

Incident Based Automation, IBA, System  
Business Process Modeling, Interview  
Safety Officer  
January 30, 2007

Interview Notes by Craig Tanner, Senior Data Architect

NOTE: See interviewer questions at bottom based on interview write-up. Answer to be provided for finalization of interview notes.

Interviewee is a Safety Officer for Type II Teams.

Question: What is the overall mission for the Safety Officer?

Answer:

1. To look out for the safety and welfare of everybody on the incident. To recognize potentially hazardous situations and inform others of those hazards.
2. To develop the safety action plan

Question: Do you attend the in-briefing?

Answer:

Yes. The safety officer will begin to learn of hazardous situation even at the in-briefing

Question: What happens after the in-briefing?

Answer:

He starts putting together the operational safety action plan.

Question: Who is your audience?

Answer:

1. All people that are working on the incident are the beneficiaries of the plan.
2. Immediate audience are other people on his safety team
3. Supervisors of all the other teams
4. Crew Bosses

Question: What is the content of your message?

Answer:

1. The warnings or text about potentially unsafe situations
2. Any risks or hazards with the highest potential for serious accident or injury.  
Examples include:
  - a. Driving and vehicle movement is one of the biggest safety issues

b. Changes in weather is another

Question: Is there any enforcement on your part?

Answer:

1. You have authority to use direct intervention to correct dangerous situations (if they fall outside of regulations, guidelines and standards set by the agencies)
2. The Safety Officer has emergency authority to shut-down any part of the operations at an incident if he or she sees conditions that are serious safety issues. Lightning storms is one such situation.
3. You can identify and inform personnel of dangerous practices, such as people without proper personal protective clothing.
4. The Safety Officer can get additional resources to help, such as local law enforcement, park rangers, etc.

Question: What actions do you take as part of steady state operations?

Answer:

1. Walk the fire line, see what conditions are like
2. See what conditions exist in the base camp
3. Report on and correct safety issues and potential hazards
4. Report regularly with the incident commander
5. Provide a safety briefing as part of the morning report
6. Prepare a safety message as part of the Incident Action Plan (IAP)

Question: How many different forms or documents do you have to keep track of?

Answer:

1. The Safety Officer has to report on ICS 214 (Unit Log)
2. 25A – Form listing divisions, operational assignments, and also lists hazards (This is done at the planning meeting every afternoon)

Question: Does the Safety Officer do a report after a safety issue?

Answer:

1. Must do an After Action Review – Not a standard form but a review / debrief with the rest of his team

Question: Who are the other people who help with safety?

Answer:

1. Facilities unit leader
2. Food unit leader – for food handling safety and general food safety issues

Question: Is there a particular source report or other source of information that you use that would indicate trends?

Answer:

1. The Safety Officer might review the medical log, but typically will visit the medical unit several times a day.
2. The most typical trends in injuries are:
  - a. Blisters
  - b. Foot Problems
  - c. Dehydration
  - d. General sickness
3. There is an I-SUITE injury and illness module coming on line that may indicate trends and other issues.

Question: What do you have to do when there is a serious accident?

Answer:

1. Make sure that medical attention is provided first
2. Secure the area
3. Inform the Incident Commander
4. Conduct an investigation

Question: At what point during demob does the Safety Officer leave the incident?

Answer:

1. The Safety Officer attends the closeout meeting
2. Provides a safety data summary as part of the final narrative

Recommendations:

1. There are some situations where two safety officers are needed. Since there are so many things and situations to look at, one person can't be wandering around the base camp and the fire line at the same time.
2. Continually add to various web sites that list lessons learned for safety issues
3. Don't replace good observations with checklists.
  - a. There seems to be a drive to add a lot of checklists to the incident team. The time required to complete these checklists can take away good observation time.