



GISS Position ICS & ICP

In this presentation we will discuss the Geographic Information Systems Specialist (GISS) position, the Incident Command System and the Incident Command Post

Lesson Objectives

- **GISS Position Overview**
- **ICS Structure/ICP Organization**



Objectives for this lesson include

A brief overview of the GISS incident position

The ICS organization and where the GISS fits into ICP or camp structure

ICS Position Requirements

- The GISS position was approved by *National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG)* starting in 2006
- There are three components for an approved ICS position :
 - NIMS Wildland Fire Qualifications System Guide (PMS 310-1)
 - NWCG Position Task Book (PTB)
 - NWCG Training Course (S-341)
- Full qualification is based upon real performance measured on the job

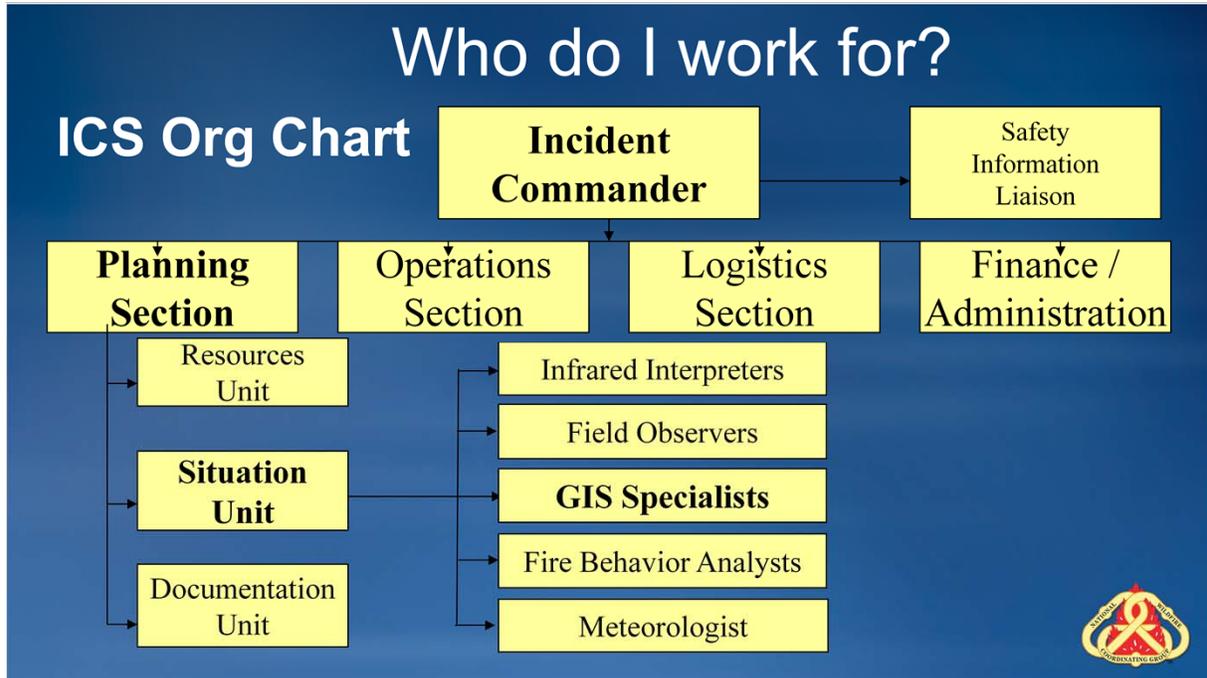


The GISS position is an official NWCG ICS position.

The National Incident Management System, NIMS, Wildland fire qualifications system guide 310-1 provides guidance on the required training, additional training which supports development of knowledge and skills needed, and prerequisite experience for all ICS positions. For the GISS the required training is the Introduction to ICS (ICS-100) and NIMS: An Introduction (IS-700).

A task book outlines the basic tasks of the position. Each task is then signed off by a person qualified for that position. While completing a task book you are considered a trainee. Once your task book is fully signed off (certified) you are then qualified in the position. In general it takes a *minimum* of two assignments to complete the Position Task Book and get signed off.

The NWCG philosophy is that the training should be based on the task book and the NWCG Training Course, GIS Specialist for Incident Management, S-341 is based on the GISS PTB. S-341 is listed in 310-1 not as required training but as “other” training for knowledge and skills development. But this is NWCG guidance and agency guidance may be different. S-341 is required for USFS and CAL FIRE employees to become fully qualified as a GISS.



Who do you work for? The GISS position is in the Situation Unit of the Planning Section, run by a Planning Section Chief.

The Planning Section is Responsible for the collection, evaluation, and dissemination of information related to the incident, and for the preparation and documentation of Incident Action Plans. The Section also maintains information on the current and forecasted situation, and on the status of resources assigned to the incident. Planning section includes the Situation, Resources, Documentation, and Demobilization Units, as well as a variety of Technical Specialists

The GIS Specialist's supervisor at the incident command post (ICP) is the situation unit leader (SITL). He or she is the person to report to. He or she is your buffer to map requests – all requests go through the SITL. The SITL directs your work and your priorities. The SITL is the person who handles

most final decision making for you and can answer your questions and address your needs and concerns. The SITL signs your time sheet.

The Situation Unit Leader

- Coordinates with GISS on products and the contents of those products.
- Liaisons between GISS and other's to coordinate workload.
- Manages all the other members of the Situation Unit.
- Reports to the Planning Section Chief



In summary, the Situation Unit Leader...

Decides what products will be produced. Many SITL's are not GISS. They will coordinate products and contents with GISS to ensure schedules are met and the workload is not to overwhelming

Manages all GISS assignments.

Manages all the other members of the Situation Unit.

The Situation Unit

- **Other members of the Situation Unit:**
 - **Field Observers (FOBS)**
 - **Infrared Interpreters (IRIN)**
 - **Fire Behavior Analysts (FBAN)**
 - **Incident Meteorologists (IMET)**
 - **Display Processors (DPRO)**



All of these positions are your teammates on the fire.

FOBS bring in the most field information to the Situation Unit. FOBS will bring in data on GPS units and mobile devices that will need to be processed and download.

IRINs interpret the Infrared flight data. Some IRINs utilize GIS during the interpretation process and deliver digital interpretations (usually shapefiles). Some IRINs will hand you paper interpretations and the SITL may want you to digitize the information. On occasion a GISS will work with the IRIN while they are interpreting, to create the digital interpretations. When using GIS IRINs' utilize digital orthophotos and topographic maps during their interpretations.

Fire Behavior Analysts and Long Term Analysts (LTANs) model fire behavior and provide intel for operations planning.

IMETs may provide incident information to you, such as remote access weather station (RAWS) locations.

DPROs may gather intelligence for the SITL, manually map the fire, or update the map displays or deliver maps for the SITL. The use of the DPRO position varies greatly by geographic area.

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To review the lesson, I went over

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The ICS organization and where the GISS fits into ICP or camp structure