

Appendix F Indicators of Incident Complexity

Common indicators may include the area (location) involved; threat to life, environment and property; political sensitivity, organizational complexity, jurisdictional boundaries, values at risk, and weather. Most indicators are common to all incidents, but some may be unique to a particular type of incident. The following are common contributing indicators for each of the five complexity types.

Type 5 Incident Complexity Indicators

| General Indicators | Span of Control Indicators |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Incident is typically terminated or concluded (objective met) within a short time once resources arrive on scene. ● For incidents managed for resource objectives, minimal staffing/oversight is required. ● Resources vary from two to six firefighters. ● Formal Incident Planning Process not needed. ● Written Incident Action Plan (IAP) not needed. ● Minimal effects to population immediately surrounding the incident. ● Critical Infrastructure, or Key Resources, not adversely affected. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Incident Commander (IC) position filled ● Single resources are directly supervised by the IC ● Command Staff or General Staff positions not needed to reduce workload or span of control |

Type 4 Incident Complexity Indicators

| General Indicators | Span of Control Indicators |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Incident objectives are typically met within one operational period once resources arrive on scene, but resources may remain on scene for multiple operational periods ● Multiple resources may be needed ● Resources may require limited logistical support ● Formal Incident Planning Process not needed ● Written Incident Action Plan (IAP) not needed ● Limited effects to population surrounding incident ● Critical Infrastructure or Key Resources may be adversely affected, but mitigation measures are uncomplicated and can be implemented within one Operational Period ● Elected and appointed governing officials, stakeholder groups, and political organizations require little or no interaction | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● IC role filled ● Resources either directly supervised by the IC or supervised through an ICS Leader position ● Task Forces or Strike Teams may be used to reduce span of control to an acceptable level ● Command Staff positions normally not filled to reduce workload or span of control ● General Staff position(s) normally not filled to reduce workload or span of control |

Type 3 Incident Complexity Indicators

| General Indicators | Span of Control Indicators |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incident typically extends into multiple operational periods • Incident objectives usually not met within the first or second operational period • Resources may need to remain at scene for multiple operational periods, requiring logistical support • Numerous kinds and types of resources may be required • Formal Incident Planning Process is initiated and followed • Written Incident Action Plan (IAP) needed for each Operational Period • Responders may range up to 200 total personnel • Incident may require an Incident Base to provide support • Population surrounding incident affected • Critical Infrastructure or Key Resources may be adversely affected and actions to mitigate effects may extend into multiple Operational Periods • Elected and appointed governing officials, stakeholder groups, and political organizations require some level of interaction | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IC role filled • Numerous resources supervised indirectly through the establishment and expansion of the Operations Section and its subordinate positions • Division Supervisors, Group Supervisors, Task Forces, and Strike Teams used to reduce span of control to an acceptable level • Command Staff positions may be filled to reduce workload or span of control • General Staff position(s) may be filled to reduce workload or span of control • ICS functional units may need to be filled to reduce workload |

Type 2 Incident Complexity Indicators

| General Indicators | Span of Control Indicators |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incident displays moderate resistance to stabilization or mitigation and will extend into multiple operational periods covering several days • Incident objectives usually not met within the first several Operational Periods • Resources may need to remain at scene for up to 7 days and require complete logistical support • Numerous kinds and types of resources may be required including many that will trigger a formal demobilization process • Formal Incident Planning Process is initiated and followed • Written Incident Action Plan (IAP) needed for each Operational Period • Responders may range from 200 to 500 total • Incident requires an Incident Base and several other ICS facilities to provide support • Population surrounding general incident area affected • Critical Infrastructure or Key Resources may be adversely affected, or possibly destroyed, and actions to mitigate effects may extend into multiple Operational Periods and require considerable coordination • Elected and appointed governing officials, stakeholder groups, and political organizations require a moderate level of interaction | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IC role filled • Large numbers of resources supervised indirectly through the expansion of the Operations Section and its subordinate positions • Branch Director position(s) may be filled for organizational or span of control purposes • Division Supervisors, Group Supervisors, Task Forces, and Strike Teams used to reduce span of control • All Command Staff positions filled • All General Staff positions filled • Most ICS functional units filled to reduce workload |

Type 1 Incident Complexity Indicators

| General Indicators | Span of Control Indicators |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Incident displays high resistance to stabilization or mitigation and will extend into numerous operational periods covering several days to several weeks. ● Incident objectives usually not met within the first several Operational Periods. ● Resources may need to remain at scene for up to 14 days, require complete logistical support, and several possible personnel replacements. ● Numerous kinds and types of resources may be required, including many that will trigger a formal demobilization process. ● DOD assets, or other nontraditional agencies, may be involved in the response, requiring close coordination and support. ● Complex aviation operations involving multiple aircraft may be involved. ● Formal Incident Planning Process is initiated and followed. ● Written Incident Action Plan (IAP) needed for each Operational Period. ● Responders may range from 500 to several thousand total. ● Incident requires an Incident Base and numerous other ICS facilities to provide support. ● Population surrounding the region or state where the incident occurred is affected. ● Numerous Critical Infrastructure or Key Resources adversely affected or destroyed. Actions to mitigate effects will extend into multiple Operational Periods spanning days or weeks and require long-term planning and considerable coordination. ● Elected and appointed governing officials, stakeholder groups, and political organizations require a high level of interaction. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● IC role filled ● Large numbers of resources supervised indirectly through the expansion of the Operations Section and its subordinate positions ● Branch Director Position(s) may be filled for organizational or span of control purposes ● Division Supervisors, Group Supervisors, Task Forces, and Strike Teams used to reduce span of control ● All Command Staff positions filled and many include assistants ● All General Staff positions filled and many include deputy positions ● Most or all ICS functional units filled to reduce workload |

The RCA is also available at <https://www.nwccg.gov/?q=publications/210>.