

FIRELINE HANDBOOK

**CHAPTER 4—LARGE FIRE
MANAGEMENT TEAMS**

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SAFETY FIRST—NO EXCEPTIONS

LARGE FIRE MANAGEMENT TEAMS

Type 2 Organization

A Type 2 Organization is the first level at which most or all of the Command and General Staff positions are activated and are filled by a Type 2 Incident Management Team. The IC and Command/General Staff must function as a team handling many aspects such as:

- Supervising a large organization.
- Multiple operational periods.
- Gathering information to develop a written Incident Action Plan.
- Providing logistical support including the establishment and operation of a base and possibly camps.

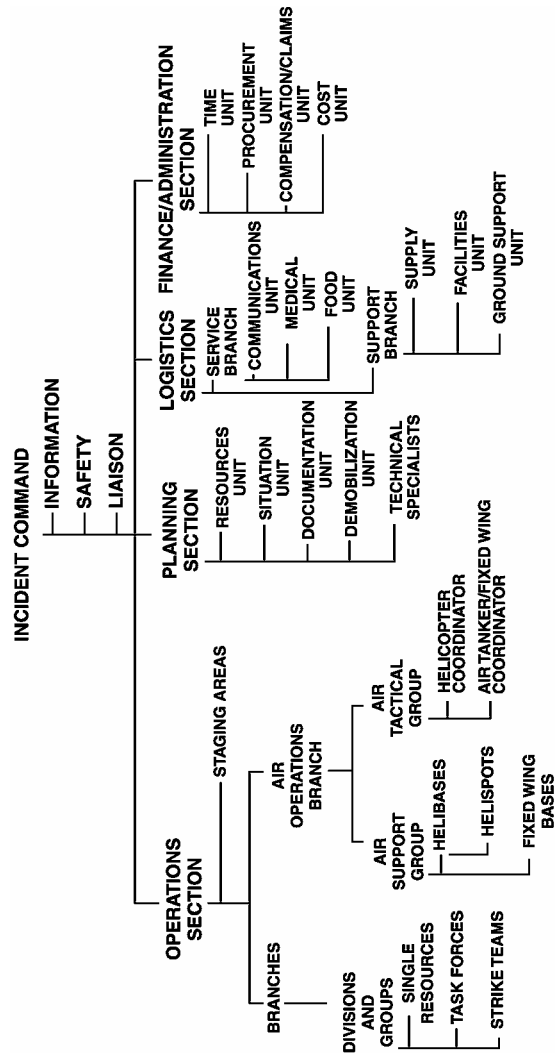
Type 1 Organization

The primary difference between a Type 1 and Type 2 Organization is a matter of size and complexity. The factors that affect the decision to go to a Type 1 Operation are variable and depend to a large extent upon the needs and policies of the agency or agencies involved. The Type 1 Organization has all the characteristics of a Type 2 Organization plus:

- All Command and General Staff positions are filled with Type 1 qualified people.
- The number of divisions/groups may require that Branches be activated to address span-of-control needs.
- Operations personnel often exceed 500 per operational period and total personnel on the incident usually exceed 1,000.
- Aviation operations often involve several types and numbers of aircraft.

ORGANIZATION CHART FOR TYPE 1 AND TYPE 2 INCIDENTS

Remember: fill only those positions needed.



AREA COMMAND

Area of Command is an expansion of the incident command function. It is designed to manage a very large incident that has multiple incident management teams assigned. These teams may be established any time the incidents are close enough that oversight direction is required. This is to ensure that conflicts do not arise among the incident management teams.

The functions of Area Command are to coordinate:

1. Objectives that conflict between incidents.
2. Strategies that conflict between incidents.
3. Priorities for the use of critical resources allocated to the incident or incidents assigned to the Area Command.

The organization is normally small with personnel assigned to Command, Planning, Aviation, and Logistics.

UNIFIED COMMAND

A representative from each of the involved agencies with jurisdiction authority shares command, and at times, other functions. Collectively, they direct the management of the incident to accomplish common objectives. Unified Command may be at the Incident Management Team or Area Command Level.

MULTIPLE INCIDENT MANAGEMENT/COMPLEX

Most of the time, an Incident Commander and/or Incident Management Team will be in command of only one fire at a time; however, there are situations when conditions are such that it is more efficient or necessary for an Incident Commander to have command of multiple fires. There are some operational differences in managing a single large fire versus a number of smaller fires (some may be larger than single fires the IC normally commands), but the management principles are the same.

As long as the “Components of ICS” are followed (common terminology, modular organization, integrated communications, Unified Command structure, consolidated action plans, manageable span-of-control, predestinated incident facilities, and comprehensive resource management), the results should be similar.

A multiple incident management situation is organized and supported much like a single incident situation with a single IC (or multiple, if a Unified Command is utilized) and a single Command and General Staff. Multiple fires managed by a single Incident Management Team are commonly referred to as a “complex.” How individual fires are handled operationally can vary depending on the conditions, situation, and personal preferences.