

WHAT IS...

An Incident?

FIRE FACT SHEET

The Incident Command System (ICS) is used to manage people and resources during several types of incidents, including rescues, hurricanes, and other types of disasters – including wildland fires. The ICS is flexible, scaling up or down as an incident's complexity changes and the needs of the incident changes. Type 5 is the least complex, while Type 1 is the most complex.

Below is a brief summary of terms and their characteristics.

Type 5 Incident

- » Initial attack
- » Short duration, seldom lasting into the next burn period
- » Few resources assigned (generally fewer than 6 people)
- » Little complexity

Type 4 Incident

- » Initial attack or first response to an incident
- » IC is “hands on” leader and performs all functions of Operations, Logistics, Planning, and Finance
- » Few resources are used (several individuals or a single strike team)
- » Normally limited to one operational period
- » Does not require a written Incident Action Plan (IAP)
- » Examples: Search & Rescue (SAR), motor vehicle accidents, small fires

Type 3 Incident

- » Extended initial attack on wildland fires
- » IC walks the line between a manager and a “doer”
- » Resources may vary from several single resources to several task forces or strike teams
- » Some Command/General Staff positions (ie, Division Supervisor, Unit Leader), may be filled

- » May extend into another operational period (12 hours), and require an IAP
- » Examples: Larger SAR's, law enforcement incidents, special events, technical rescues, fires

Type 2 Incident

- » IC spends all time being a manager
- » Most Command and General staff positions are filled
- » Large number of resources utilized
- » Incident extends into multiple operational periods
- » Base camp(s) established
- » Significant logistical support is required
- » Examples: Major fires, VIP visits, lengthy search and rescues, law enforcement incidents, multi-day special events

Type 1 Incident

- » All functions are filled, plus leaders, branches, etc.
- » Multi-agency and national resources
- » Large number of personnel and equipment are assigned to the incident
- » It is a large, complex incident
- » LANL supports and participates in interagency teams at both national and geographical area levels
- » Examples: A major Incident—hurricanes, very large fires, natural disasters

For more information:

LANL Fire Wildfire Management Planning Website: <http://www.LANLWildlandfire.com>