Incident Complexity

Incident and/or event complexity determines emergency and incident response personnel responsibilities as well as recommended audience for NIMS curriculum coursework delivery. The *NIMS Training Program* training recommendations reflect the following five levels of complexity:

Type 1	- This type of incident is the most complex, requiring national resources for safe and effective management and operation. - All command and general staff positions are filled. - Operations personnel often exceed 500 per operational period and total personnel will usually exceed 1,000. - Branches need to be established. - A written incident action plan (IAP) is required for each operational period. - The agency administrator will have briefings, and ensure that the complexity analysis and delegation of authority are updated. - Use of resource advisors at the incident base is recommended. - There is a high impact on the local jurisdiction, requiring additional staff for office administrative and support functions.
Type 2	- This type of incident extends beyond the capabilities for local control and is expected to go into multiple operational periods. A Type 2 incident may require the response of resources out of area, including regional and/or national resources, to effectively manage the operations, command, and general staffing. - Most or all of the command and general staff positions are filled. - A written IAP is required for each operational period. - Many of the functional units are needed and staffed. - Operations personnel normally do not exceed 200 per operational period and total incident personnel do not exceed 500 (guidelines only). - The agency administrator is responsible for the incident complexity analysis, agency administration briefings, and the written delegation of authority.
Type 3	- When incident needs exceed capabilities, the appropriate ICS positions should be added to match the complexity of the incident. - Some or all of the command and general staff positions may be activated, as well as division/group supervisor and/or unit leader level positions. - A Type 3 IMT or incident command organization manages initial action incidents with a significant number of resources, an extended attack incident until containment/control is achieved, or an expanding incident until transition to a Type 1 or 2 IMT. - The incident may extend into multiple operational periods. - A written IAP may be required for each operational period.
Type 4	- Command staff and general staff functions are activated only if needed. - Several resources are required to mitigate the incident, including a task force or strike team. - The incident is usually limited to one operational period in the control phase. - The agency administrator may have briefings, and ensure the complexity analysis and delegation of authority is updated. - No written IAP is required but a documented operational briefing will be completed for all incoming resources. - The role of the agency administrator includes operational plans including objectives and priorities.
Type 5	- The incident can be handled with one or two single resources with up to six personnel. - Command and general staff positions (other than the incident commander) are not activated. - No written IAP is required. - The incident is contained within the first operational period and often within an hour to a few hours after resources arrive on scene. - Examples include a vehicle fire, an injured person, or a police traffic stop.