

THE INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM

I. Need for a Incident Command Management System

The complexity of incident management, coupled with the growing need for multi-agency and multi functional involvement on incidents, has increased the need for a single standard incident management system that can be used by all emergency response disciplines. ICS provides an important framework from which all state agencies can work together. In any major incident many local, state and federal agencies may become involved. The challenge is to get the various agencies to work together in the most efficient and effective manner. The principles of the Incident Command System will enable State and local emergency response agencies to utilize common terminology, span of control, organizational flexibility, personnel accountability, comprehensive resource management, unified command and incident action plans.

II. History of ICS Development

Although the basic theory behind ICS is derived from the military, ICS, as we know it today, resulted from the obvious need for a new approach to the problem of managing rapidly moving wildfires in the early 1970s. At that time, emergency managers faced a number of problems. Too many people reporting to one supervisor. Different emergency response organizational structures. Lack of reliable incident information. Inadequate and incompatible communications. Lack of a structure for coordinated planning between agencies. Unclear lines of authority. Terminology differences between agencies. Unclear or unspecified incident objectives. Designating a standardized emergency management system to remedy the problems listed above took several years and extensive field testing. The Incident Command System was developed by an interagency task force working in a cooperative local, state, and federal interagency effort called FIRESCOPE (Firefighting Resources of California Organized for Potential Emergencies).

III. Essential Elements of ICS

Early in the development process, four essential requirements became clear:

1. The system must be organizationally flexible to meet the needs of incidents of any kind and size.
2. Agencies must be able to use the system on a day-to-day basis for routine

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situations as well as for major emergencies.

3. The system must be sufficiently standard to allow personnel from a variety of agencies and diverse geographic locations to rapidly meld into a common management structure.
4. The system must be cost effective.

IV. ICS Applications

Initial ICS applications were designed for responding to disastrous wildland fires. It is interesting to note that the characteristics of these wildland fire incidents are similar to those seen in many law enforcement, hazardous materials, and other kinds of situations.

They occur with no advance notice. They develop rapidly. Unchecked, they may grow in size or complexity. Personal risk for response personnel can be high. There are often several agencies with some on-scene responsibility. They can very easily become multi-jurisdictional. They often have high public and media visibility. Risk of life and property loss can be high. Cost of response is always a major concern. ICS is now widely used throughout the United States by fire agencies, and is increasingly used for law enforcement, other public safety applications, and for emergency and event management.

V. Evolution of ICS

ICS applications and users have steadily increased since the system's original development. In 1980, the ICS that was originally developed in California under the FIRESCOPE program made the transition into a national program called the National Interagency Incident Management System (NIIMS). At the time ICS became the backbone of a wider-based system for all federal agencies with wildland fire management responsibilities. The following agencies and entities, among others, have endorsed the use of ICS: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). National Curriculum Advisory Committee on Incident Command Systems/Emergency Operations Management System recommends adoption of ICS as a multi hazard/all-agency system. FEMA's National Fire Academy (NFA) has adopted ICS as a model system for fire services. FEMA's Urban Search and Rescue Response System, a component of the Federal Response Plan, uses ICS as its on site management structure.

NFPA Standard 1405 (Land-Based Firefighters who respond to marine vessel fires) was developed at the request of, and in cooperation with, the U.S. Coast Guard and calls for the use of ICS. The U.S. Coast Guard also is incorporating ICS basic structure and management principles into the National Response System used for oil and hazardous material pollution response. The Occupational Safety and Health

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Administration (OSHA) requires that all governmental and private organizations that handle hazardous materials use ICS. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 1500 states that all departments should establish written procedures for use of ICS.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rules require non-OSHA states to use ICS at hazardous materials incidents. The National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) has formally adopted ICS for use by all federal and state wildfire management organizations.

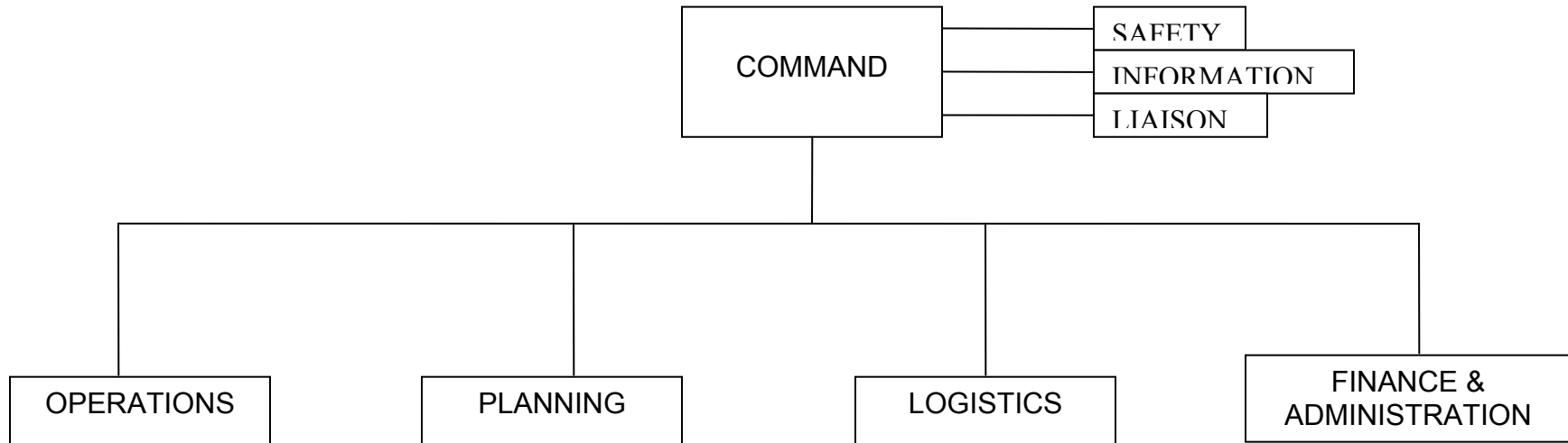
VI. Application of the Incident Command System

The Incident Command System has considerable flexibility. It can grow or shrink to meet different needs. This makes it a very cost-effective and efficient management system. The system can be applied to a wide variety of emergency and non-emergency situations. Listed below are some examples of these kinds of incidents and events that can use the Incident Command System: Fires, HAZMAT, and multi-casualty incidents, multi-jurisdictional and multi-agency disasters, wide-area search and rescue missions, pest eradication programs, oil spill response and recovery incidents, single and multi-agency law enforcement incidents, air, rail, water, or ground transportation accidents. Planned events; e.g., celebrations, parades, concerts, private sector emergency management programs, state or local major natural hazards management

VII. ICS Organization

Every incident or event has certain major management activities or actions that must be performed. Even if the event is small, and only one or two people are involved, these activities will still always apply to some degree. The following pages outline the three basic types of ICS organizations, basic, unified and area. They are provided to ensure EOC Staff members understand the basic ICS structure. EOC Staff members should also refer to Appendix 3 (Glossary of Terms) for definitions of terminology used in ICS.

THE 5 BASIC INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM FUNCTIONS



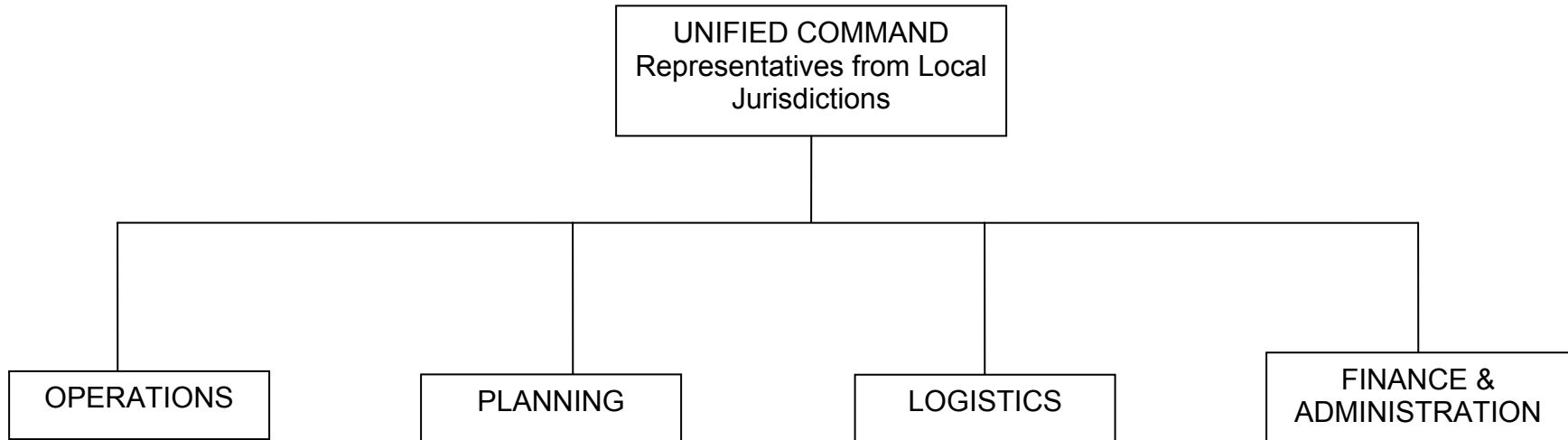
These five major management activities are the foundation upon which the ICS organization develops. They apply whether you are handling a routine emergency, organizing for a major event, or managing a major response to a disaster. On small incidents, these major activities may be managed by one person, the Incident Commander (IC). Large incidents usually require that they be set up as separate Sections within the organization as shown above.

Each of the primary ICS Sections may be sub-divided as needed. The ICS organization has the capability to expand or contract to meet the needs of the incident.

A basic ICS operating guideline is that the person at the top of the organization is responsible until the authority is delegated to another person. Thus, on smaller situations where additional persons are not required, the Incident Commander will directly manage all aspects of the incident organization. In addition to the 4 basic groups (Operations, Planning, Logistics, Finance & Administration), three positions report directly to the Incident Commander (Safety, Information & Liaison). Those positions are shown for informational purposes only.

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UNIFIED COMMAND STRUCTURE



Unified Command is an application of ICS used when:

1. There is more than one responding agency with incident jurisdiction.
2. Incidents cross political jurisdictions.

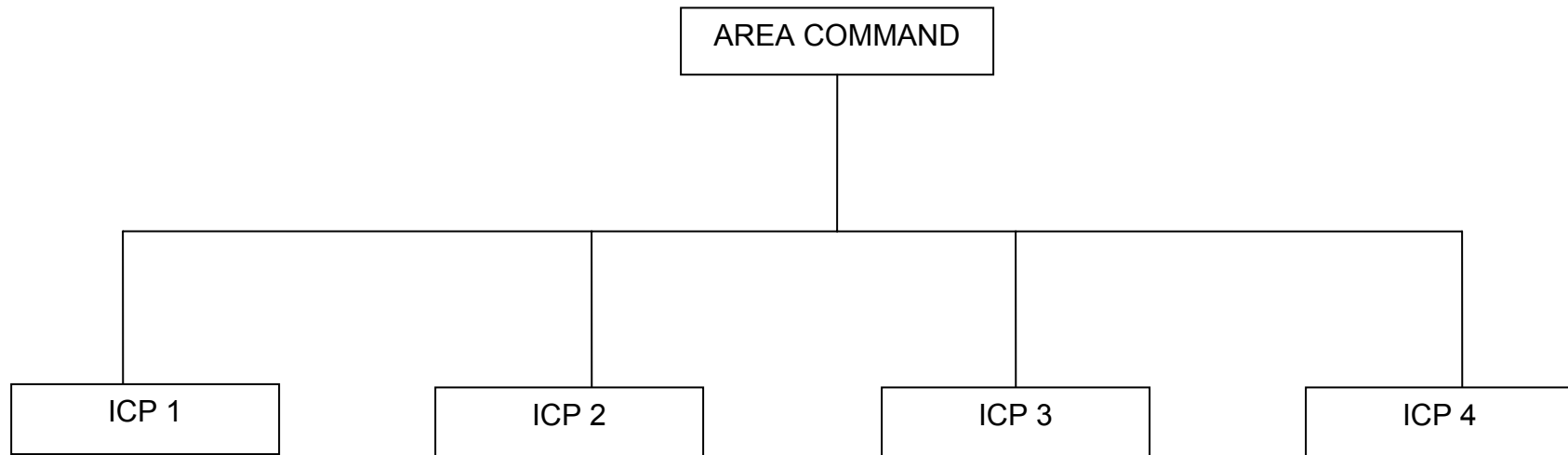
For example, a Unified Command may be used for:

1. A hazardous materials spill that contaminates a nearby reservoir. In this incident, the fire department, the water authority, and the local environmental authority may each participate in a Unified Command.
2. A flood that devastates multiple communities. In this incident, incident management personnel from key response agencies from each community may participate in a Unified Command.

Under a Unified Command, agencies work together through the designated members of the Unified Command to:

1. Analyze intelligence information.
2. Establish a common set of objectives and strategies for a single Incident Action Plan.
3. Unified Command does not change any of the other features of ICS. It merely allows all agencies with responsibility for the incident to participate in the decision making process.

AREA COMMAND STRUCTURE



1. An Area Command is an organization established to:

- a) Oversee the management of multiple incidents that are each being managed by an ICS organization.
- b) Oversee the management of large incidents that cross jurisdictional boundaries.

2. Area Commands are particularly relevant to public health emergencies because these incidents are typically:

- a) Non-site specific.
- b) Not immediately identifiable.
- c) Geographically dispersed and evolve over time.

These types of incidents call for a coordinated response, with large-scale coordination typically found at a higher jurisdictional level.

3. The Area Command has the responsibility for:

- a) Setting overall strategy and priorities.
- b) Allocating critical resources according to the priorities.
- c) Ensuring that incidents are properly managed.
- d) Ensuring that objectives are met.
- e) Ensuring that strategies are followed.

An Area Command may become a Unified Area Command when incidents are multi-jurisdictional or involve multiple agencies.

4. Organization:

An Area Command is organized similarly to an ICS structure but, because operations are conducted on-scene, there is no Operations Section in an Area Command. Other Sections and functions are represented in an Area Command structure.

VIII. Glossary of ICS Terms

Action Plan (See Incident Action Plan.)

Agency An agency is a division of government with a specific function, or a nongovernmental organization (e.g., private contractor, business, etc.) that offers a particular kind of assistance. In ICS, agencies are defined as jurisdictional (having statutory responsibility for incident mitigation) or assisting and/or cooperating (providing resources and/or assistance). (See Assisting Agency, Cooperating Agency, and Multi-agency.)

Agency Administrator The Chief Executive Officer (or designee) of the agency or jurisdiction **or Executive** that has responsibility for the incident.

Agency Dispatch The agency or jurisdictional facility from which resources are allocated to incidents.

Agency Representative An individual assigned to an incident from an assisting or cooperating agency who has been delegated authority to make decisions on matters affecting that agency's participation at the incident. Agency Representatives report to the Incident Liaison Officer.

Air Operations Branch The person primarily responsible for preparing and implementing the air **Director** operations portion of the Incident Action Plan. Also responsible for providing logistical support to helicopters operating at the incident.

Allocated Resources Resources dispatched to an incident.

Area Command An organization established to:

1) oversee the management of multiple incidents that are each being handled by an Incident Command System organization; or

2) to oversee the management of a very large incident that has multiple Incident Management Teams assigned to it. Area Command has the responsibility to set overall strategy and priorities, allocate critical resources based on priorities, ensure that incidents are properly managed, and ensure that objectives are met and strategies followed.

Assigned Resources Resources checked in and assigned work tasks at an incident.

Assignments Tasks given to resources to perform within a given operational period, based upon tactical objectives in the Incident Action Plan.

Assistant Title for subordinates of the Command Staff positions. The title indicates a level of technical capability, qualifications, and responsibility subordinate to the primary positions. Assistants may also be used to supervise unit activities at camps.

Assisting Agency An agency directly contributing tactical or service resources to another agency.

Available Resources Incident-based resources which are ready for deployment.

Base The location at which primary logistics functions for an incident are coordinated and administered. There is only one Base per incident. (Incident name or other designator will be added to the term Base.) The Incident Command Post may be co-located with the Base.

Branch The organizational level having functional or geographic responsibility for major parts of incident operations. The Branch level is organizationally between Section and Division/Group in the Operations Section, and between Section and Units in the

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Logistics Section. Branches are identified by the use of Roman numerals or by functional name (e.g., medical, security, etc.).

Cache A predetermined complement of tools, equipment, and/or supplies stored in a designated location, available for incident use.

Camp A geographic site, within the general incident area, separate from the Incident Base, equipped and staffed to provide food, water, and sleeping and sanitary facilities to incident personnel.

Casualty Collection Point A Casualty Collection Point (CCP) serves as a location near the incident site which provides areas to triage, treat, and transport victims in a multi-casualty incident. CCPs are not an official facility in the NIIMS ICS.

Chain of Command A series of management positions in order of authority.

Check-in The process whereby resources first report to an incident. Check-in locations include: Incident Command Post (Resources Unit), Incident Base, Camps, Staging Areas, Helibases, Helispots, and Division Supervisors (for direct line assignments).

Chief The ICS title for individuals responsible for command of functional sections: Operations, Planning, Logistics, and Finance/Administration.

Clear Text The use of plain English in radio communications transmissions. No Ten Codes or agency-specific codes are used when utilizing Clear Text.

Command The act of directing and/or controlling resources by virtue of explicit legal, agency, or delegated authority. May also refer to the Incident Commander.

Command Post (See Incident Command Post.)

Command Staff The Command Staff consists of the Information Officer, Safety Officer, and Liaison Officer. They report directly to the Incident Commander. They may have an assistant or assistants, as needed.

Communications Unit An organizational unit in the Logistics Section responsible for providing communication services at an incident. A Communications Unit may also be a facility (e.g., a trailer or mobile van) used to provide the major part of an Incident Communications Center.

Compacts Formal working agreements among agencies to obtain mutual aid.

Compensation The functional unit within the Finance/Administration Section

Unit/Claims Unit responsible for financial concerns resulting from property damage, injuries, or fatalities at the incident.

Complex Two or more individual incidents located in the same general area which are assigned to a single Incident Commander or to Unified Command.

Cooperating Agency An agency supplying assistance other than direct tactical or support functions or resources to the incident control effort (e.g., Red Cross, telephone company, etc.).

Coordination The process of systematically analyzing a situation, developing relevant information, and informing appropriate command authority of viable alternatives for selection of the most effective combination of available resources to meet specific objectives. The coordination process (which can be either intra- or inter-agency) does not involve dispatch actions. However, personnel responsible for coordination may perform command or dispatch functions within the limits established by specific agency delegations, procedures, legal authority, etc.

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Coordination Center Any facility that is used for the coordination of agency or jurisdictional resources in support of one or more incidents.

Cost Sharing Agreements Agreements between agencies or jurisdictions to share designated costs related to incidents. Cost sharing agreements are normally written but may also be oral between authorized agency or jurisdictional representatives at the incident.

Cost Unit The functional unit within the Finance/Administration Section responsible for tracking costs, analyzing cost data, making cost estimates, and recommending cost-saving measures.

Crew (See Single Resource.)

Delegation of Authority A statement provided to the Incident Commander by the Agency Executive delegating authority and assigning responsibility. The Delegation of Authority can include objectives, priorities, expectations, constraints, and other considerations or guidelines as needed. Many agencies require a written Delegation of Authority to be given to Incident Commanders prior to their assuming command of larger incidents.

Demobilization Unit The functional unit within the Planning Section responsible for assuring orderly, safe, and efficient demobilization of incident resources.

Deputy A fully qualified individual who, in the absence of a superior, could be delegated the authority to manage a functional operation or perform a specific task. In some cases, a Deputy could act as relief for a superior and therefore must be fully qualified in the position. Deputies can be assigned to the Incident Commander, General Staff, and Branch Directors. **Director** The ICS title for individuals responsible for supervision of a Branch.

Dispatch The implementation of a command decision to move a resource or resources from one place to another.

Dispatch Center A facility from which resources are assigned to an incident.

Division Divisions are used to divide an incident into geographic areas of operation. A Division is located within the ICS organization between the Branch and the Task Force/Strike Team. (See Group.) Divisions are identified by alphabetic characters for horizontal applications and, often, by floor numbers when used in buildings.

Documentation Unit The functional unit within the Planning Section responsible for collecting, recording, and safeguarding all documents relevant to the incident.

Emergency Management The individual within each political subdivision that has coordination **Coordinator/Director** responsibility for jurisdictional emergency management.

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) A health-care specialist with particular skills and knowledge in pre-hospital emergency medicine.

Emergency Operations Center (EOC) A predesignated facility established by an agency or jurisdiction to coordinate the overall agency or jurisdictional response and support to an emergency.

Emergency Operations Plan The plan that each jurisdiction has and maintains for responding to **Plan** emergency incidents.

Event A planned, non-emergency activity. ICS can be used as the management system for a wide range of events (e.g., parades, concerts, or sporting events).

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Facilities Unit Functional unit within the Support Branch of the Logistics Section that provides fixed facilities for the incident. These facilities may include the Incident Base, feeding areas, sleeping areas, sanitary facilities, etc.

Field Operations Guide A pocket-size manual of instructions on the application of the Incident Command System.

Finance/Administration The Section responsible for all incident costs and financial considerations. Includes the Time Unit, Procurement Unit, Compensation/Claims Unit, and Cost Unit.

Food Unit Functional unit within the Service Branch of the Logistics Section responsible for providing meals for incident personnel.

Function In ICS, function refers to the five major activities in the ICS, i.e., Command, Operations, Planning, Logistics, and Finance/Administration. The term function is also used when describing the activity involved (e.g., the planning function).

General Staff The group of incident management personnel reporting to the Incident Commander. They may each have a deputy, as needed. The General Staff consists of:

1. Operations Section Chief
2. Planning Section Chief
3. Logistics Section Chief
4. Finance/Administration Section Chief

Generic ICS Refers to the description of ICS that is generally applicable to any kind of incident or event.

Ground Support Unit Functional unit within the Support Branch of the Logistics Section responsible for the fueling, maintaining, and repairing of vehicles, and the transportation of personnel and supplies.

Group Groups are established to divide the incident into functional areas of operation. Groups are composed of resources assembled to perform a special function not necessarily within a single geographic division. (See Division.) Groups are located between Branches (when activated) and Resources in the Operations Section.

Helibase The main location for parking, fueling, maintenance, and loading of helicopters operating in support of an incident. It is usually located at or near the Incident Base.

Helispot Any designated location where a helicopter can safely take off and land. Some helispots may be used for loading of supplies, equipment, or personnel.

Hierarchy of Command (See Chain of Command.)

ICS National Training A series of 17 training modules developed by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) consisting of instructor guides, visuals,

Curriculum tests, and student materials. The modules cover all aspects of ICS operations. The modules can be intermixed to meet specific training needs.

Incident An occurrence, caused either by human action or natural phenomena, that requires action by emergency service personnel to prevent or minimize loss of life or damage to property and/or natural resources.

Incident Action Plan Contains objectives reflecting the overall incident strategy and specific tactical actions and supporting information for the next operational

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period. The Plan may be oral or written. When written, the Plan may have a number of forms as attachments (e.g., traffic plan, safety plan, communications plan, map, etc.).

Incident Base (See Base.)

Incident Commander The individual responsible for the management of all incident operations at the incident site.

Incident Command The location at which the primary command functions are executed.

Post (ICP) The ICP may be colocated with the Incident Base or other incident facilities.

Incident Command System (ICS) A standardized on-scene emergency management concept specifically designed to allow its user(s) to adopt an integrated organizational structure equal to the complexity and demands of single or multiple incidents, without being hindered by jurisdictional boundaries.

Incident Communication Center The location of the Communications Unit and the Message Center.

Incident Management Team The Incident Commander and appropriate Command and General Staff personnel assigned to an incident.

Incident Objectives Statements of guidance and direction necessary for the selection of appropriate strategy/ies, and the tactical direction of resources. Incident objectives are based on realistic expectations of what can be accomplished when all allocated resources have been effectively deployed. Incident objectives must be achievable and measurable, yet flexible enough to allow for strategic and tactical alternatives.

Incident Support Includes any off-incident support provided to an incident. Examples would be agency dispatch centers, airports, mobilization centers, etc.

Information Officer A member of the Command Staff responsible for interfacing with the public and media or with other agencies requiring information directly from the incident. There is only one Information Officer per incident.

The Information Officer may have assistants.

Initial Action The actions taken by resources which are the first to arrive at an incident.

Initial Response Resources initially committed to an incident.

Jurisdiction The range or sphere of authority. Public agencies have jurisdiction at an incident related to their legal responsibilities and authority for incident mitigation. Jurisdictional authority at an incident can be political/geographic (e.g., city, county, State, or Federal boundary lines) or functional (e.g., police department, health department, etc.). (See Multi-jurisdiction.)

Jurisdictional Agency The agency having jurisdiction and responsibility for a specific geographical area, or a mandated function.

Kind Resources described by function (e.g., a patrol car or a bulldozer).

Landing Zone (See Helispot.)

Leader The ICS title for an individual responsible for a Task Force, Strike Team, or functional unit.

Liaison Officer A member of the Command Staff responsible for coordinating with representatives from cooperating and assisting agencies.

Life Safety The joint consideration of both the life and physical well-being of individuals.

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Logistics Section The Section responsible for providing facilities, services, and materials for the incident.

Management By Objectives In ICS, this is a top-down management activity which involves a three-step process to achieve the incident goal. The steps are: establishing the incident objectives, selection of appropriate strategy(s) to achieve the objectives, and the tactical direction associated with the selected strategy. Tactical direction includes selection of tactics, selection of resources, resource assignments, and performance monitoring.

Managers Individuals within ICS organizational units who are assigned specific managerial responsibilities (e.g., Staging Area Manager or Camp Manager).

Medical Unit Functional unit within the Service Branch of the Logistics Section responsible for the development of the Medical Emergency Plan and for providing emergency medical treatment of incident personnel.

Message Center The Message Center is part of the Incident Communications Center and is co-located or placed adjacent to it. It receives, records, and routes information about resources reporting to the incident, resource status, and administrative and tactical traffic.

Mobilization The process and procedures used by all organizations—Federal, State, and local—for activating, assembling, and transporting all resources that have been requested to respond to or support an incident.

Mobilization Center An off-incident location at which emergency service personnel and equipment are temporarily located pending assignment, release, or reassignment.

Multi-agency Coordination (MAC) A generalized term which describes the functions and activities of representatives of involved agencies and/or jurisdictions who come together to make decisions regarding the prioritizing of incidents and the sharing and use of critical resources. The MAC organization is not a part of the on-scene ICS and is not involved in developing incident strategy or tactics.

Multi-agency Incident An incident where one or more agencies assists a jurisdictional agency or agencies. May be single or unified command.

Multi-Agency System (MACS) The combination of personnel, facilities, equipment, procedures, and communications integrated into a common system. When activated, MACS has the responsibility for coordination of assisting agency resources and support in a multi-agency or multi-jurisdictional environment. A MAC Group functions within the MACS.

Multi-jurisdiction An incident requiring action from multiple agencies that have a statutory **Incident** responsibility for incident mitigation. In ICS these incidents will be managed under Unified Command.

Mutual Aid Agreement Written agreement between agencies and/or jurisdictions in which they agree to assist one another upon request by furnishing personnel and equipment.

National Interagency A program developed by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group

Incident Management System (NIMS) consisting of five major subsystems which collectively provide a total systems approach to all-risk incident management. The subsystems are the Incident Command System, Training, Qualifications and Certification, Supporting Technologies, and Publications Management.

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National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) A group formed under the direction of the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture to improve the coordination and effectiveness of wildland fire activities and provide a forum to discuss, recommend appropriate action, or resolve issues and problems of substantive nature. The NWCG has been a primary supporter of ICS development and training.

Officer The ICS title for the personnel responsible for the Command Staff positions of Safety, Liaison, and Information.

Operational Period The period of time scheduled for execution of a given set of operation actions as specified in the Incident Action Plan. Operational Periods can be of various lengths, although usually not over 24 hours.

Operations Section The Section responsible for all tactical operations at the incident. Includes Branches, Divisions and/or Groups, Task Forces, Strike Teams, Single Resources, and Staging Areas.

Out-of-Service Resources Resources assigned to an incident but unable to respond for mechanical, rest, or personnel reasons.

Overhead Personnel Personnel who are assigned to supervisory positions which include Incident Commander, Command Staff, General Staff, Directors, Supervisors, and Unit Leaders.

Planning Meeting A meeting held as needed throughout the duration of an incident to select specific strategies and tactics for incident control operations and for service and support planning. In larger incidents, the planning meeting is a major element in the development of the Incident Action Plan.

Planning Section Responsible for the collection, evaluation, and dissemination of tactical information related to the incident, and for the preparation and documentation of Incident Action Plans. The Planning Section also maintains information on the current and forecasted situation and on the status of resources assigned to the incident. Includes the Situation, Resource, Documentation, and Demobilization Units, as well as Technical Specialists.

Procurement Unit Functional unit within the Finance/Administration Section responsible for financial matters involving vendor contracts.

Radio Cache A supply of radios stored in a predetermined location for assignment to incidents.

Recorders Individuals within ICS organizational units who are responsible for recording information. Recorders may be found in Planning, Logistics, and Finance/Administration Sections.

Reinforced Response Those resources requested in addition to the initial response.

Reporting Locations Location or facilities where incoming resources can check in at the incident. (See Check-in.)

Resources Personnel and equipment available, or potentially available, for assignment to incidents. Resources are described by kind and type (e.g., ground, water, air, etc.) and may be used in tactical support or overhead capacities at an incident.

Resources Unit Functional unit within the Planning Section responsible for recording the status of resources committed to the incident. The Resources Unit also evaluates resources currently committed to the incident, the impact that additional responding resources will have on the incident, and anticipated

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resource needs.

Safety Officer A member of the Command Staff responsible for monitoring and assessing safety hazards or unsafe situations and for developing measures for ensuring personnel safety. The Safety Officer may have assistants.

Section The organizational level with responsibility for a major functional area of the incident (e.g., Operations, Planning, Logistics, Finance/Administration). The Section is organizationally between Branch and Incident Commander.

Sector Term used in some applications to describe an organizational level similar to an ICS Division or Group. Sector is not a part of ICS terminology.

Segment A geographic area in which a Task Force/Strike Team Leader or Supervisor of a single resource is assigned authority and responsibility for the coordination of resources and implementation of planned tactics. A segment may be a portion of a Division or an area inside or outside the perimeter of an incident. Segments are identified with Arabic numbers.

Service Branch A Branch within the Logistics Section responsible for service activities at the incident. Includes the Communications, Medical, and Food Units.

Single Resource An individual, a piece of equipment and its personnel complement, or a crew or team of individuals with an identified work supervisor that can be used at an incident.

Situation Unit Functional unit within the Planning Section responsible for the collection, organization, and analysis of incident status information, and for analysis of the situation as it progresses. Reports to the Planning Section Chief.

Span of Control The supervisory ratio of from three to seven individuals, with five-to-one being optimum.

Staging Area Staging Areas are locations set up at an incident where resources can be placed while awaiting a tactical assignment. Staging Areas are managed by the Operations Section.

Strategy The general plan or direction selected to accomplish incident objectives.

Strike Team Specified combinations of the same kind and type of resources with common communications and a leader.

Supervisor The ICS title for individuals responsible for command of a Division or Group.

Supply Unit Functional unit within the Support Branch of the Logistics Section responsible for ordering equipment and supplies required for incident operations.

Support Resources Non-tactical resources under the supervision of the Logistics, Planning, Finance/Administration Sections, or the Command Staff.

Supporting Branch A Branch within the Logistics Section responsible for providing personnel, equipment, and supplies to support incident operations. Includes the Supply, Facilities, and Ground Support Units.

Supporting Materials Refers to the several attachments that may be included with an Incident Action Plan (e.g., communications plan, map, safety plan, traffic plan, and medical plan).

Tactical Direction Direction given by the Operations Section Chief which includes the tactics appropriate for the selected strategy, the selection and assignment of resources, tactics implementation, and performance monitoring for each operational period.

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Task Force A combination of single resources assembled for a particular tactical need with common communications and a leader.

Team (See Single Resource.)

Technical Specialists Personnel with special skills that can be used anywhere within the ICS organization.

Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) Temporary airspace restrictions for non-emergency aircraft in the incident area. TFRs are established by the FAA to ensure aircraft safety and are normally limited to a five-nautical-mile radius and 2000 feet in altitude.

Time Unit The functional unit within the Finance/Administration Section responsible for recording time for incident personnel and hired equipment.

Type Refers to resource capability. A Type 1 resource provides a greater overall capability because of power, size, capacity, etc., than would be found in a Type 2 resource. Resource typing provides managers with additional information in selecting the best resource for the task.

Unified Area Command A Unified Area Command is established when incidents under an Area Command are multi-jurisdictional. (See Area Command and Unified Command.)

Unified Command In ICS, Unified Command is a unified team effort which allows all agencies with responsibility for the incident, either geographic or functional, to manage an incident by establishing a common set of incident objectives and strategies. This is accomplished without losing or abdicating agency authority, responsibility, or accountability.

Unit The organizational element having functional responsibility for a specific incident planning, logistics, or finance/administration activity.

Unity of Command The concept by which each person within an organization reports to only one designated person.