

Unified Command “Working Together for a Common Goal”

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Objectives



- ✱ Provide a brief background of ICS
- ✱ Describe the concept of Unified Command
- ✱ Discuss How Unified Command Works
- ✱ Identify the Key Members of Unified Command during a Traffic Related Emergency

History of ICS



- ✱ Developed in the early 70's
- ✱ Originally called FIRESCOPE
(**F**irefighting **RES**ources of **C**alifornia
Organized for **P**otential **E**mergencies)

Reasons for FIREScope



- ✱ Too many people reporting to one supervisor.
- ✱ Different and incompatible emergency response structures.
- ✱ Lack of reliable incident information.
- ✱ Inadequate and incompatible communications.
- ✱ Lack of a structure for coordinated planning between agencies.

Reasons for FIRESCOPE cont.



- ✱ Unclear lines of authority.
- ✱ Terminology differences between agencies.
- ✱ Unclear or unspecified incident objectives.

NIIMS



- ✿ Next was a system known as NIIMS (National Interagency Incident Management System)
- ✿ Developed by the National Wildfire Coordination Group (NWCG)
- ✿ System used by most of the country other than California


NIMS



- ✱ Today we have NIMS
(**N**ational **I**ncident **M**anagement **S**ystem)
- ✱ Created post 9-11 by newly formed DOHS
- ✱ Homeland Security Presidential Directive
HSPD-5 (Management of Domestic
Incidents)

Focus of NIMS



 “...to ensure that all levels of government across the Nation have the capability to work efficiently and effectively together...”

NIMS



Six Major Components of System

1. Command and Management
2. Preparedness
3. Resource Management
4. Communications and Information Management
5. Supporting Technologies
6. Ongoing Management and Maintenance

Incident Management System



Unified Command



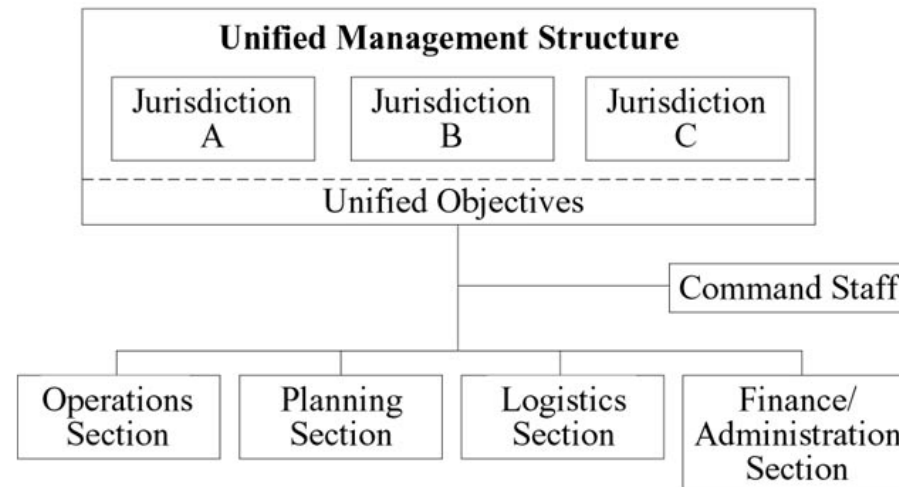
✱ In a nut shell...Unified Command is a process of bringing key personnel from each organization together to jointly make decisions and manage an incident.

Three Common Applications



- ✿ Incidents that affect more than one political jurisdiction.

Multijurisdiction



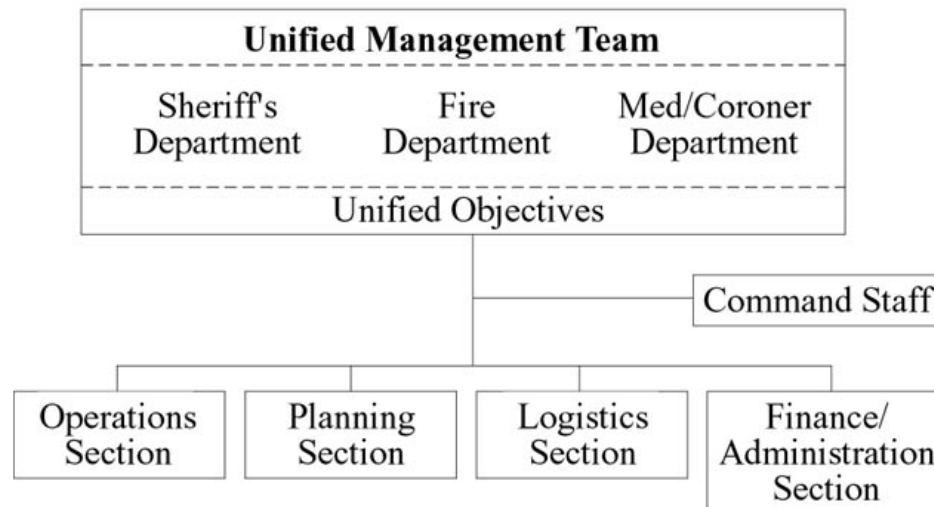
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Three Common Applications



✿ Incidents involving multiple agencies within a jurisdiction

Multidepartment

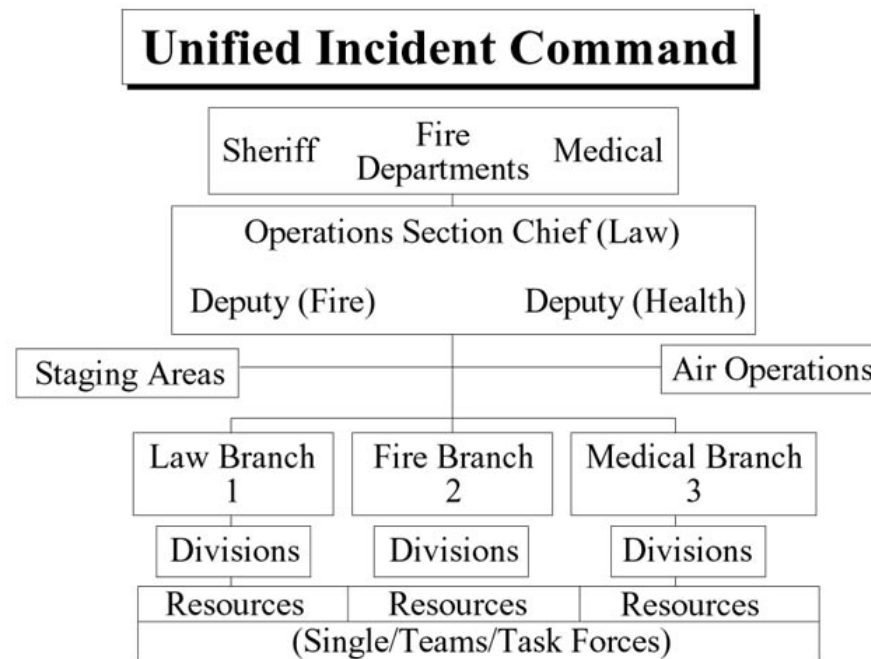


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Three Common Applications



✱ Incidents that impact multiple geographic and functional agencies



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Advantages



- ❖ One set of objectives.
- ❖ Collective approach to strategies.
- ❖ Improved information flow and coordination.
- ❖ Better understanding of objectives, priorities, limitations and restrictions.
- ❖ No compromise of authority.

Advantages cont.



- ✱ Each agency's plans, actions, and constraints are known.
- ✱ Optimizes combined efforts of all agencies.
- ✱ Cost effective.

Priorities



✱ Each organization has it's own inherent priorities:

✱ Fire-Rescue – to safely and expeditiously treat and transport the injured, suppress any fires and contain any released hazardous materials.

✱ Law Enforcement –

✱ FDOT –

✱ Others -

Who are the Players?



✱ Determined by two factors:

- ✱ The **location** of the incident, which often determines the jurisdictions that must be involved.
- ✱ The **kind** of incident, which dictates the functional agencies of the involved jurisdiction(s), as well as other agencies that may be involved.

Guidelines for Using Unified Command



- ✱ Understand ICS Unified Command
- ✱ Collocate essential functions
- ✱ Start early to use U.C.
- ✱ Agree on Operations Section Chief
- ✱ Designate a spokesperson if necessary
- ✱ Train often as a team.

In closing



- ✱ We all have different priorities and objectives.
- ✱ By working together as a team (Unified Command) we can more efficiently manage an incident with regard for each others areas of responsibility.
- ✱ This looks good on paper, putting it to application requires practice and commitment.

Thank You!



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