

Part One, Section Five **Incident Command System (ICS)**

General

The Incident Command System (ICS) is a nationally recognized system for managing incidents as well as pre-planned events. It consists of a modular and flexible organizational structure as well as features such as management by objectives, action planning, span of control, organizational hierarchy, accountability and resource management. Detailed information on the Incident Command System (ICS) can be found at www.fema.gov.

Use of ICS at the Field Level (CW-#21 & #22)

The concepts, principles and organizational structure of the Incident Command System (ICS) will be used in managing field operations. The size, complexity, hazard environment and objectives of the situation will determine the ICS size and the support that will be required to support field activities. The incident will be managed by objectives to be achieved and those objectives are communicated to field and EOC personnel through the use of the action planning process.

Typically, an Incident Commander (IC) will communicate with the EOC Director as to situation and resource status through established communications channels. Members of the IC Command and General Staff will communicate with their counterparts in the EOC using the same communications methods. Some members of the EOC Command or General Staff may be asked to attend briefings or planning meetings at the Command Post.

When multiple agencies respond to the incident, the IC will establish a Unified Command/Multi-Agency Coordination System and agency representatives will be asked to report to the Liaison Officer. Outside agencies including those from county, state and federal agencies will participate in the Unified Command/Multi-Agency Coordination System by assisting in identifying objectives, setting priorities and allocating critical resources to the incident.

Field/EOC Communications and Coordination (CW-#23)

The City's communication plan outlines the communications channels and protocols to be used during an incident. **The City's communication plan is included as a separate annex to this plan.** Typically, field to EOC communications will occur at the Command and General Staff levels or, if they are established, field units will communicate with a Department Operations Center (DOC) who will, in turn, relay the information to the appropriate section/function in the EOC.

The City EOC will communicate situation and resource status information to the Los Angeles County Operational Area and other outside agencies via designated countywide emergency reporting systems and other systems referenced in **the Los Angeles County Operational Area Disaster Information Reporting Procedures.**

Field/EOC Direction and Control Interface (CW-#24)

The EOC Director will establish jurisdictional objectives and priorities and communicate those to everyone in the organization through the EOC Action Plan. The EOC Action Plan does not direct or control field units but supports their activities. Incident Commander(s) will ensure incident objectives and priorities are consistent with those policies and guidelines established at the city level by the EOC Director.

It is the responsibility of the Incident Commander to communicate critical information to the EOC Director in a timely manner.

Field/EOC Coordination with Department Operations Centers (DOCs) (CW-#25)

If a department within the City establishes a DOC to coordinate and support their departmental field activities, its location, time of establishment and staffing information will be communicated to the City EOC. All communications with the field units of that department will be directed to the DOC who will then relay situation and resource information to the EOC. DOCs act as an intermediate communications and coordination link between field units and the City EOC.