

# IMS TALKS - RESPONSIBILITY VERSUS ACCOUNTABILITY

## *A DISCUSSION OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS AS IT RELATES TO INCIDENT MANGEMENT*

What is the difference between professional responsibility and professional accountability?

- **Responsibility:** Obligation to perform an assigned task to successful conclusion. “What am I required to do?”
  - “I have to do it”
- **Accountability:** Willingness to accept responsibility for a task and account for one’s own actions. “What I do?”
  - “I will do it”

Let’s break it down further.

- I am “in charge of the task”. I am **RESPONSIBLE** to report an incident.
- I am “answerable” for the task”. I am **ACCOUNTABLE** for incident reporting.

### SUMMARY

As professionals, we have a dual obligation: To know what we are supposed to do and to act on it.

