"Use of Artificial Intelligence to Develop Team Leaders"
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Background

Australian Fire agencies have seen the requirement to purchase the VectorCommand simulator to train its operational officers and managers in the management of a diverse range of incidents. The decline in the number and severity of major incidents has left what can be termed as an "Operational Command GAP".

This gap has shown that without developing the skills necessary for incident management the overall management of an incident could be compromised due to "lack of" or "rusty" operational management skills. The experiential knowledge of managers can decline due to a lack of major incidents or opportunity to realistically practice those skills. Factors that influence this can include improved community prevention & education activities, increased awareness and implementation of risk management, adoption of appropriate building codes and seasonal influences reducing the likelihood and consequence of events such as Wildfires.

To ensure that fire agency personnel perform competently and effectively at these incidents, the use of simulated exercises in training can provide the background skills required for incident management. In fact it is possible to incorporate the philosophy "Command as you train and train as you command". VectorCommand as a tool will not replace all of the skills development necessary for competent incident management, however it provides a medium to develop skills in a consistent and frequent manner that alternatives cannot provide.

The VectorCommand System provides a consistent and effective approach to incident management training and development through the simulation of a number of scenarios. This includes structural firefighting, hazardous materials, motor vehicle accident, industrial, wildfire and aviation simulations. Many are now well established in fire& emergency service agencies' training programs around the world.

The joint presentation from VectorCommand and the Australasian Fire Authorities user group intends to highlight the effectiveness of the system in developing incident management skills.

VectorCommand has been implemented by a number of Australasian agencies. These are:

- Country Fire Authority of Victoria
- New South Wales Fire Brigades
- Queensland Fire & Rescue Service
- South Australia Metropolitan Fire Service
- Melbourne Fire & Emergency Services Board
- New Zealand Fire & Rescue Service
- Fire & Emergency Services Authority of WA
- Air Services Australia Aviation Rescue & Firefighting

With the increasing use of VectorCommand in Australasia a consistent approach to Incident management training is obtained.

This provides a number of benefits for each agency.

- A cost effective method of incident management training.
- Enhanced ability to evaluate training needs and skill levels.
- Standardising Incident Management skills throughout the region (leads to more effective transfer of skills in the industry eg National Operations).
- A flexible workforce that can be exchanged within participating agencies' operations.
- Responsive to training needs (reduced lead in time for development eg CBR scenarios)

Introduction of Scenario

The scenarios to be used in the presentation are intended to demonstrate the system's effectiveness in developing incident management skills.

The Incident Manager will receive a handover from the initial officer attending. An Incident Manager will then take charge of the incident.

The Incident Manager controls the incident by communicating with the facilitator. Objective(s) are established and strategies implemented to control the incident.

Presentation setup