



Figure 4-3. The Incident Command System (ICS) organizational diagram.

Scene Organization

Geographic factors play an important role in disaster response. In remote areas, aeromedical services may be instrumental; at sea, rescue vessels are needed; in urban areas, crowd and traffic control may be important. If a hazard is present, the area must be isolated and emergency vehicles positioned safely upwind. Figure 4-4 shows a typical ground schematic for a geographically focused multicasualty event.

Patients are most efficiently extricated and categorized (see Triage, below) if they are channeled to a single triage location and from there assigned to one of several treatment areas, depending on their level of

treatment priority. From that point, patients depart the treatment areas through a single exit point. This arrangement ensures that the patients with the highest relative priority go first, no one is overlooked, and the total number of victims and their distribution are known.

Logistics

Logistics is a term applied to a support activity concerned with supplying and delivering resources to a rescue effort. Resources may be personnel, equipment, supplies, food and water, crew relief facilities, and the like. In the first few minutes of the EMS response to a

Figure 4-4. Scene diagram of a localized multicasualty incident.

