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***Essentials of Fire Fighting,***  
**5<sup>th</sup> Edition**

***Chapter 1 — Orientation and Fire  
Service History***

***Firefighter I***



# Firefighter I Course Goal

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- After completing this course, the student shall be able to certify as a Firefighter I per *NFPA<sup>®</sup> 1001, Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications.*

# Chapter 1 Lesson Goal

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- After completing this lesson, the student shall be able to summarize fire department policies, procedures, and organizational principles as they apply to the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ).

# Specific Objectives

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1. Describe the history and culture of the fire service.
2. Describe the mission of the fire service.
3. Define fire department organizational principles.

*(Continued)*

# Specific Objectives

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4. Distinguish among functions of fire companies.
5. Summarize primary knowledge and skills the firefighter must have to function effectively.
6. Distinguish among the primary roles of fire service personnel.

*(Continued)*

# Specific Objectives

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7. Distinguish among policies, procedures, and standard operating procedures (SOPs) .
8. Summarize components of the Incident Command System (ICS).
9. Distinguish among the functions of the major subdivisions within the ICS structure .

*(Continued)*

# Specific Objectives

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10. Define ICS terms.
11. Discuss fire service interaction with other organizations.

# Fire Department Emergencies



Firefighter I  
1-7



# History of the Fire Service

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- Old World and North America citizens kept:
  - containers of water
  - ladder to reach the roof
- Bucket brigades used to put out fires
- Pilgrims brought firefighting methods to North America

*(Continued)*

# History of the Fire Service

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- Industrial Revolution affected textile and steel industries
  - Textile mills had catastrophic fires
  - Iron and steel industries produced firefighting tools and equipment, especially pumping apparatus

*(Continued)*

# History of the Fire Service

- Cities and towns organized fire companies and fire departments
  - Groups protected cities and towns
  - Benjamin Franklin
    - Organized one of the first groups
    - Founded first fire insurance company



*(Continued)*

# History of the Fire Service

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- Cities and towns organized fire companies and fire departments
  - Groups were made up of military organizations and adopted rank structure
  - Then, as today, majority of firefighters in North America were **volunteers**
  - Evolved into today's fire departments

# Fire Service Culture

- Categories of fire service members
  - Volunteer
  - Paid-on-call
  - Career
  - Combination

*(Continued)*

# DISCUSSION QUESTION

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What type of fire department is in your home town?

# Fire Service Culture

- Volunteer fire departments
  - Communities of varying sizes
  - Outnumber career departments and career firefighters
- Paid-on-call
  - Respond from homes or workplaces
  - Receive reimbursement for each call

*(Continued)*

# Fire Service Culture

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- Fire departments with career personnel — larger towns and cities
- Combination departments — Combine full-time career firefighters with:
  - Volunteers **or**
  - Paid-on-call members

*(Continued)*

# Fire Service Culture

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- Necessary characteristics and behaviors
  - Integrity
  - Moral character
  - Work ethic
  - Pride
  - Courage

# DISCUSSION QUESTION

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What are some of the characteristics and behaviors necessary in the fire service?

# Fire Service Mission

- ***To save lives and protect property***
  - Programs to prevent fires
    - Fire prevention and code enforcement
    - Public education



# Tactical Priorities

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- **Life safety**
  - Always the first and highest priority
  - Protecting firefighters and individuals
  - Protecting pets and livestock

*(Continued)*

# Tactical Priorities

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- **Incident stabilization** — Prevent and incident from getting worse
- **Property conservation** — Save property without putting firefighters in mortal danger

# DISCUSSION QUESTION

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What are some examples of recent fires that have been in the media and how were the priorities addressed?

# Fire Department Organizational Principles

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- **Unity of command** — Report to only one supervisor
- **Span of control** — Number of individuals or groups that can be supervised
- **Division of labor** — Dividing large jobs into small jobs

*(Continued)*

# Fire Department Organizational Principles

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- **Discipline** — Providing direction and following directions
  - Setting limits or boundaries for expected performance
  - Enforcing limits or boundaries

*(Continued)*

# Fire Department Organizational Principles

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- Purposes of discipline in a fire department
  - Educate and train
  - Correct inappropriate behavior
  - Positive motivation
  - Ensure compliance
  - Provide direction

# Functions of Fire Companies



- **Engine company** —  
Deploys hoselines for  
fire attack and  
exposure protection

*(Continued)*

# Functions of Fire Companies



*Courtesy of District Chief  
Chris E. Mickal. NOFD  
Photo Unit.*

- **Truck company** — Performs forcible entry, search and rescue, ventilation, salvage and overhaul, provides access to upper levels

*(Continued)*

# Functions of Fire Companies

- **Rescue/squad company** —  
Removal of victims from areas of danger or entrapment



*Courtesy of District Chief Chris E. Mickal. NOFD Photo Unit.*

(Continued)

# Functions of Fire Companies

- **Brush company** — Extinguishes wildland fires and protects structures in wildland/urban interface



*(Continued)*

# Functions of Fire Companies



- **Hazardous materials company** — Responds to and mitigates hazardous materials incidents

(Continued)

# DISCUSSION QUESTION

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How has the threat of terrorism and terrorist tactics affected the fire service, especially in areas such as hazardous materials responses?

# Functions of Fire Companies

- **Emergency medical/ambulance company** — Provides emergency medical care to patients
- **Special rescue company** — Responds to and performs technical rescue



*Courtesy of Darrel Levine.*

# Primary Knowledge and Skills

- Meeting ***NFPA® Standard 1001, Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications***
- Knowing department organization, operation, and standard operating procedures (SOPs)

(Continued)

# Primary Knowledge and Skills

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- Knowing district or city street system and physical layout
- Meeting minimum health and physical fitness standards
- Meeting educational requirements of the AHJ

# DISCUSSION QUESTION

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What are some of the typical duties of a Firefighter I and a Firefighter II?

# Fire Department Personnel

- Fire apparatus driver/operator



*(Continued)*

**Firefighter I  
1-35**



# Fire Department Personnel

- Fire department officer
  - Fire chief
  - Fire department officers
  - Other roles



*Courtesy of San Ramon Valley Fire District.*

(Continued)

# Fire Department Personnel

- Fire department health and safety officer
- Fire department incident safety officer



*Courtesy of Rick Montemorra.*

# Other Personnel

- Communications personnel (telecommunicators)
- Fire alarm maintenance personnel



*Courtesy of Paul Ramirez, Phoenix FD, AZ.*

(Continued)

# Other Personnel

- Apparatus and equipment maintenance personnel



*(Continued)*

# Other Personnel

- Fire police personnel
- Information systems personnel



# Special Operations Personnel

- Airport firefighter
- Hazardous materials technician

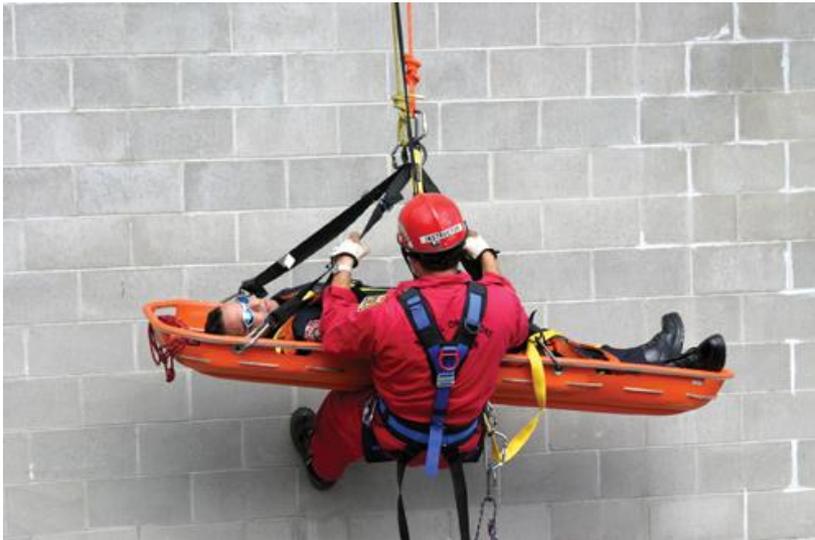


*Courtesy of Steven Baker.*

*(Continued)*

# Special Operations Personnel

- Technical rescuer
- Wildland firefighter



*Courtesy of Monterey County  
Training Officers.*

# Fire Prevention Personnel

- Fire prevention officer/inspector
- Fire and arson investigator



(Continued)

# Fire Prevention Personnel

- Public fire and life safety educator
- Fire protection engineer/specialist



# Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Personnel

- First responder
- Emergency medical technician
- Paramedic



# Training Personnel

- Training officer/chief of training/drillmaster
- Instructor



# DISCUSSION QUESTION

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What are some career development opportunities in your department?

# Fire Department Regulations

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- **Policy** — A guide to decision making within an organization
- **Procedure** — Describes in writing the steps to be followed
  - Order
  - Directive

*(Continued)*

# Fire Department Regulations

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- **Order** — Based upon a policy or procedure; compliance is mandatory
- **Directive** — Not based upon a policy or procedure; a request or suggestion

*(Continued)*

# Fire Department Regulations: Standard Operating Procedures

- Provide a standard set of actions; basis for every incident action plan
- Means to start the emergency operation
- Should follow fireground priorities
  - Life safety
  - Incident stabilization
  - Property conservation

*(Continued)*

# Fire Department Regulations: Standard Operating Procedures

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- Reduces confusion and chaos on the scene
- Prevent duplication of effort
- Safety is highest priority when writing SOPs

*(Continued)*

# Fire Department Regulations: Standard Operating Procedures

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- Should be applied to all situations
- May be used for administrative and personnel functions

# Incident Command System Components

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- Common terminology
- Modular organization
- Integrated communications
- Unified command structure
- Consolidated action plans

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# Incident Command System Components

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- Manageable span of control
- Predesignated incident facilities
- Comprehensive resource management

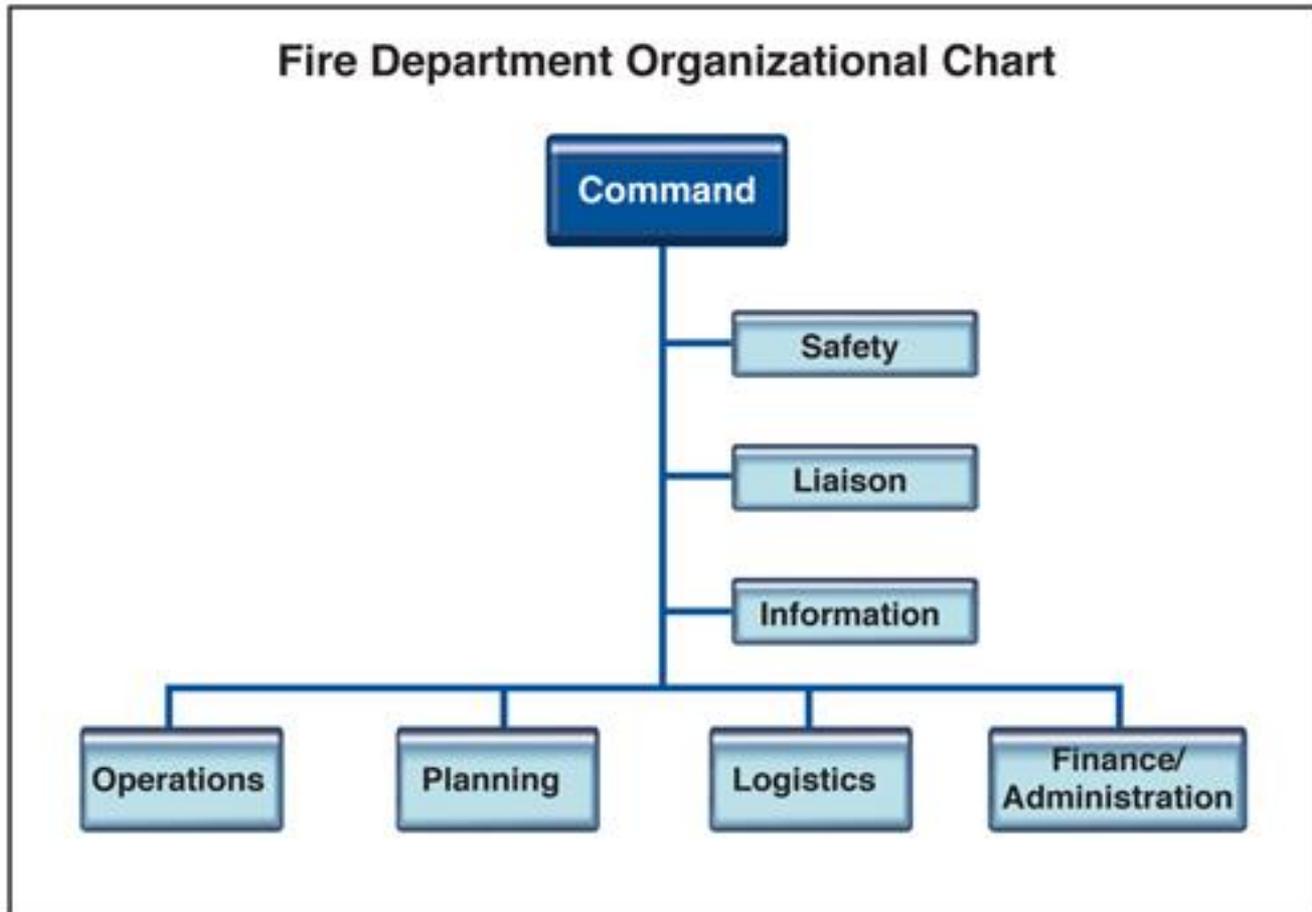
# DISCUSSION QUESTION

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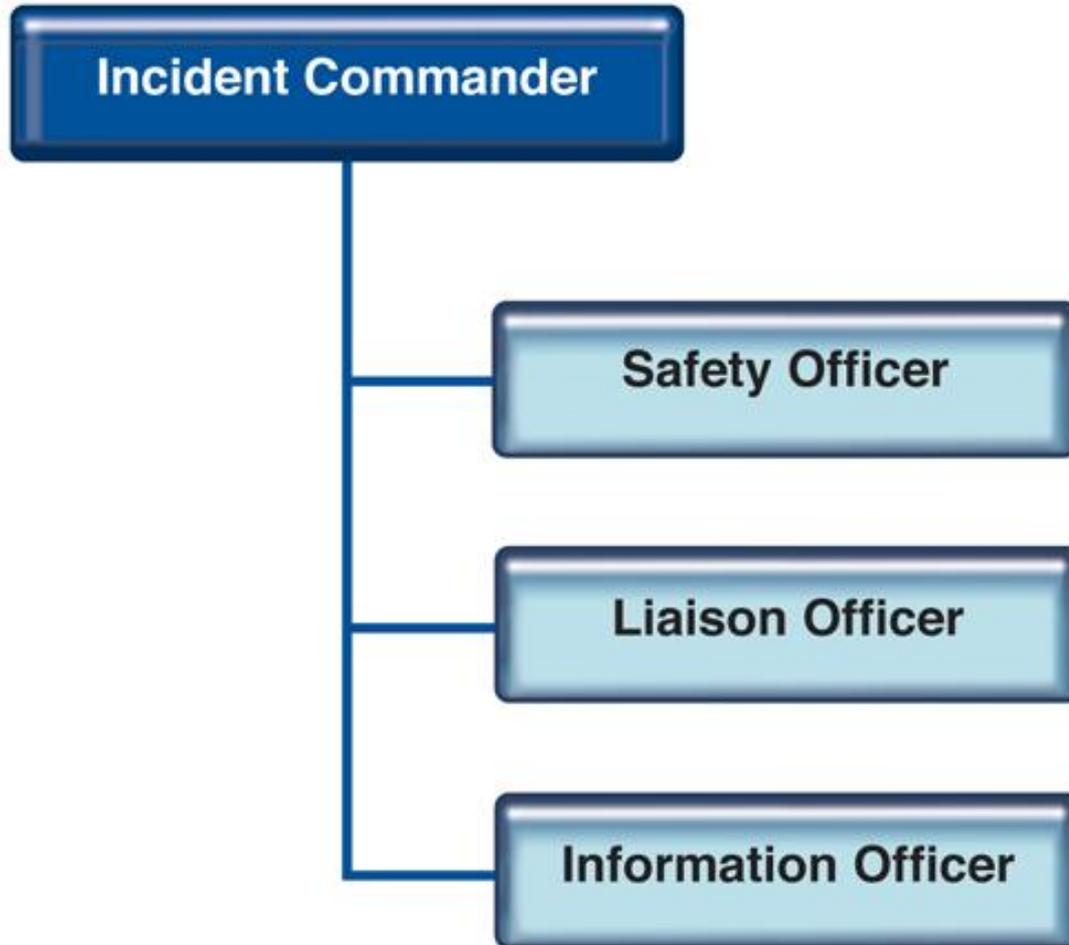


What is the advantage of using an incident command system?

# Incident Command System



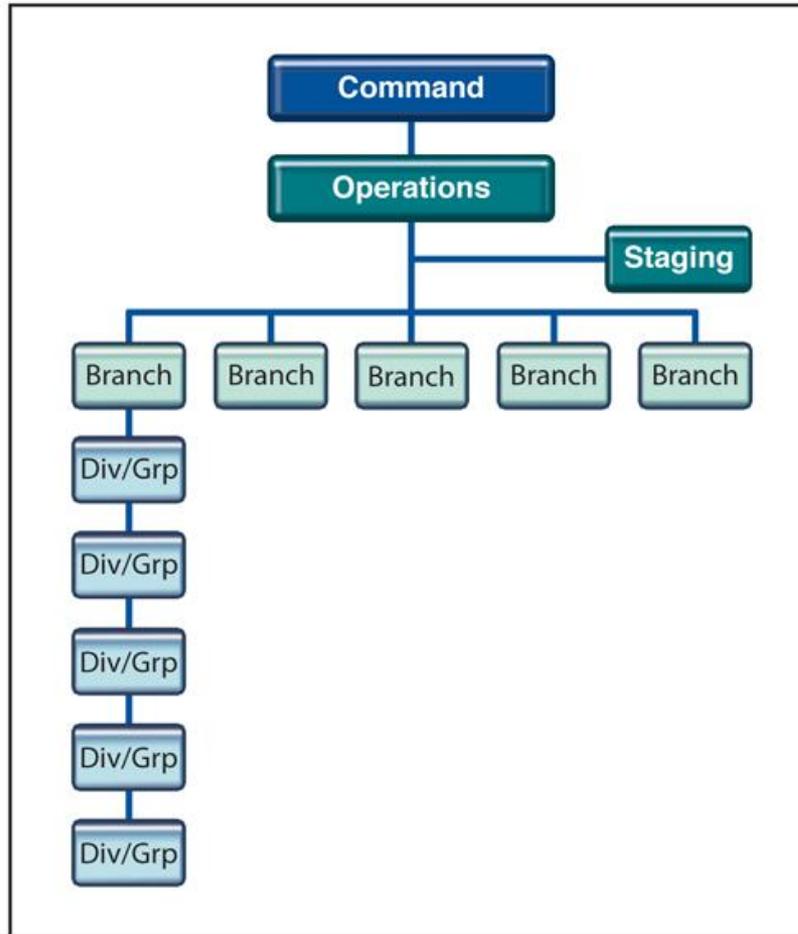
# ICS Subdivisions: Command



Firefighter I  
1-57



# ICS Subdivisions: Operations Section

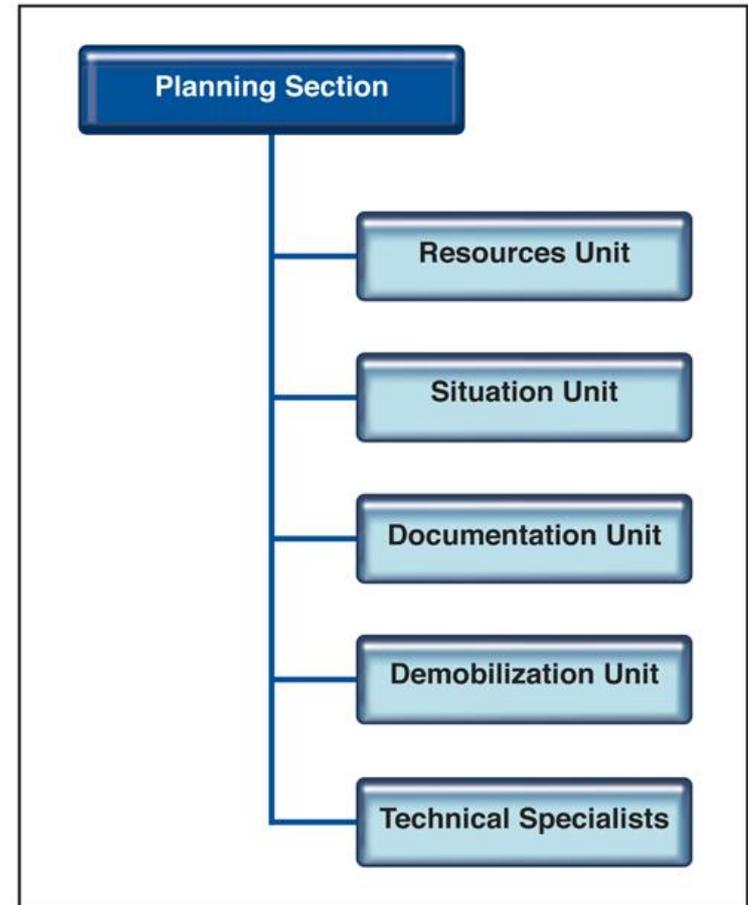


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1-58**

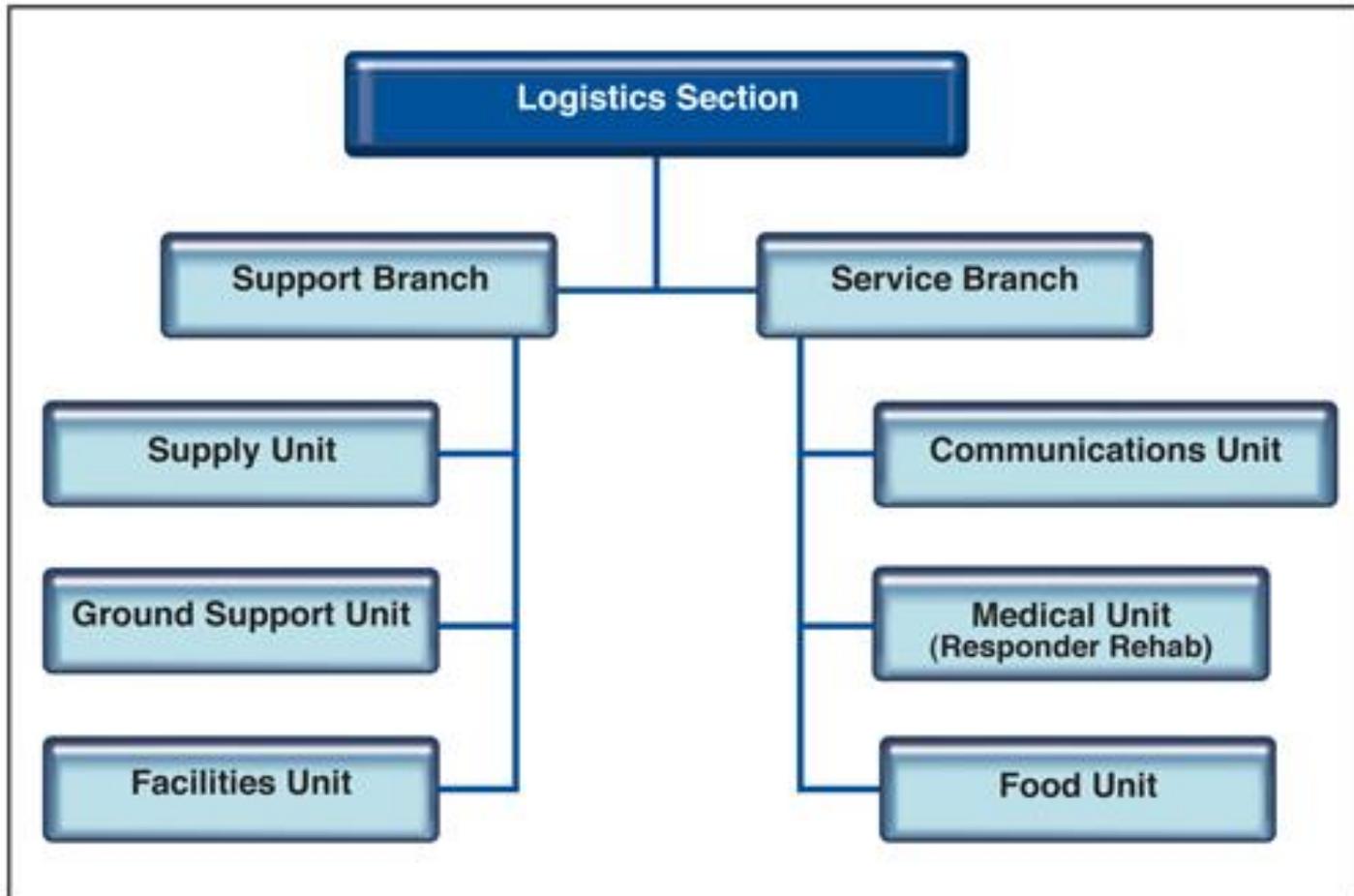


# ICS Subdivisions: Planning Section

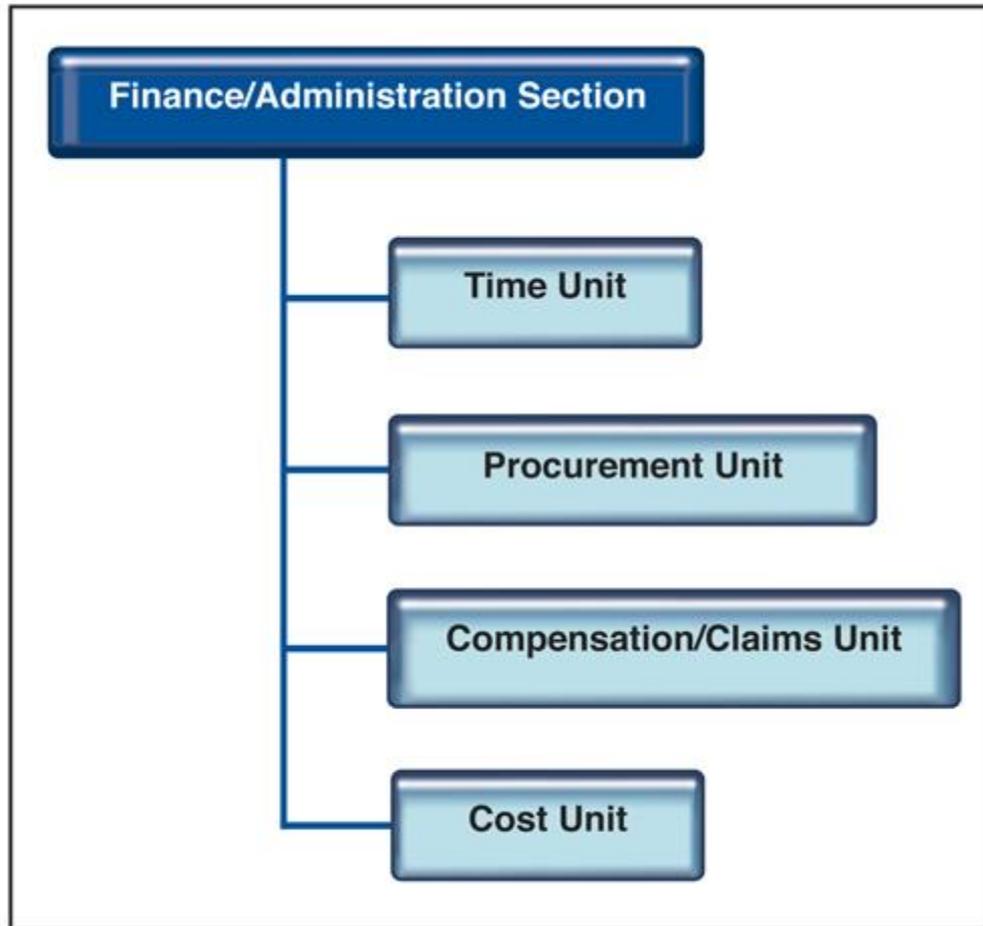
- **Planning Section Chief** — Responsible for the collection, documentation, evaluation, and dissemination of information



# ICS Subdivisions: Logistics Section



# ICS Subdivisions: Finance/Administration Section



**Firefighter I  
1-61**



# ICS Subdivisions: Information/Intelligence Function

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- **Information/Intelligence Function**  
— Responsible for analyzing and sharing incident information

# ICS Terms

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- **Assigned** — Resources currently committed
- **Available** — Resources checked-in and not assigned
- **Branch** — Organizational level between Divisions/Groups and the IC and operations

*(Continued)*

# ICS Terms

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- **Command** — Function of directing, ordering, and controlling resources
- **Command Post** — Location from which all incident operations are directed
- **Division** — A geographic designation assigning responsibility for all operations within a defined area

*(Continued)*

# ICS Terms

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- **Group** — A functional designation
- **Incident Action Plan (IAP)** — Written or unwritten plan for managing the emergency
- **Incident Commander (IC)** — Officer in overall charge of the incident

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# ICS Terms

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- **Out-of-service** — Resources not available
- **Resources** — All personnel and major pieces of apparatus on scene or en route

*(Continued)*

# ICS Terms

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- **Resource Status** — Resources are in one of three status modes:
  - Available
  - Assigned
  - Out-of-service

*(Continued)*

# ICS Terms

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- **Single Resource** — Individual personnel and equipment teams
- **Strike Team** — Set number of resources of the same kind and type
- **Strategic Mode** — Determines positions for companies: offensive and defensive

*(Continued)*

# ICS Terms

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- **Supervisor** — Someone in command of a division or a group
- **Task Force** — Any combination of resources assembled in support of a specific mission

# Interaction With Emergency Medical Services

- If fire department personnel do not provide EMS or medical transportation, they should develop a relationship with those who do
- Firefighters must have appropriate level of first-aid training



# Interaction With Hospitals

- May operate ambulances and provide EMS; usually do not
- Hospital personnel may be called to an emergency scene
  - Mass casualty incidents
  - Advanced life support
  - Serious entrapment



# Interaction With Law Enforcement

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- Law enforcement and fire personnel must understand each other's roles and priorities
- Law enforcement may be present at fire scene
- Firefighters may assist law enforcement

# Interaction With Utility Companies

- Many incidents involve utility providers (electricity, natural gas, and water) so fire personnel must have a good working relationship



*(Continued)*

# Interaction With Utility Companies

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- Fire units must coordinate with utilities on mutual responses
- May have specially trained and equipped emergency response teams

# Interaction With Media

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- NIMS-ICS includes a Public Information Officer for dealing with the media
- Students should not make comments or express opinions; refer to PIO
- Can play an important role in delivery of news based on an incident

# DISCUSSION QUESTION

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How do you view the media when they are covering incidents?

# Interaction With Other Agencies

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- Any possible contacts should be identified and a relationship established  
**Examples:** Public health departments, coroner/medical examiner's officers, EPA

# Summary

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- The fire service has a long and proud history of protecting communities. Today's fire service often performs functions such as emergency medical services, technical rescues, and hazardous materials mitigation.

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# Summary

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- Firefighters must have certain aptitudes and capabilities. The job of firefighter required dedication and hard work but it is also rewarding.

# Review Questions

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1. What are four categories of fire service members?
2. What are two necessary characteristics and behaviors of firefighters?
3. What is the mission of the fire service?

*(Continued)*

# Review Questions

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4. What is unity of command?
5. Name two fire companies and their functions.
6. Name three fire service personnel and describe their functions.
7. What are Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)?

*(Continued)*

# Review Questions

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8. What are the major subdivisions within the ICS structure?
9. Define the following ICS terms: Command, Group, Strike Team, and Supervisor.
10. Name two organizations that fire service personnel may interact with.