

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

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Utility of the Incident Command System (ICS) in Laboratory Emergency Management

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National Institute of
Allergy and
Infectious Diseases

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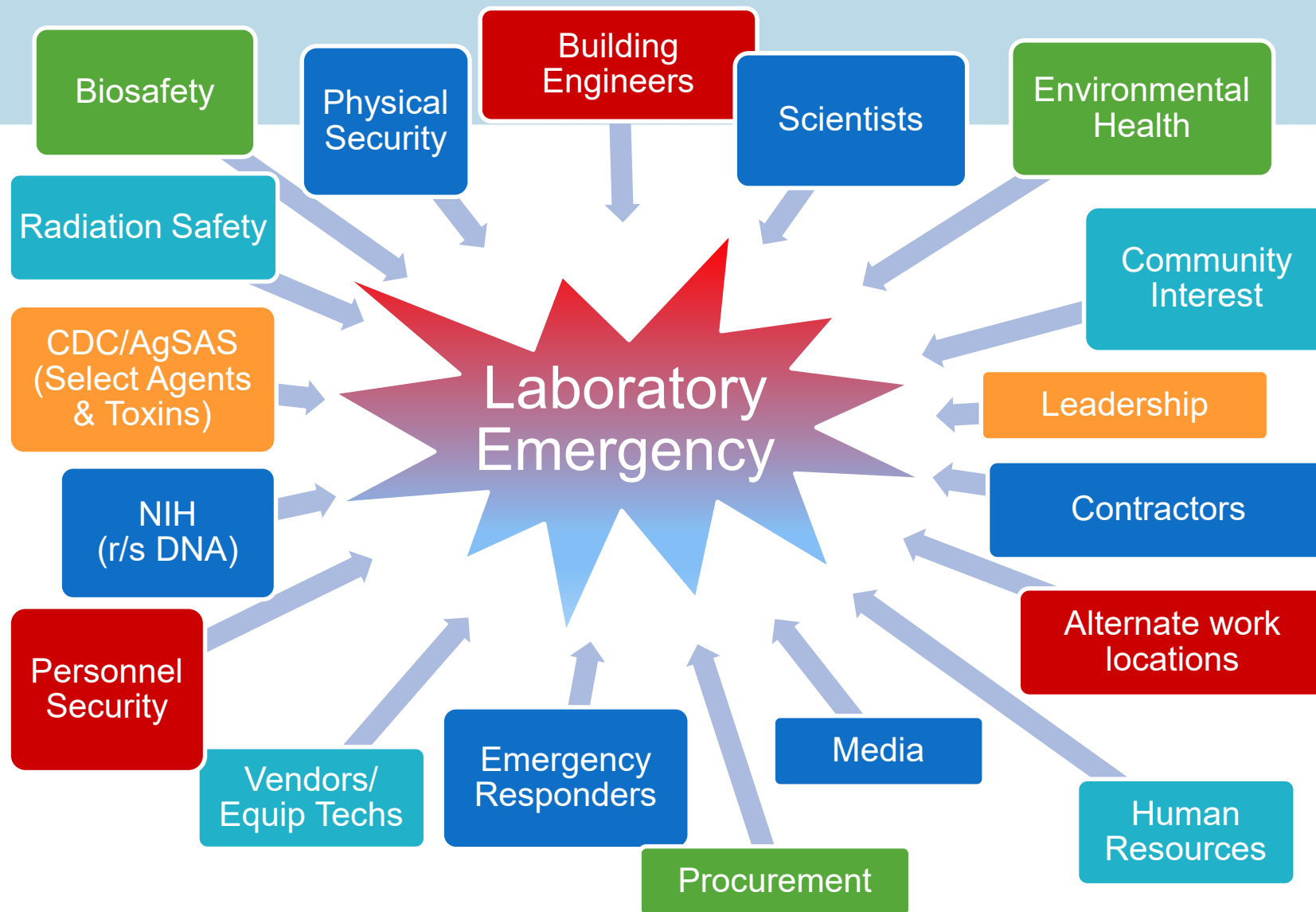
NIAID

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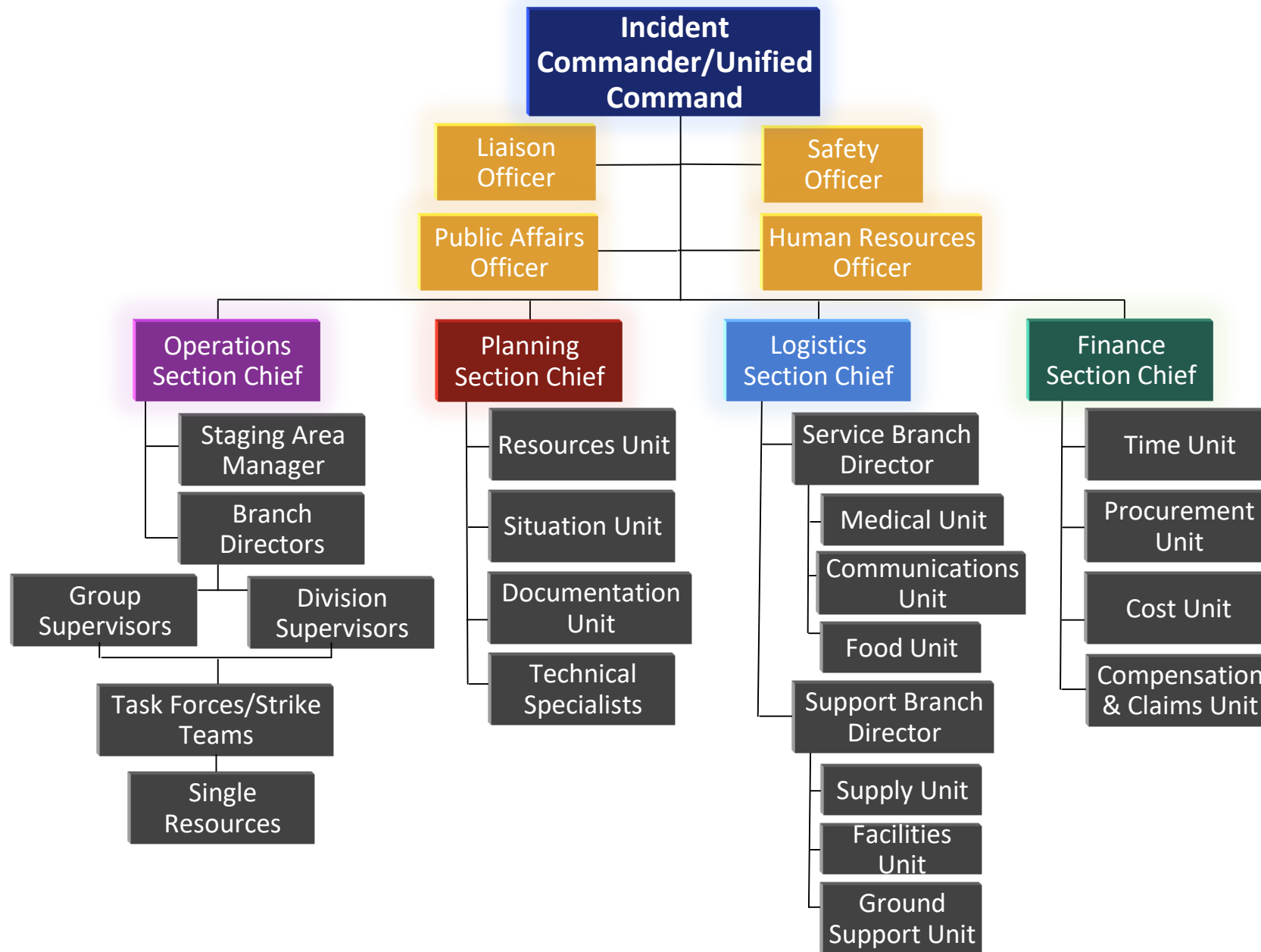




How can ICS help in lab emergencies?

- ICS training similar across agencies
- Standardized forms, meetings, and terminology
- Management by Objective
- Comprehensive Resource Management
- Personnel Organization





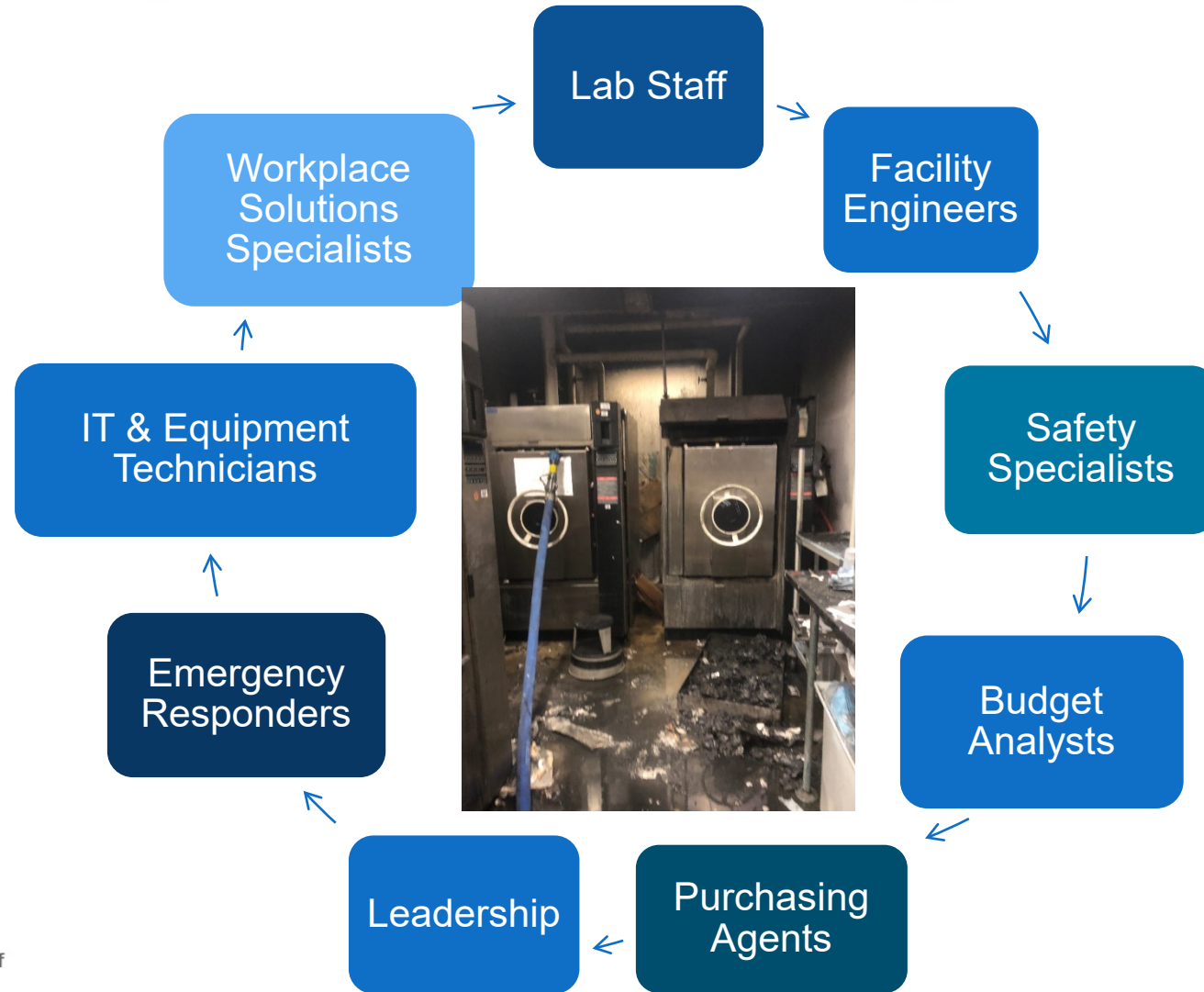
Use only what you need!

Incident Overview

- **Smoke coming from autoclave room**
 - No alarms
- **Lab staff called NIH Fire Dept**
 - Fire was located in an autoclave
 - Fire extinguished; did not spread beyond autoclave
- **Extensive smoke staining and heavy soot**
 - Surfaces, equipment, supplies, etc.
 - Autoclave room, hallway, nearby labs and administrative areas



Multiple Units Across NIH



Mutual Objectives

✓ Safety

✓ Minimal impact to research mission

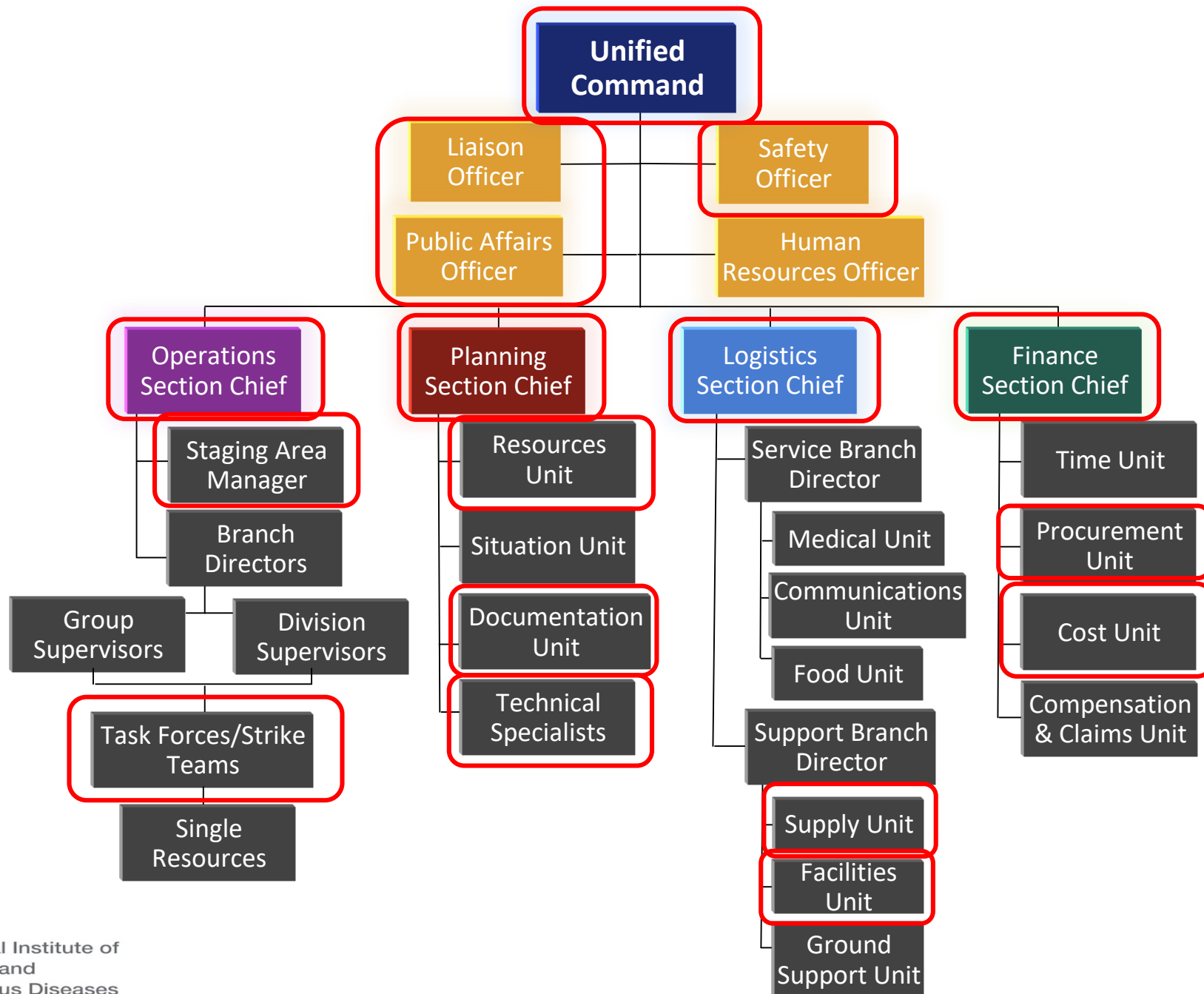
✓ Develop and implement an aggressive restoration plan

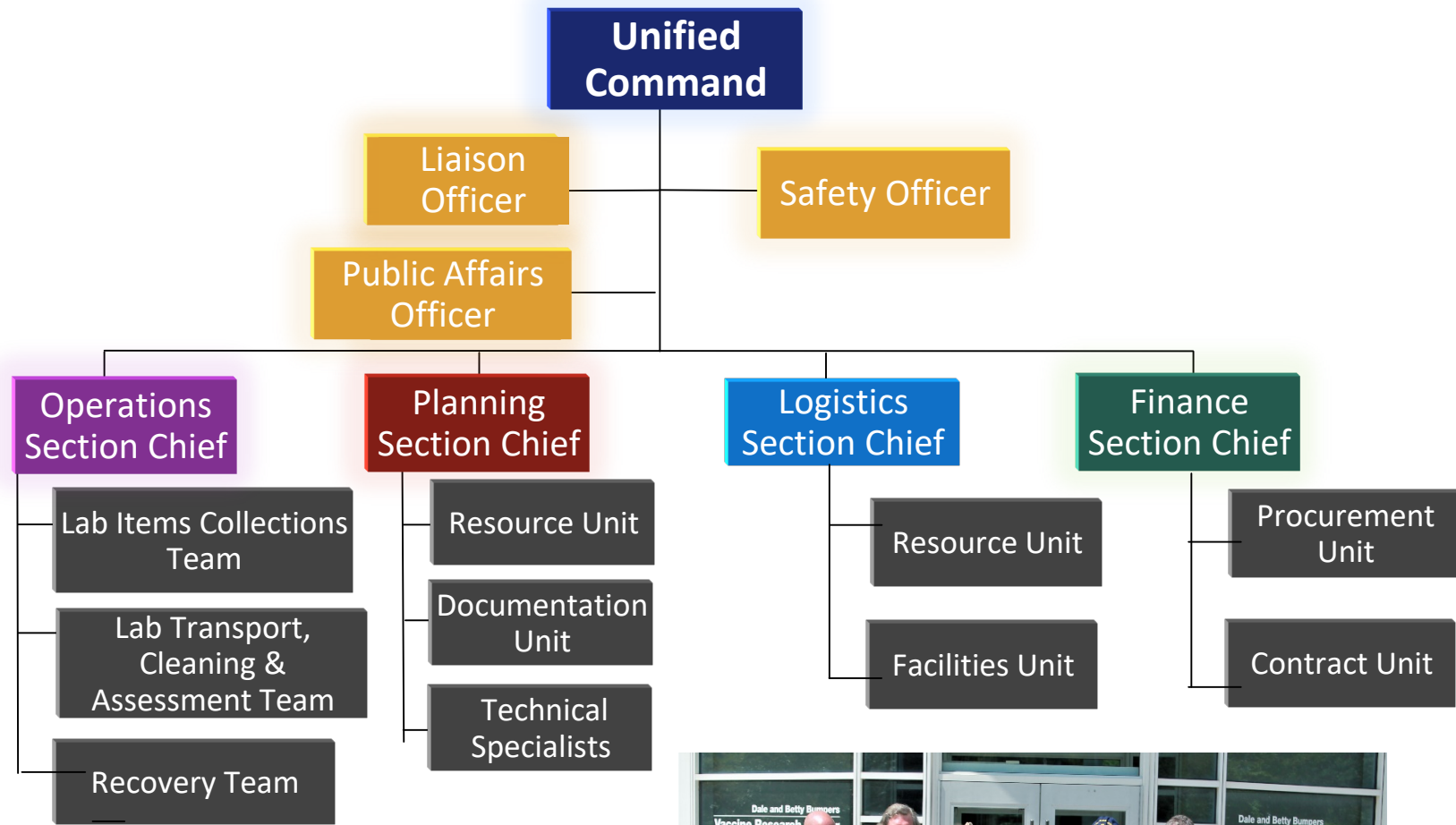
✓ Develop alternatives to impacted scientific procedures

✓ Keep leadership, staff and stakeholders informed

Unified Command:

- Scientific Assoc. Director
- Deputy Scientific Assoc. Director
- Office of Research Facilities
- Office of Workplace Solutions
- Office of Acquisitions





Scenario 2: After Action Highlights

- Completed lab restoration early.
- Provided leadership with valuable information:
 - \$\$ Total cost of restoration
 - (supplies, equipment, construction, manhours, etc.)
- Developed important relationships between NIH offices.
- Resulted in renewed cross-unit Safety Committees.
- Spurred re-evaluation of autoclave SOPs

Summary

- Lab emergencies often span multiple units.
- ICS can unify objectives.
- ICS can reduce burden and streamline communication.
- ICS ensures efficiency.
 - Shared resources
 - Standardized forms and meeting limits
- ICS resources are available online.
 - <https://www.fema.gov/incident-command-system-resources>