IMS TALKS - RESPONSIBILILTY 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 RESP0NSIBLE 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.

