

Deployment

- *200 to thousands of personnel
- *36-hour set-up period

- *Up to a fifth alarm (150 firefighters)
- *Four-minute response time

Assume, Confirm & Position Command

- *Static, dedicated IMTs
- *IMTs operate in a command post *in the box* (inside a building or tent remote from incident)

- *First company officer to at the scene establishes command and operate as a mobile IC and leads the initial attack
- *One command transfer to a strategically positioned IC

Situation Evaluation

- *Wide area incident scene can be spread over miles
- *Situation evaluation is performed by planning section and is strategic (big picture) in nature
- *Strategy and tactics are division-level activities

- *Incident scene typically includes single structure
- *Situation evaluation performed by the IC and via CAN reports

Communications

- *Multiple radio channels
- *Detailed communications plan is an element of each IAP

- *Single radio channel for all personnel operating in IDLH
- *No good news reporting = radio discipline

Strategy & IAP

- *Tactics is not an element of NIMS IAPs
- *Written IAP for each operational period
- *Each operational period begins with a review of that day's or operational period's IAP

- *IC identifies and manages the overall incident strategy as a strategic firefighter safety requirement.
- *IC transmits the strategy and IAP over the tactical radio channel (no written IAP)

Organization

- *Huge organization—more than 150 positions within a fully expanded NIMS operation
- *Both geographic and functional (Divisions & Groups)
- *Typically includes large logistics & aircraft wings

- *Organization is built around the attack positions
- *Tactical bosses are required in any position requiring three or more companies
- *No groups in IDLH (cannot track)

Evaluate, Review & Revise

- *IMT uses situation and resources status to review and revise the IAP
- *NIMS ops focus on the big picture—any IDLH operation is managed at the division level

- *IC uses Strategic Decision-Making model to determine strategy and IAP and to review and revise
- *IC confirms visual factors against CAN reports

Continue, Transfer, Escalate & Terminate Command

- *Operational periods are 12 or 24 hours (Most NIMS ops don't occur in an IDLH)
- *Most NIMS ops last days or weeks
- *The IMT is rotated every two weeks

- *Operational periods are approximately 15 minutes (amount of air in SCBA)
- *Most Blue Card ops last less than one hour
- *Only one command transfer—from the mobile IC to one operating in a strategic position (inside vehicle CP)