

Lake County Fire Service Standard Operating Guidelines

Unified Command	SOG: 008 Effective Date: April 1, 2011 Supersedes: Approved: <hr/> President, Lake County Association of Chiefs of Fire Page 1 of 4
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1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 Command is responsible for overall management of the incident. Command also includes certain staff functions. The Command function within the Incident Management System (IMS) may be conducted in two general ways:

- Single Command
- Unified Command

1.2 To provide guidelines for the use of single and unified commands.

2.0 DIVISIONS AFFECTED

2.1 All Fire Department personnel.

2.2 Other agencies, which may participate in a Unified Command organization.

3.0 RESPONSIBILITY

3.1 All Officers are responsible to comply with and ensure that personnel under their command are adequately trained, fully understand, and comply with this guideline.

3.2 All members have the responsibility to learn and follow this guideline.

3.3 The Incident Commander is responsible for overall management of the emergency incident and for developing a single or unified command structure.

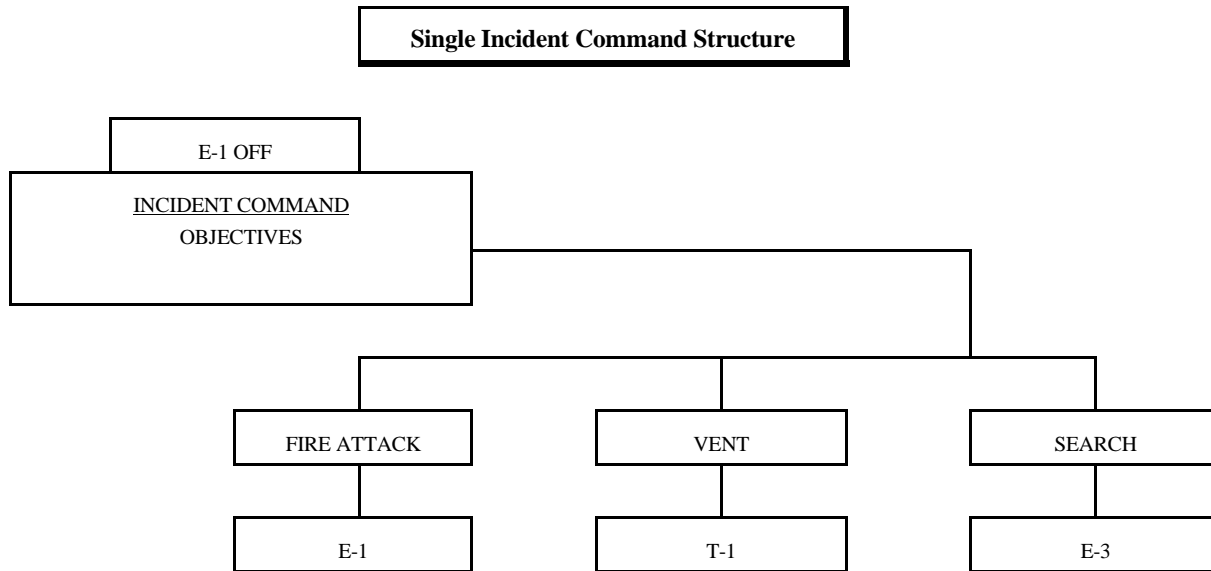
4.0 SINGLE COMMAND — INCIDENT COMMANDER

4.1 Within a jurisdiction in which an incident occurs, and when there is no overlap of jurisdictional boundaries involved, a single Incident Commander will be designated by the jurisdictional agency to have overall management responsibility for the incident.

4.2 The Incident Commander will prepare incident objectives which in turn that will be the foundation upon which subsequent action planning will be based. The Incident Commander will approve the final Incident Action Plan, (IAP) and approve all requests for ordering and releasing primary resources. The Incident Commander may have a Deputy. The Deputy should have the same qualifications as the Incident Commander, and may work directly with the Incident Commander, be a relief, or perform certain specific assigned tasks. Upon the arrival of mutual aid command

level officers, a Command Team, consisting of a Senior Advisor and a Support Officer, should be established. These positions, in effect, are Deputy Incident Commander roles/positions.

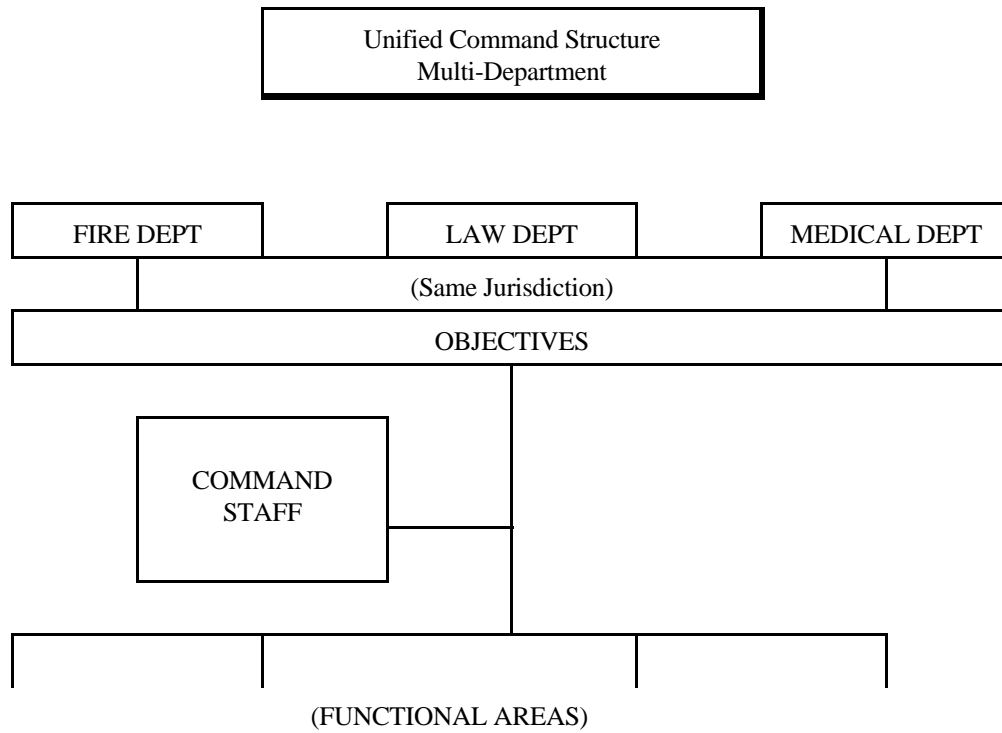
- 4.3 In an incident within a single jurisdiction, where the nature of the incident is primarily a responsibility of one agency; e.g., fire, the deputy may be from the same agency. In a multi-jurisdictional incident, or one that threatens to be multi-jurisdictional, the deputy role may be filled by an individual designated by the adjacent agency. More than one deputy could be involved. Another way of organizing to meet multi-jurisdictional situations is described under Unified Command. The figure below depicts an incident with Single Incident Command authority.



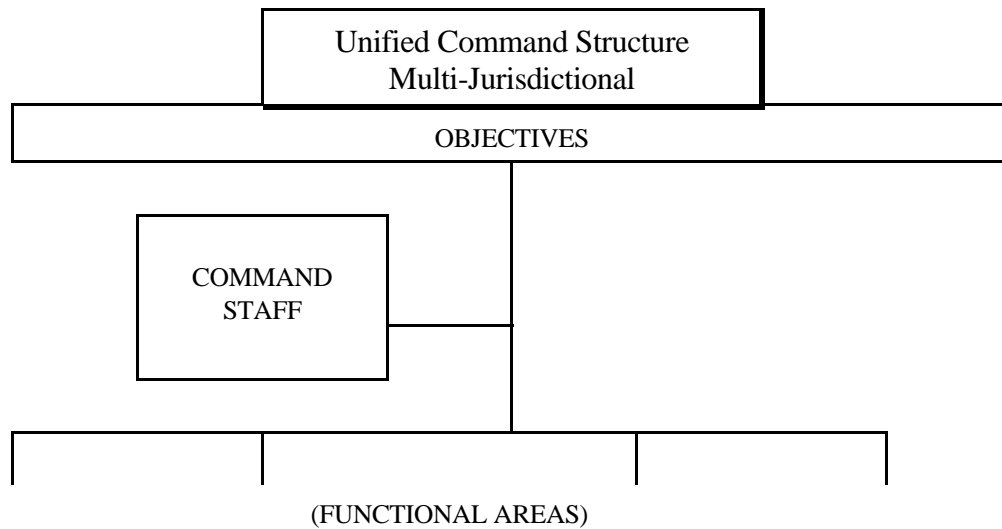
5.0 UNIFIED COMMAND

- 5.1 A Unified Command structure is called for under the following conditions:

- A. The incident is totally contained within the single jurisdiction, but more than one department or agency shares management responsibility due to the nature of the incident or the kinds of resources required; i.e., terrorist bombing with fire and injuries. Fire, medical, and law enforcement all have immediate but diverse objectives. An example of this kind of Unified Command structure is depicted below.



- B. The incident is multi-jurisdictional in nature; i.e., major hazardous materials spill. An example of this Unified Command structure is shown below.



6.0 SINGLE/UNIFIED COMMAND DIFFERENCES

- 6.1 The primary differences between the Single and Unified Command structures are:

- A. In a Single Command structure, a single Incident Commander is solely responsible, within the confines of their authority, to establish objectives and overall management strategy associated with the incident. The Incident Commander is directly responsible for follow-through, to ensure that all

functional area actions are directed toward accomplishment of the strategy. The implementation of planning required to effect operational control will be the responsibility of a single individual (Operations Section Chief) who will report directly to the Incident Commander, if Operations is established.

- B. In a Unified Command structure, the individuals designated by their jurisdictions, or by departments within a single jurisdiction, must jointly determine objectives, strategy, and priorities. The Operations Section Chief will have responsibility for implementation of the plan. The determination of which agency or department the Operations Section Chief represents must be made by mutual agreement of the Unified Command. It may be done on the basis of greatest jurisdictional involvement, number of resources involved, by existing statutory authority, or by mutual knowledge of the individual's qualifications.