Type 1
Incident Management Teams

US Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Advantages of Pre-Established Teams

- Local “teams” and first responders often become “victims” of large disasters.
- Standing teams have the advantage of experience based effectiveness and efficiencies.
- Standing teams maintain a “core knowledge” by ensuring that no more than a 20% turnover of team members per year.
- Rapid mobilization through “one call”.


Advantages of Pre-Established Teams (cont.)

- Pre-established Teams ensures availability when the need exists.
- Background of diversity and experiences in incident management leads to knowledge – knowledge leads to wisdom – wisdom leads to the ability to anticipate and meet the needs of the Responsible Official, those affected, and the public.
- Ability to meet “Commander’s Intent”.
- Development of teamwork through years of experiences in working together on complex, challenging assignments.
There are currently 17 Type 1 teams in the US.

The teams are formed in Geographic Areas according to a number of factors:

- Availability of team members.
- Location to recurring disasters.
- Ability of the Geographic Area to support Type 1 Teams.
Functional Positions of Type 1 Teams

- Incident Commander
  - Incident Information
  - Liaison
  - Safety
  - Operations
  - Planning
  - Logistics
  - Finance/Administration
Type 1 Incident Management Teams

- Selection
- Mobilization
- Rotation
- Meetings
- Commitment
- Training/Qualifications
Team Selection

- Incident Commanders are selected by Geographical Area Committees.
- Incident Commanders select the Command and General Staff.
- Command and General Staff, in consultation with the IC, select positions under their area of responsibility.
Type 1 Teams have established rotation schedules at both the Geographic and the National level.

- **Geographic Area Rotation:**
  - Teams are usually on 24/7 24 hr. standby for two week periods.
  - Geographic Area can assign up to two Type 1 Teams from their Area without using the National rotation.
Team Rotation

- **National Rotation:**
  - Each Team is on a 24/7 standby for a two hour mobilization one week out of every 16 weeks.
  - The Geographic Areas with more than one team will determine the “eligible” team that responds to a National call.
  - Goal is to provide a minimum of two assignments per team per year.
Team Mobilization

- The established timeframe for a Team to mobilize to an incident is 2 hours.
- It is the responsibility of the Command and General Staff to ensure that all of their staff is available and prepared to respond.
  - If a team member is unavailable:
    - The team member finds a qualified replacement, OR
    - A replacement is ordered


Team Meetings

- Once the teams have been selected they are *required* to have at least one Pre-incident meeting annually.
- Post-incident meetings occur after each assignment.
- The meetings are important for developing and improving team work, communication, and overall incident management.
Team Meeting Objectives

- Pre-Incident
  - Establish team expectations.
  - Develop relationships both within the functional group and with the rest of the team.
  - Develop/revise team handbooks.
  - Develop inter-functional working agreements.
  - Define mobilization procedures.
  - Gain knowledge of changes in policy or regulations that affect incident management.
Team Meeting Objectives (continued)

- **Post-incident meetings**
  - Improve team effectiveness.
  - Focus on lessons learned from the assignment - what “Went Well” and “Areas to Improve” performance.
  - Recognize and award outstanding performances.
Team Commitment

- Team members commit, with their supervisors approval, to a tenure of three-five years.

- Commitment to an Incident Management Team includes:
  - A commitment to being available 24/7 during periods when the team is on call in the GA and or Nationally.
  - Being prepared for a possible dispatch 24/7 365 days a year (tempered by the potential for a disaster to occur).
Training

- Training to standard qualifications for each functional position is required:
  - Requirements are rigorous for Command and General Staff (25-30 years to become a Type 1 IC).

- Geographic Areas provide class-room required functional training.

- Teams provide opportunities for On-The-Job training during incidents.
Team “Esprit de Corps”

- Type 1 teams are recognized as the *elite* for disaster management.
- Type 1 teams consist of the highest qualified and most experienced individuals available for disaster assignment.
- It is considered an *honor* to be selected for a Type 1 team.
- Membership assists in upward mobility for future placement.
QUESTIONS?