



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
NATIONAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Center, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City, Philippines

28 MAR 2012

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

No. 09, s. 2012

- TO :
- Vice-Chairpersons and Members, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC);
 - Chairpersons, Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Councils (RDRRMCs), Regions 1 – XII, CAR and CARAGA;
 - Chairperson, Metro Manila Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (MMDRRMC);
 - Chairperson, Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (ARMM DRRMC);
 - Chairpersons, Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Councils (LDRRMCs), and
 - Other Concerned Agencies

SUBJECT : **Implementing Guidelines on the Use of Incident Command System (ICS) as an On-Scene Disaster Response and Management Mechanism under the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management System (PDRRMS)**

I. BACKGROUND

Natural and human-induced disasters are becoming more frequent and climate change has further added to the unpredictability of these occurrences as well as their impact on society. The Philippine Government, through the NDRRMC, is therefore faced with the challenge to heighten its vigilance in ensuring that disaster risks are prevented or minimized and it is prepared to address the needs of affected population when disasters or emergencies occur.

During the 1st ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management Meeting (ACDM) held in Brunei Darussalam on December 9-19, 2003, the ACDM formally adopted the ASEAN-US Cooperation on Disaster Management Program, with focus on ICS Capability Building for the ten (10) ASEAN Member States (AMS). The US Agency for International Development (USAID), which is the principal funding agency of the Program, has tapped the US Department of Agriculture- Forest Service (USDA-FS) as the Program Implementing Agency.

The ICS Model introduced under the ASEAN-US Cooperation on Disaster Management provided the framework for adaptation of an appropriate and suitable model for on-scene disaster response and management system within the AMS respective jurisdictions, at the same time, to facilitate joint disaster emergency response and interoperability among the ASEAN Member States. The Incident Command System could also effectively address some persistent issues and problems arising at on-scene level such as who's in-charge on-site, especially when the incident involves multi-agency participation and multi-jurisdictional, too many responders, too many people reporting to one supervisor, unclear lines of authority, no check-in procedures for responders and unclear incident objectives. The on-scene disaster management tool introduced to the AMS under the Cooperation has proven to be an effective disaster response mechanism at the scene level and has been utilized by the US and adopted by a number of other countries. It is now emerging as the common international language of disaster response.