

INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM BASICS

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Originally developed by Fire Departments

Called National Incident Management System (NIMS) by the Feds

Basic Features

Common terminology

Modular organization

Management by Objectives

Reliance on an Incident Action Plan – What do we want to do? Who is responsible for doing it? How do we communicate with each other? What is the procedure if someone is injured?

Chain of Command and Unity of Command – Everyone has one supervisor. Receive work assignments only from the supervisor

Unified Command – Various groups work together

Manageable span of control – 3 to 7 direct reports

Incident Commander – (Provides overall leadership for incident response, Delegates authority to others, Takes general direction from the agency administrator/official).

Command Positions – Safety Officer, Public Information Officer, Liaison Officer

**General Staff – Operations Section, Planning Section, Logistics Section,
Finance/Administration Section**

Sections may be further divided into Divisions, Groups, Branches, Task Forces, and Strike Teams

Facilities – Incident Command Post, Staging Area, Base, Camps, Helibase/Helispots