CRITICAL RESPONSE GROUP

America's Common Operating Picture.™



Public Safety Pre-Incident Planning Guide

What Every Operational Pre-Plan Should Include

A practical guide for law enforcement, fire, EMS, 911 and emergency management

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The Nation's Leader on Critical Incident Mapping Data. To learn more visit: **crgplans.com**

01: PRE-INCIDENT PLANNING STARTS WITH THE RESPONSE

A strong operational plan should help responders answer one question: What do we need to know before we get there?

Pre-incident planning gives public safety agencies an opportunity to identify critical operational information before an emergency or planned event begins.

Agencies may need to determine where command will operate, where incoming resources will stage, how emergency vehicles will access the site, where casualties may be managed, how people will evacuate, and how mutual-aid partners will enter and operate within the response area.

Those decisions become more useful when they are tied to the geography responders will encounter in the field. A strong pre-plan should help agencies establish a shared understanding of the environment, identify critical locations and routes, coordinate responsibilities, and prepare alternatives before an incident occurs.

Pre-planning can support



Emergency Incidents

Active threats, mass-casualty incidents, hazardous materials events and other complex responses.



Planned Events

Stadium events, festivals, large public gatherings and other operations that require coordinated public safety resources.



Multi-Agency Response

Incidents involving law enforcement, fire, EMS, emergency management, 911 and mutual-aid partners.

The Goal: a stronger operational starting point

No pre-plan can account for every condition responders will encounter. A useful plan establishes an operational framework responders can adapt as conditions change.



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02: FOUR QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE YOU BUILD A PRE-PLAN

A useful pre-plan starts by asking the right questions about every operational element.

01

What will we need?

Consider the incident or event and identify the operational functions that may be required. Command? Staging? Medical operations? Traffic control? Reunification? Mutual-aid reporting?

> Different scenarios require different resources. Start with the operation rather than a universal template.

02

Where should it happen?

Identify potential locations before they are needed.

> Consider accessibility, responder movement, proximity to the incident, safety, traffic patterns and how each location relates to other operational functions.

03

Who needs to know?

Think beyond the agency creating the plan.

> Determine which information must be understood by dispatch, incident command, field responders and mutual-aid agencies, and how those teams will access it.

04

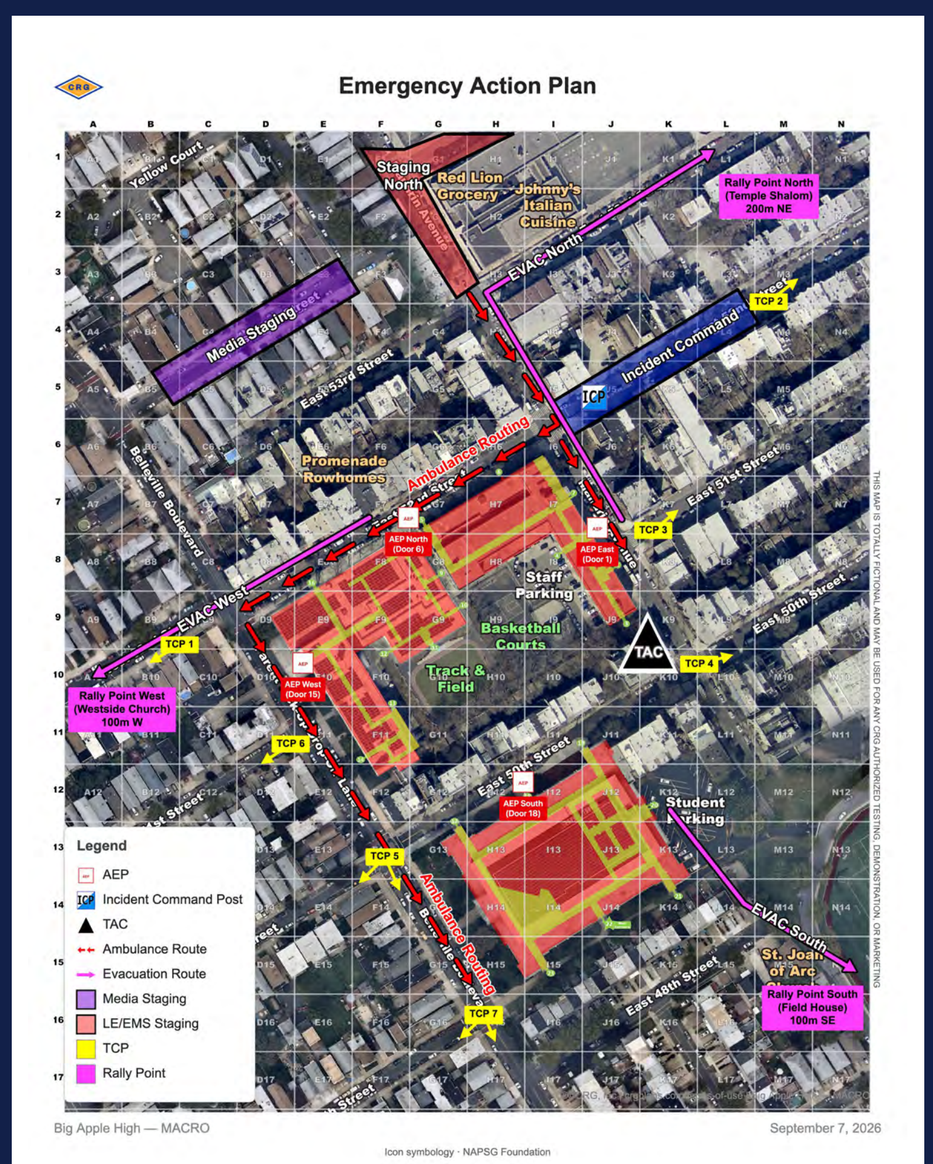
What happens if conditions change?

A planned location may become inaccessible or unsafe.

> Identify alternatives for critical functions and consider how changes will be communicated when the plan becomes operational.

PLANNING PRINCIPLE

A pre-plan should provide direction while preserving the incident commander's ability to adapt as conditions change.



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03: START WITH A COMMON OPERATING PICTURE

The map is the foundation of the plan.

A pre-plan can include detailed operational information and still create confusion if responding agencies do not share the same understanding of the location. That is why the geographic foundation matters.

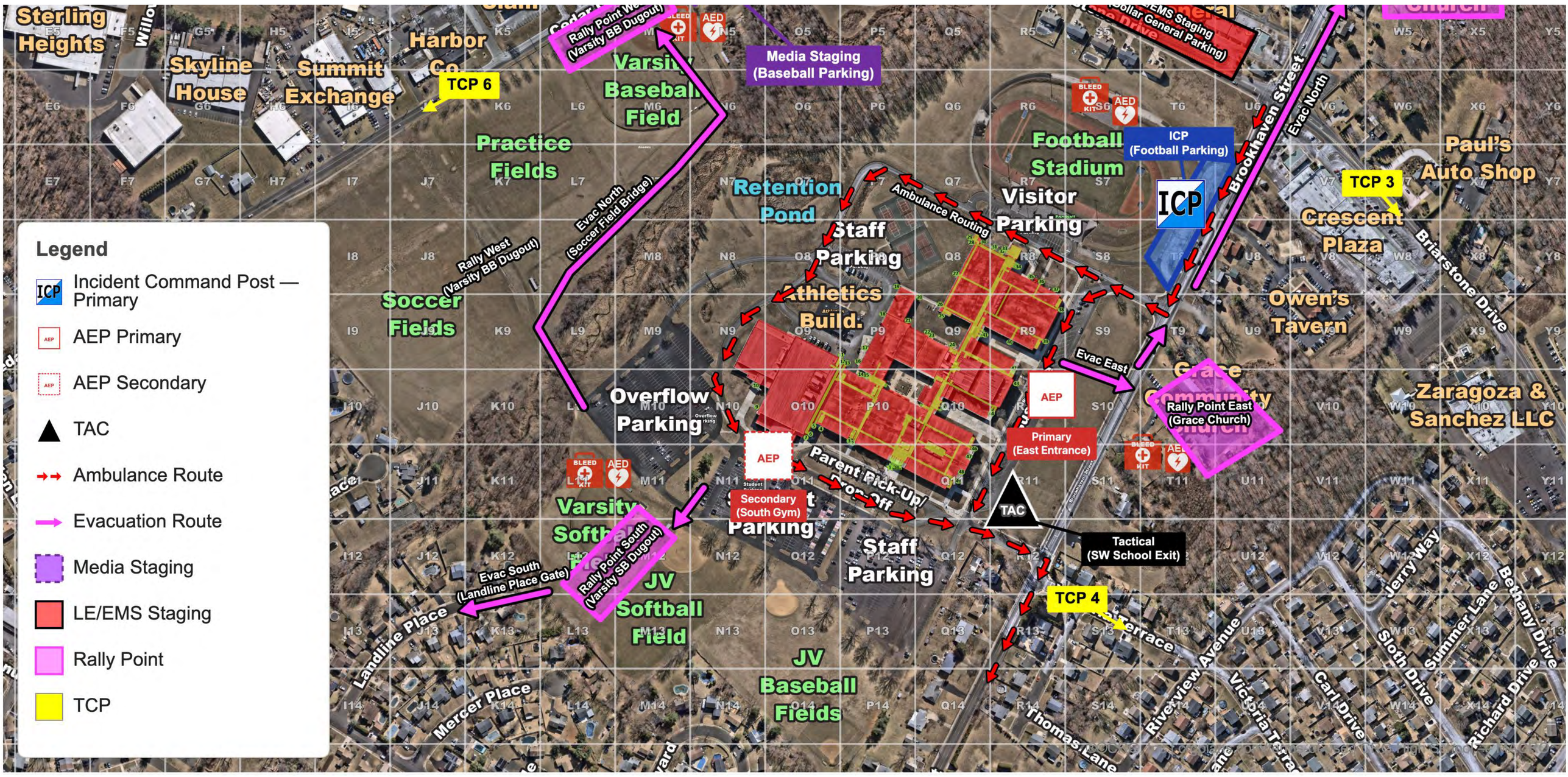
Public safety mapping should give responders a clear, consistent view of the environment and provide enough context to understand how operational elements relate to one another.

Plan for the responder seeing the site for the first time.

A useful operational map should make it easier for that responder to orient quickly, understand key locations and communicate with other agencies using a shared geographic reference.

Depending on the incident or event, that may include:

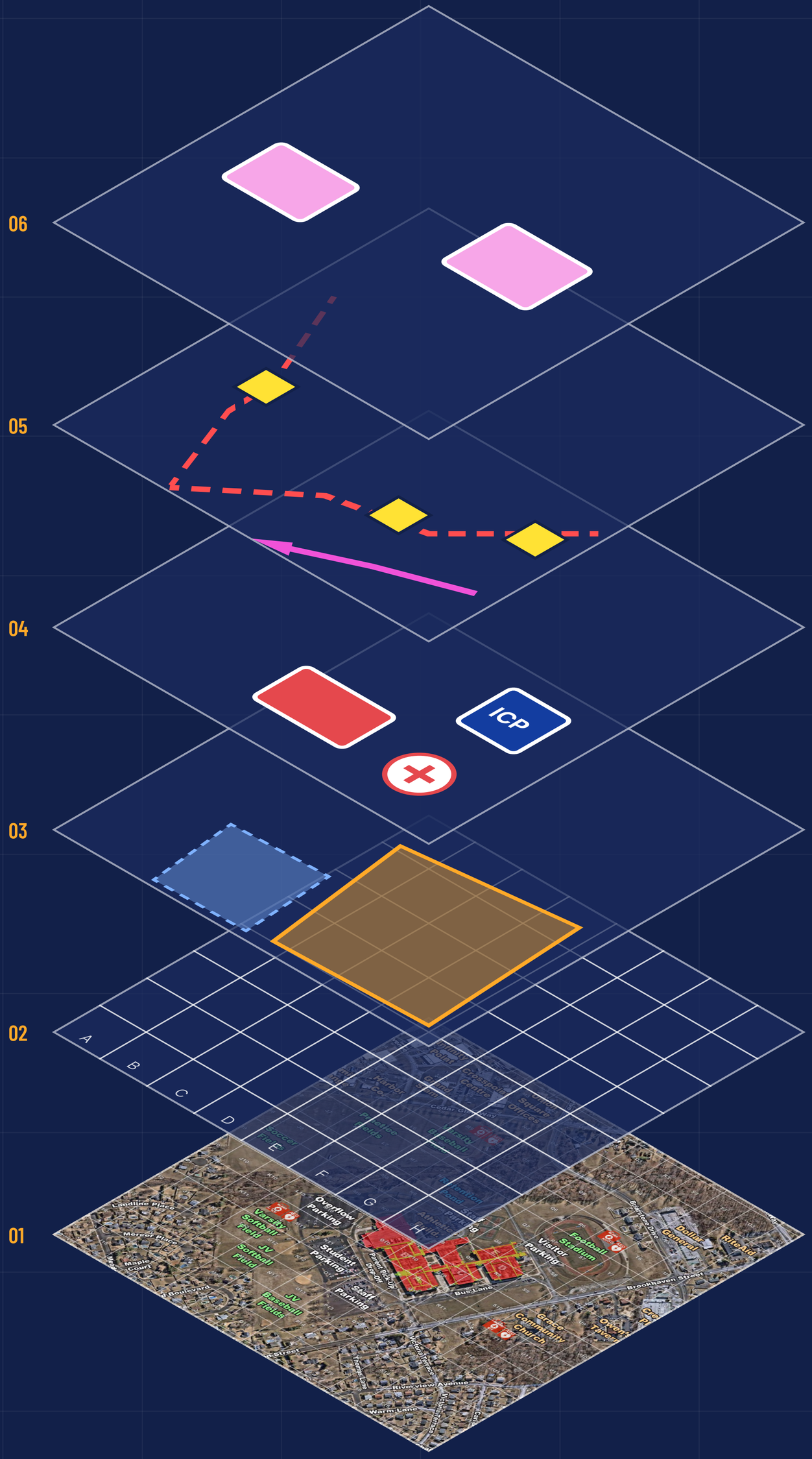
- Building and Structures
- Interior and Exterior Spaces
- Roads and Access Points
- Parking Areas
- Entry and Exit Points
- Property and Operational Boundaries
- Critical Infrastructure
- Surrounding Geography
- Routes and Travel Corridors



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03: START WITH A COMMON OPERATING PICTURE

What Every Operational Pre-Plan Should Include



06
Reunification & Support
Reunification, survivor assembly and other support functions

05
Access, Traffic & Movement
Traffic control points, emergency vehicle routes and evacuation routes

04
Command, Staging & Medical
Command posts, staging areas, casualty collection and triage

03
Operational Areas & Boundaries
Perimeters, operational zones, sectors and divisions

02
Shared Geographic Reference
A gridded overlay every responding agency can use to communicate locations

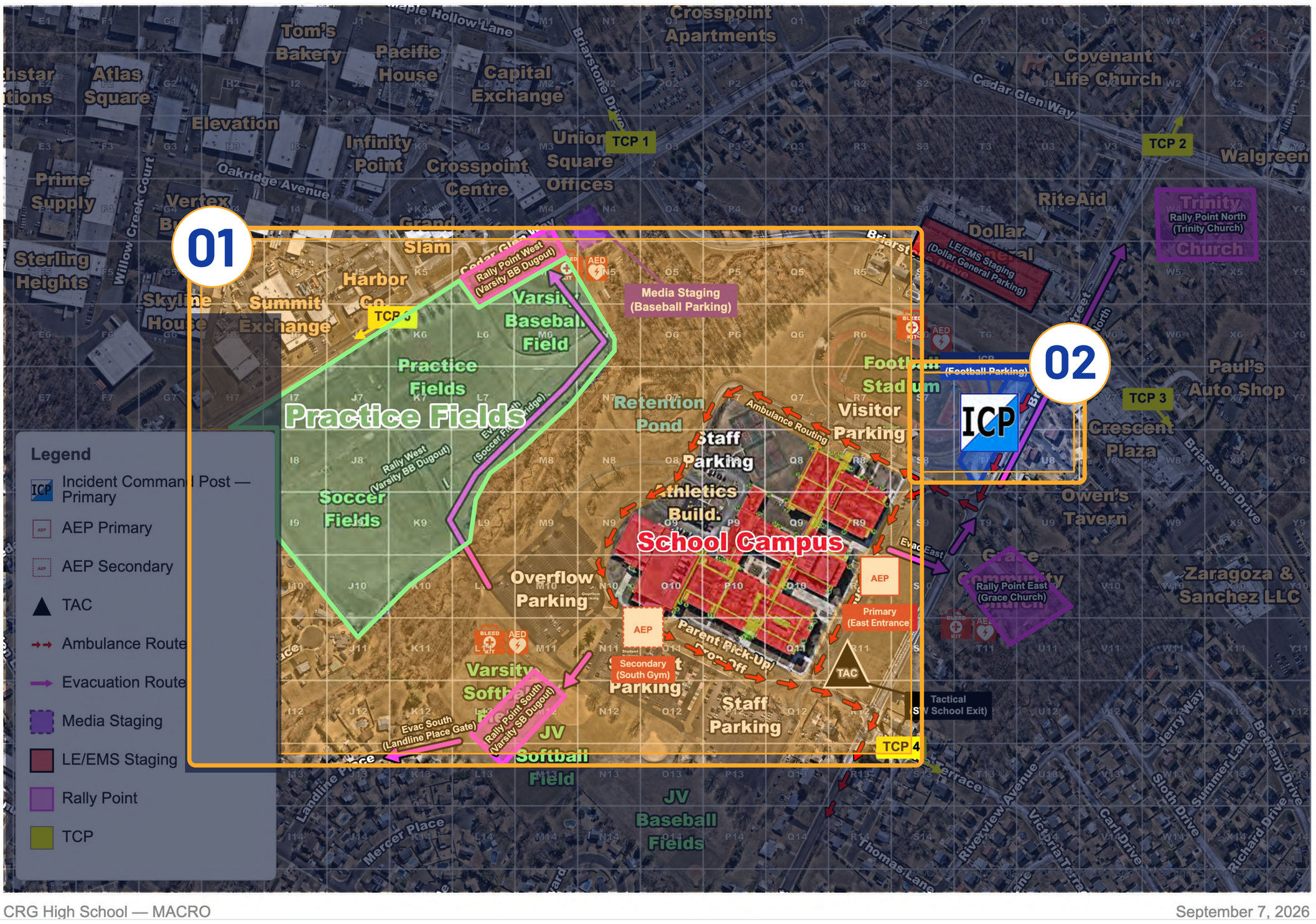
01
Geographic Foundation
Buildings and structures, roads and access points, surrounding geography

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04: SIX ELEMENTS TO CONSIDER IN A PUBLIC SAFETY PRE-PLAN

The specific elements of a pre-plan will vary based on the incident, facility, event and agencies involved.

Most complex operational plans, however, require planners to consider several core areas.



01 Operational Areas & Boundaries

Consider how the operational area may need to be divided to support safety, access and command. Depending on the scenario, plans may identify perimeters, operational zones, sectors, divisions or other geographic boundaries. The key question is whether responders can quickly understand where different operations occur and how those areas relate to one another.

02 Command & Control

Identify potential locations for incident command and other command functions appropriate to the operation. Consider accessibility, proximity to the operation, communications, space for multi-agency coordination and alternate locations.

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04: SIX ELEMENTS TO CONSIDER IN A PUBLIC SAFETY PRE-PLAN



CRG High School — MACRO

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03 Staging & Resource Management

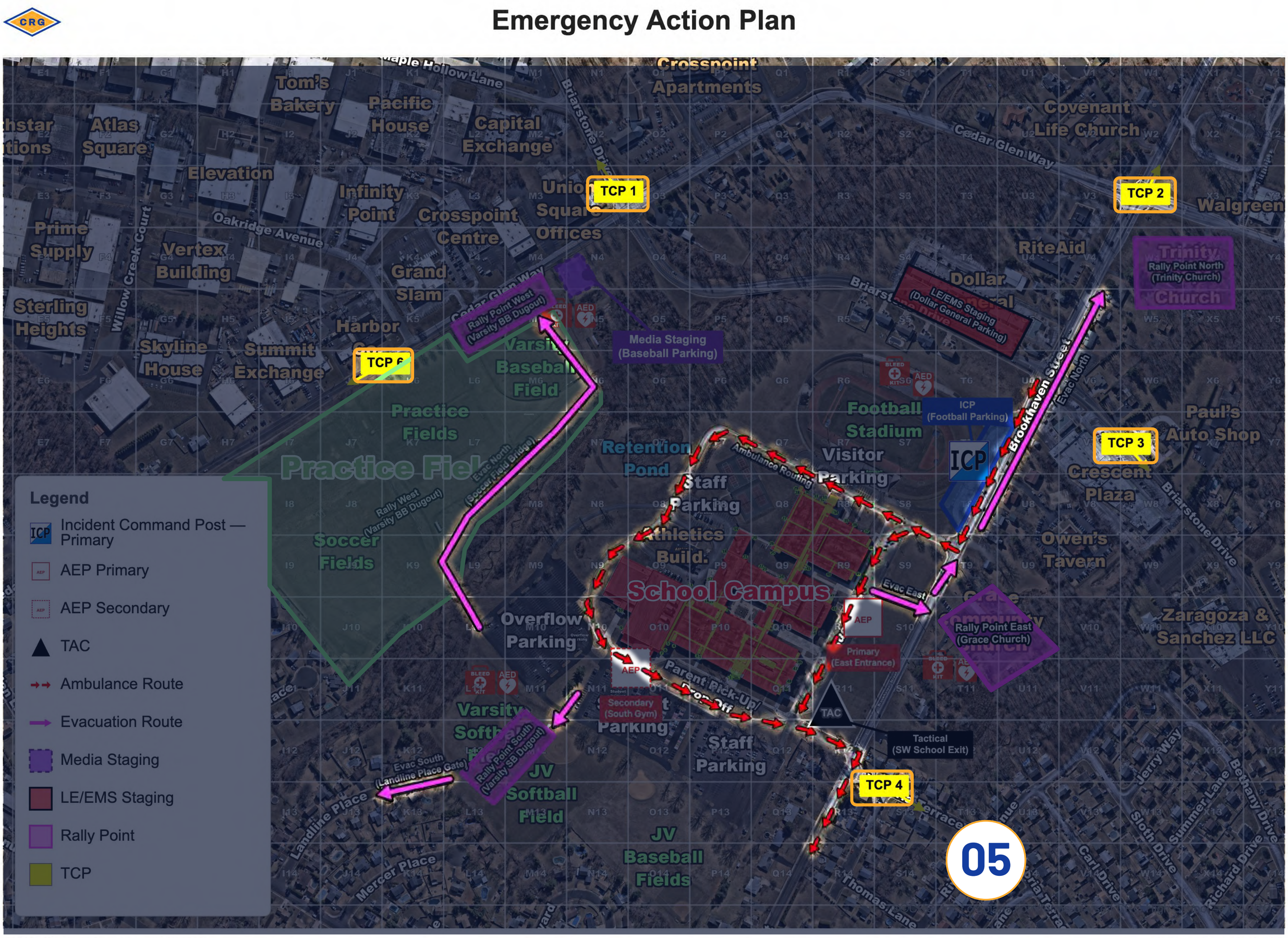
Incoming resources need a defined place to report, wait and receive assignments. Consider staging for primary responders as well as how mutual-aid personnel, specialized teams, equipment and other resources will enter and integrate into the operation.

04 Medical & Casualty Operations

Complex incidents may require designated locations for casualty collection, triage, ambulance operations or other medical functions. Planners should consider how patients and responders move between these locations and how emergency transportation can enter and leave the operational area.

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04: SIX ELEMENTS TO CONSIDER IN A PUBLIC SAFETY PRE-PLAN



05 Access, Traffic & Movement

Access can quickly become an operational challenge during a major incident. Consider responder ingress and egress, emergency vehicle routes, evacuation routes, access control, traffic management, pedestrian movement and routes for mutual-aid resources.

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04: SIX ELEMENTS TO CONSIDER IN A PUBLIC SAFETY PRE-PLAN



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06 Reunification & Support

Operations may also require locations outside the immediate tactical response area. Depending on the scenario, these could include reunification, survivor assembly, public information, logistics or other support functions.

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05: THINK IN SYSTEMS, NOT INDIVIDUAL LOCATIONS

Every operational element affects something else.

Identifying locations is only part of pre-incident planning. Planners should also consider how people, vehicles, information and resources move between them.

For example, medical operations may involve a progression from casualty collection to triage to ambulance transport. Incoming mutual-aid resources may need to report, receive assignments and then move into an operational sector. Evacuees may move from a facility to an assembly area and eventually to reunification.

MEDICAL OPERATIONS	01 Casualty collection →	02 Triage →	03 Ambulance transport
MUTUAL-AID RESOURCES	01 Report →	02 Receive assignments →	03 Operational sector
EVACUEES	01 Facility →	02 Assembly area →	03 Reunification

When reviewing a pre-plan, ask:

01 How does each location connect to the next?

02 Can resources reach it without interfering with another operation?

03 Are critical routes likely to remain accessible?

04 Will different agencies understand the same locations and boundaries?

05 What is the alternative if a location or route becomes unavailable?



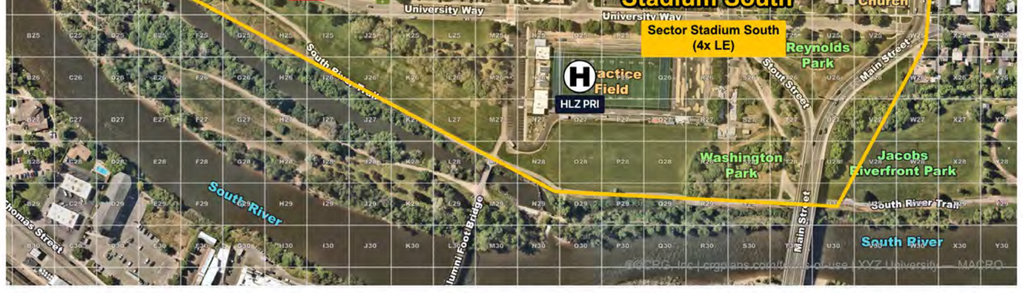
Thinking through those relationships can expose operational conflicts that are easy to miss when locations are planned independently.

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06: ONE PLAN DOES NOT FIT EVERY SCENARIO

Build around the operation.

An active-threat response at a school and a championship event at a stadium may both require command, staging, medical operations and access control. The details of those plans can be very different.





Active-Threat & Facility-Based Planning

- Building layouts
- Entry and exit points
- Responder access
- Tactical staging
- Casualty management
- Evacuation
- Survivor assembly
- Family reunification

Large Events & Mass Gatherings

- Venue and surrounding footprint
- Parking and transportation
- Pedestrian movement
- Event entrances
- Traffic control
- Vehicle access
- Security perimeters
- Mutual-aid coordination
- Medical resources

Mass-Casualty Planning

- Expanded medical operations
- Ambulance access
- Transportation routes
- Receiving facilities
- Resource staging
- Family assistance and reunification

The planning framework may be consistent, but the operational details should reflect the incident or event.

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07: PLAN FOR MULTI-AGENCY RESPONSE FROM THE START

Complex incidents rarely stay within the boundaries of a single agency.

Law enforcement, fire, EMS, 911, emergency management, specialized teams, facility personnel and mutual-aid agencies may all need to coordinate around the same operation. A strong pre-plan considers that reality before resources arrive.

01

Can every participating agency understand the map?

Maps, labels and operational references should be clear to personnel who may have no prior familiarity with the facility or jurisdiction.

02

Are locations described consistently?

Command, staging, access points, routes and other operational locations should have a common reference across participating agencies.

03

Can the plan work across public safety systems?

Operational information may need to support dispatch, GIS, emergency management, situational awareness and command-and-control workflows.

04

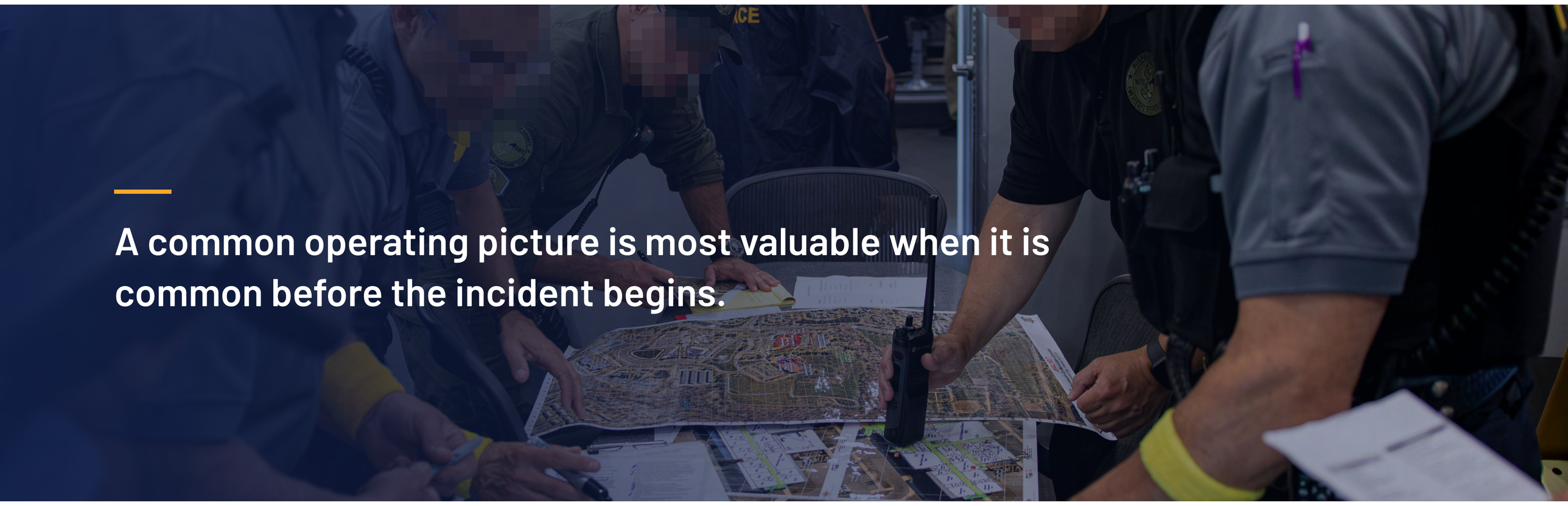
How will mutual aid integrate?

Consider where incoming resources report, how they receive assignments and what information they need before entering the operational area.

05

How will updates be communicated?

Operational plans change. Agencies need a clear process for ensuring responders are working from current information as conditions evolve.



A common operating picture is most valuable when it is common before the incident begins.

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08: PRE-PLAN REVIEW CHECKLIST

Before you consider the plan ready, ask:

01 Geographic Foundation

- [ ] Does the map provide enough context for responders to quickly orient themselves?
- [ ] Are buildings, roads, access points and other relevant features clearly identified?
- [ ] Can someone unfamiliar with the site understand the map?

02 Command & Coordination

- [ ] Have potential command and staging locations been considered?
- [ ] Does the plan account for multiple responding agencies?
- [ ] Have primary and alternate locations been considered for critical functions?

03 Movement & Access

- [ ] Have responder ingress and egress been considered?
- [ ] Are emergency vehicle and evacuation routes understood?
- [ ] Have potential traffic and access-control challenges been considered?

04 Medical & Support

- [ ] Does the scenario require pre-planned medical or casualty operations?
- [ ] Have reunification, survivor assembly or other support functions been considered?

05 Communications & Interoperability

- [ ] Can participating agencies access and understand the same geographic information?
- [ ] Are operational locations named and referenced consistently?
- [ ] Is there a process for communicating changes to the plan?

06 Plan Maintenance

- [ ] Is the plan current?
- [ ] Is responsibility for reviewing and updating it clear?
- [ ] Has the plan been reviewed with relevant partner agencies?
- [ ] Has it been exercised or incorporated into training?

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09: FROM PRE-PLAN TO OPERATION

Build the plan where responders will use it.

A pre-plan becomes more valuable when the geographic information developed during preparedness carries into the systems and workflows agencies use during response.

Critical Response Group's Collaborative Response Graphics® (CRGs®) provide a field-verified, responder-ready common operating picture designed to support public safety agencies across disciplines and jurisdictions.

CRGs can integrate with CAD, 911, GIS, emergency management, situational awareness and command-and-control platforms, helping agencies maintain a consistent geographic reference from planning through response.

With Ops Planner, eligible public safety agencies can build pre-incident and special-event plans directly on existing CRGs. Agencies can identify operational elements such as command locations, staging areas, routes, zones, access points and other resources on the same mapping foundation responders use in the field.

Plan with the response in mind.

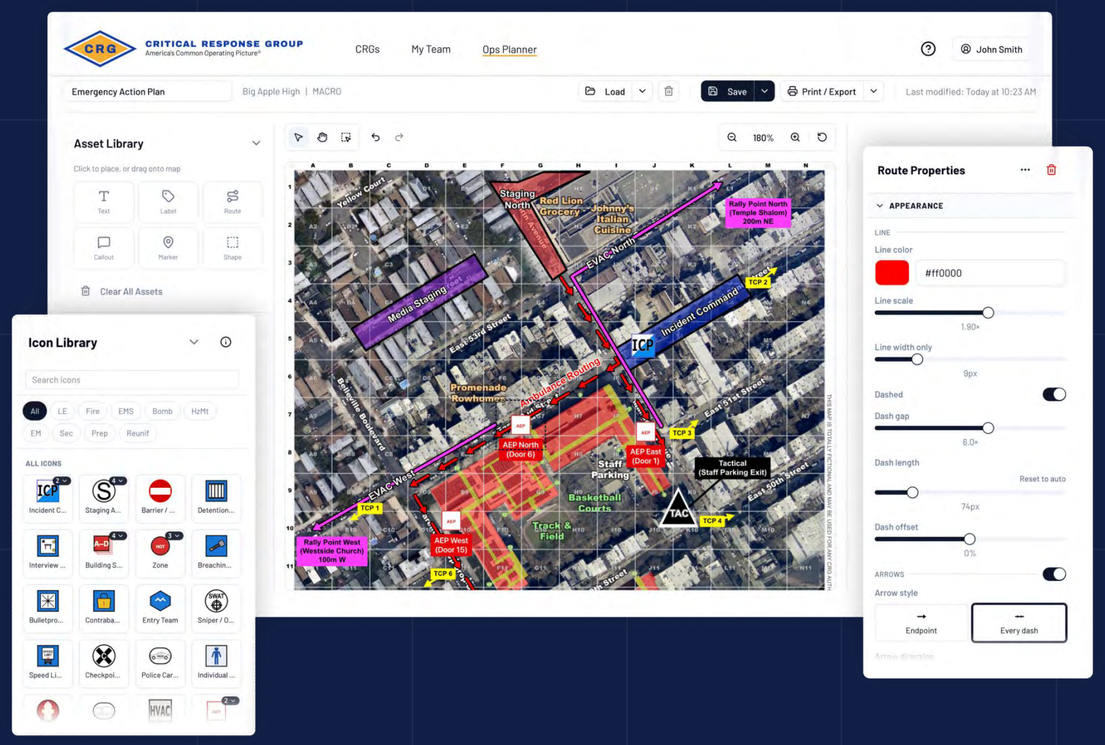
Eligible public safety agencies can use Ops Planner at no cost wherever CRGs® have been deployed. Learn how your agency can get started with **Ops Planner.**

CRG OPS PLANNER

One Common Operating Picture. From Preparedness through Response.

Plan directly on your CRGs.

CRG Ops Planner enables public safety agencies to build emergency action plans, special event operations and other pre-incident plans directly on their Collaborative Response Graphics®.



What Agencies Can Plan

- Emergency action plans
- Mass-casualty incident response
- Emergency access and evacuation routes
- Special events and large public gatherings
- Multi-agency and mutual-aid operations
- Traffic and access control
- Active-threat incident response
- Command and staging locations
- Reunification operations

Contact us for more information on how we can map your local critical infrastructure.

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