and not single structures. When working with cultural resources, it is important to have a comprehensive understanding of the site. In this photo you can observe a fog horn, keeper's house and mechanical light; all of which contribute to the meaning and history of the site and make up the lighthouse complex. A Resource Advisor should consider the entirety of a site; the resource is not a single structure but the sum of the parts as illustrated by this photo.

ARPA – slide 106

Aaron: Looting is serious business; but it may surprise you how easily it can be misunderstood.

Looting is serious business and is destructive**.** No READ wants to be part of this illegal activity. But it may not always be obvious, intentional, or with malice. Let's take a look at how this can play out in the field.

Think of yourself arriving at an incident response site. One of the first things you want to do is gather as much information from local staff as you can to help you do a better job in assessing natural and cultural resources. In the process of meeting with them, one pulls you into his office to show you all of the great things that he's collected over time to give you a sense of what you may be looking for.

Let's look at the negatives that are a result of his "personal collection".

First, the artifacts have been taken from their original context. It is likely that no documentation has been collected with these resources to indicate the location both within the landscape or within time, and it loses it associations with other site features. In short, they lose all of their research value.

Second, if the site has been damaged and artifacts have been looted by the local staff, then the park may not be aware that there has been damage. Further, they may only be made aware of the damage because of the Response, and fingers may point toward Response personnel. Part of your job as a READ is not only to protect resources, but to make sure that Response personnel are not responsible for damages.

So what do you do when faced with this situation? You don't confiscate his collection. Instead, alert the Resource Manager at the unit (fill in appropriate location) that this activity has been ongoing, and that Response personnel are not liable for damages prior to an incident. This protects you as a READ and other responders working on the incident.

Personal Deployment Preparation – slide 128

Aaron: Here are some things you need to know about bringing technical equipment.

Once you know the nature of the incident that you are being called to respond to, you may want to bring along technical equipment to help you do your job. Here are a few things to consider:

First, you need to make sure you have permission to bring the equipment from your home unit. Or, if you have permission to bring personal equipment such as special cameras, GPS devices etc., realize that any damage may not be reimbursed or in some cases, things like camera memory cards will need to be kept as a part of legal files. Secondly, remember that even though you have your full set of archeological tools or water sampling equipment, this will be only part of your assignment. The READ works to protect all trust resources in and around the incident site.

Species – slide 70

Maria: What do I as a READ need to know about home ranges?

An All-Hazards READ may encounter and need to deal with a wide variety of plants and animals; from small insects to huge redwood trees.

It is important to remember that animals are mobile, and usually have home ranges which vary in size, but may include very different habitats and needs for hunting, nesting or dens, mating, etc. Time of year is important for understanding which part of a home range may be needed by a species.

Plants are stationary, but their seeds may travel long distances. Because plants cannot move, plant communities may be subject to greater injury from an incident and the response.

Generally, READS do not spend a lot of time on abundant or highly mobile species.

When a population or community has very few species and its existence is in peril, we call these 'rare' species or 'rare' communities.

On an incident response we usually focus on very rare species and those species facing imminent threats from the incident. These are often listed as threatened or endangered and you will hear them referred to as T&E species.

Be aware however, that humans often place high values on certain species such as charismatic megafuana like deer, bear, dolphin, turtles, etc., which may shift focus away from other species, even if those other species are rare, threatened, or endangered.

Also be aware that many species have cultural importance to Native Americans, such as the raven and coyote, and some plants are culturally sacred, such as grasses for weaving and herbs for medicines. Protecting the knowledge of the location of these plants is often as important as the plants themselves.

Maria Narrator script:

Even though you may not see a species present in the immediate area of the incident you are working in, you may be within its home range, and it may travel through the area early in the morning, at night, once a week, or only once a month. Find a local expert if you suspect the species may be present anywhere in the response area!

Common Threats – slide 72

Aaron: Non-native and invasive species may not be an immediate concern. Here are some things to consider.

Realize that not all non-native species are invasive and/or harmful, some are beneficial such as honey bees. However, a single invasive species can cause great harm. Invasive species usually take advantage of natural disasters to spread and colonize new areas. Once established, it can be very costly and time consuming to eradicate them. New invasive species can be brought in on equipment arriving at the incident or moving from one section to another section within the incident. New invasive species can also be brought in through mulch and hay bales. The AH-READ is not expected to initiate programs to battle invasive species, but to take into consideration the ways invasive species may arrive, spread and colonize new areas.