

7. Incident Organizations

Incident Command System large fire organizations and large fire incident support organizations.

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A. Incident Management and Support Organizations

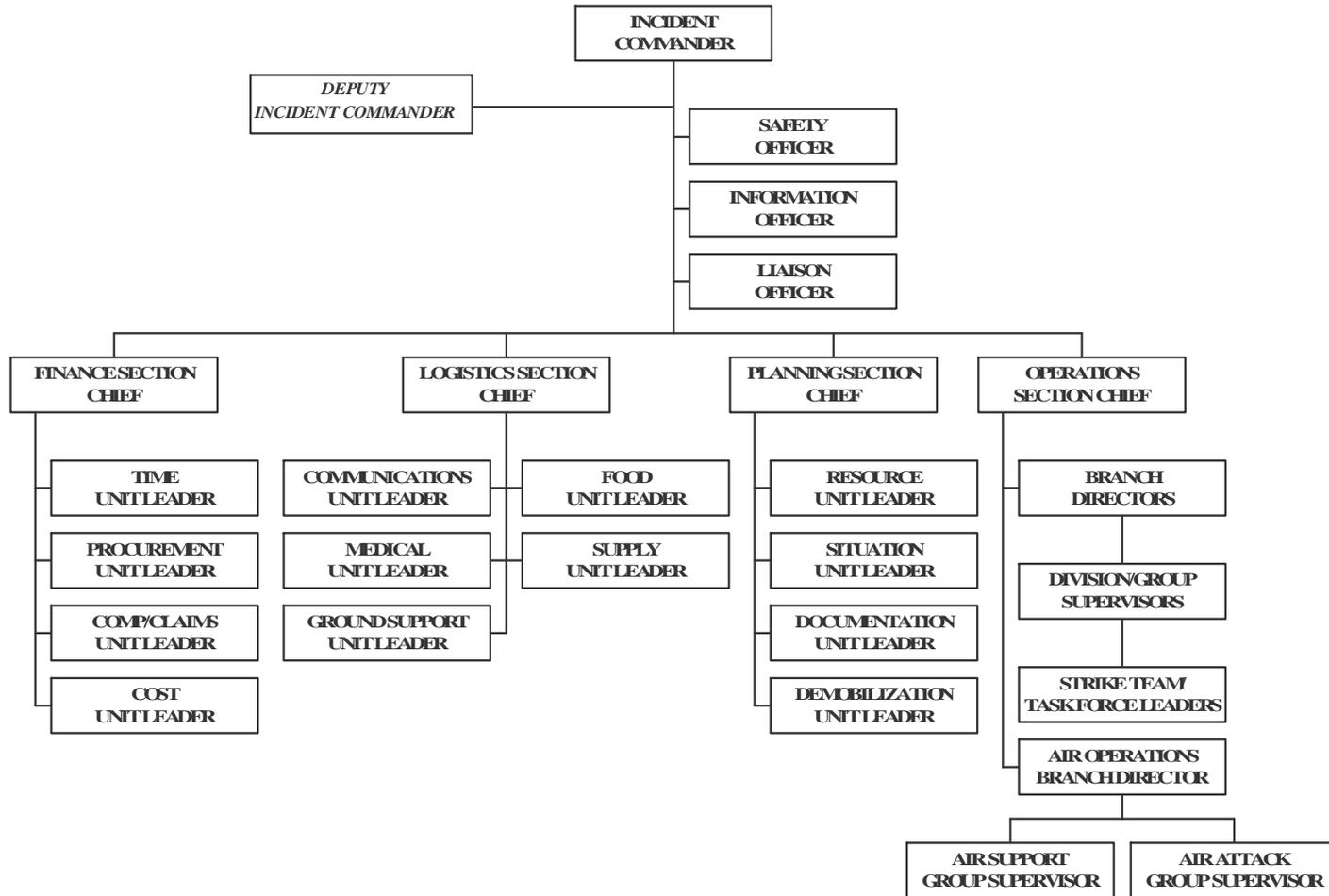
Several types of organizations exist or are formed to manage wildland fire activity and individual wildland fire suppression and support requirements. They include the following:

1. Incident Management

a. Incident Command System Organization Incident Management Team (IMT)

An IMT is established at the appropriate level (type) for the complexity of the fire. The incident commander and the command and general staffs oversee the functional sections assigned to the team. The ICS organization is designed to expand and contract effectively as the complexity of the incident warrants. An incident management team organization at the Type 1 level (branched) is shown in Chart 1. In most cases, both Type 1 and Type 2 organizations will have additional positions filled under the unit leader levels and both types will expand and contract their organizations appropriately based on the complexity of the incident. Additionally, Type 1 and Type 2 IMTs will carry six or more trainee positions to the incident, with other trainee positions filled in the organization as appropriately determined by the incident commander and agency administrator.

Chart 1.a. Incident Management Team (IMT)



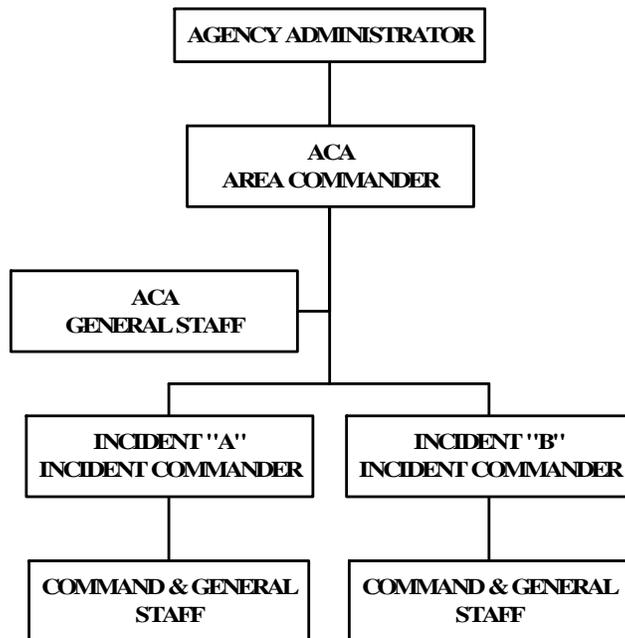
b. Area Command Authority (ACA)

An ACA is activated when multiple large incidents are occurring in a relatively small geographic area, usually within a single zone. ACA expands the command function of the ICS to provide coordination, direction and oversight to individual incident command teams. Area command works for the agency administrator(s) with responsibility for the lands involved through a single or unified delegation of authority. The ACA area commander provides delegation to individual incident commanders working within the ACA area of authority.

An ACA deals primarily with intelligence from and about the situation in their area of authority and is responsible for making key decisions regarding prioritization of incidents and assignment of critical resources to those incidents. The ACA does not manage tactics for individual incidents. When a MAC group is established, the ACA coordinates closely with that group for management of intelligence and critical fire suppression resources.

ACA members will be qualified incident management personnel in the general staff functions, usually to include an area commander, area command planning chief, and area command logistics chief. A typical ACA organization is shown in Chart 2.

Chart 2. Area Command Authority (ACA)



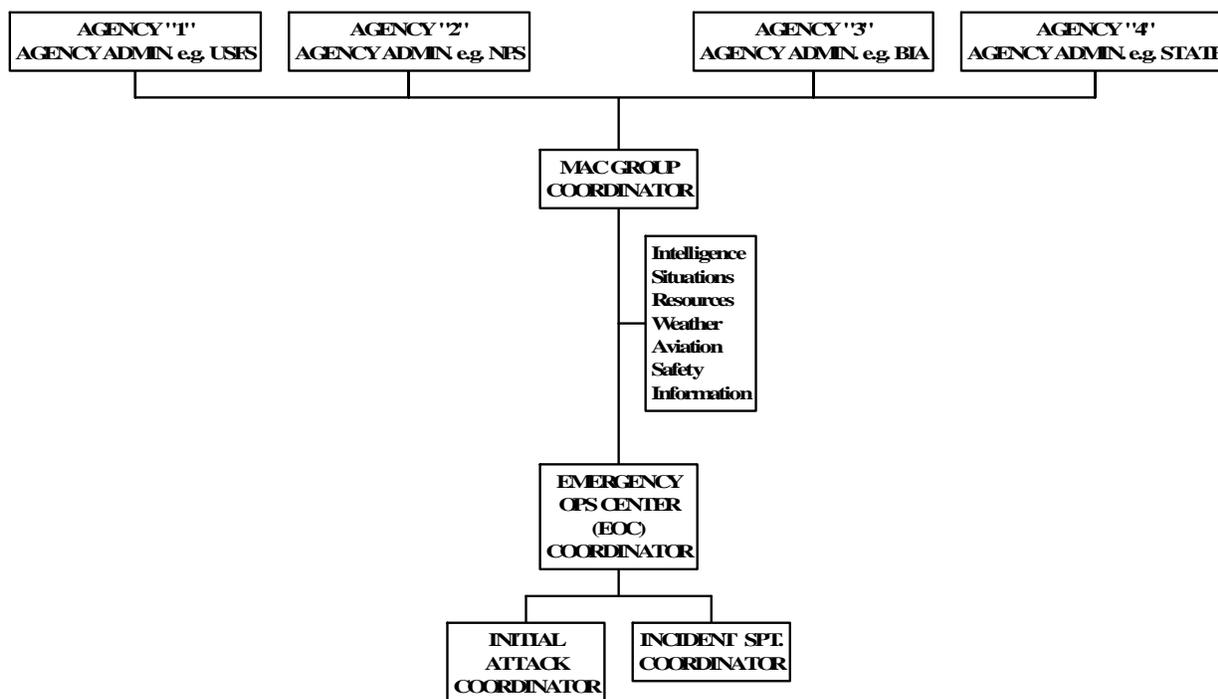
c. MultiAgency Coordination Group (MAC)

A MAC is a group of interagency representatives with decision making authority for their agencies which may be convened at the national level (one only at the National Interagency Fire Center at Boise), the geographic area level (e.g. southwest), and/or at the local or zone level.

A MAC group deals primarily with intelligence from and about the situation in their area of authority and is responsible for making key decisions regarding prioritization of incidents and assignment of critical resources within that area of influence.

Local MAC group members will be agency administrators, or delegates (e.g. forest supervisor, park superintendent, area manager, county commissioner(s)). A typical MAC organization is shown in Chart 3.

Chart 3. MultiAgency Coordination Group (MAC)



2. Incident Support

a. Initial Attack Dispatch Centers (IAC)

An IAC (e.g. Cibola Dispatch) is responsible for initial attack and extended attack dispatching and support at the administrative unit level. IACs are supported from dispatch coordination centers when local resources are insufficient to meet initial attack and extended attack requirements.

b. Dispatch Coordination Centers (DCC)

A DCC (e.g. Albuquerque Zone) is usually interagency or multiple intra-agency in composition. It has authority to assign resources to and support incidents at multiple agency and/or administrative unit levels, usually within a defined zone. A DCC may be colocated with an IAC. A DCC is supported from the geographic area coordination center established for that area when resources available in the DCC zone are insufficient to meet needs.

c. Geographic Area Coordination Centers (GAC)

A GAC (e.g. Southwest Coordination Center) coordinates intelligence and resource status, including the movement of fire suppression forces and equipment, between DCCs within a geographic area. A GAC has responsibility for providing incident(s) support to DCCs for large fire or multiple fire events. A GAC does not have initial attack responsibility. A GAC is supported from the National Interagency Coordination Center when geographic area resources are insufficient to meet needs.

d. National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC)

The NICC at Boise, Idaho, coordinates intelligence and resource status, including the movement of fire suppression forces and equipment, between geographic areas throughout the country. NICC is responsible for providing support to GACs from other GACs and other Federal agencies (e.g. military, FEMA), and for coordination between Federal agencies in the U.S. and other nations.

e. Expanded Dispatch (EDS)

An EDS is established as a temporary functionalized organization to relieve a unit's initial attack dispatch organization from extra workloads associated with supporting a single large incident or multiple incidents. EDS is usually formed at the IAC and fully integrated with the unit's normal dispatch organization to increase staffing and provide extended service.

f. Incident Support Organization (ISO)

An ISO may be established to support a large wildland fire incident or multiple incidents (to which a Type 1 or Type 2 IMT has/have been assigned). The ISO is generally needed when the incident require(s) a level of support exceeding the capabilities of the normal dispatch organization. Timely activation of this organization is critical to effective incident support and to prevent overloading the local dispatch organization which must remain focused on initial attack and other normal activities on the forest.

As with the ICS large fire organization, the ISO is designed to expand and contract as incident complexity and volume of business warrants. An ISO is established to support incident requirements other than dispatching. The ISO performs technical and administrative support functions including communications support, ground transportation, equipment inspection, procurement, staging area management, etc. A typical large fire ISO is shown in Chart 4. The ISO should be organized to meet specific incident workload requirements.

Chart 4. Large Fire Incident Support Organization

