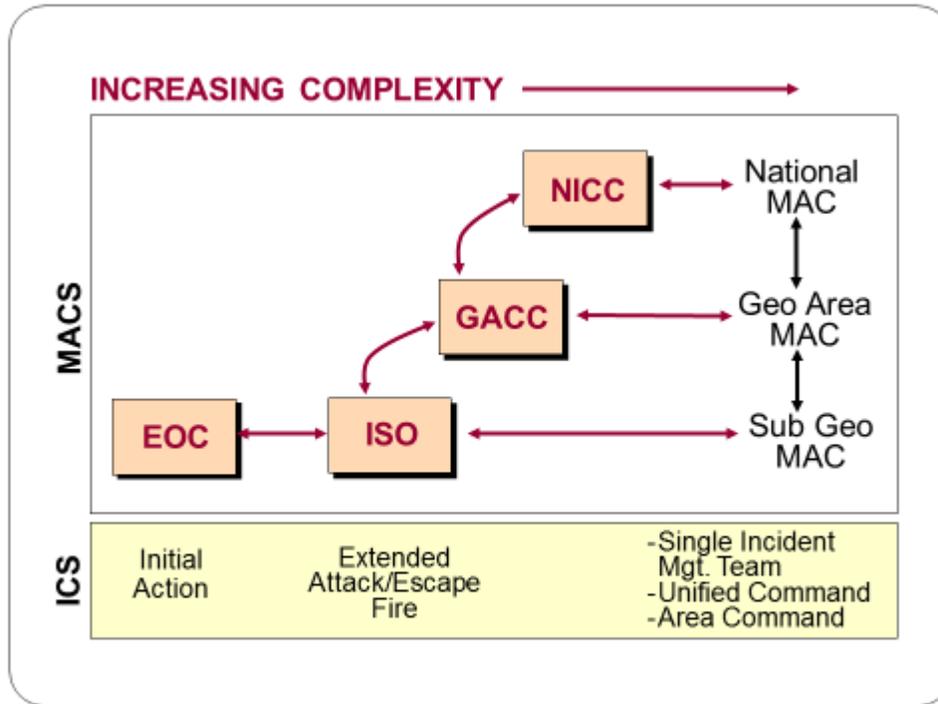


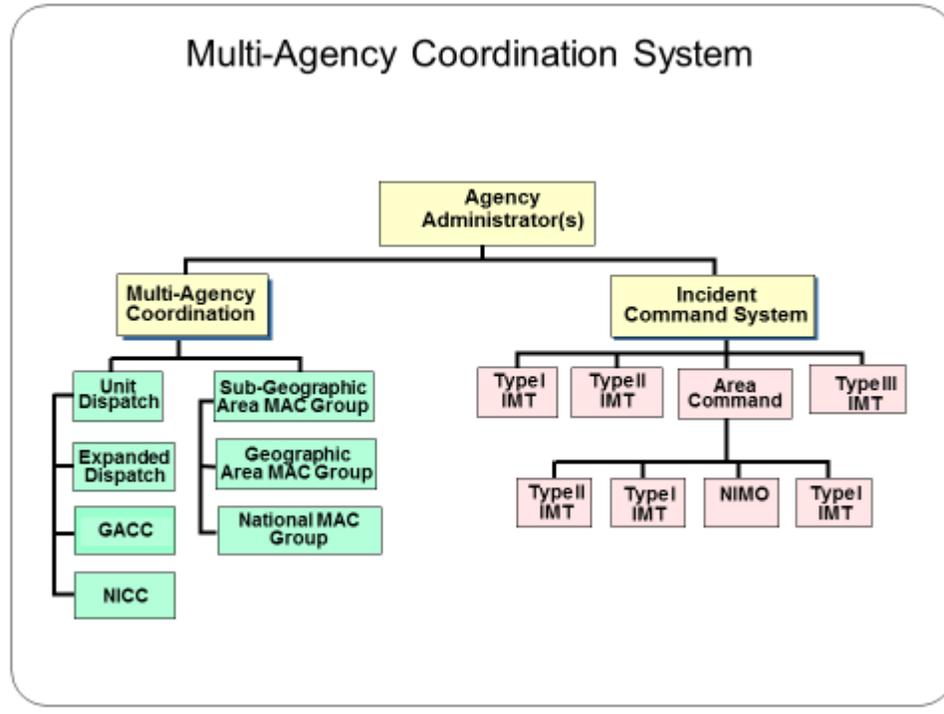
## Influence of Organizations



Initial action stays at the emergency operations center level (local dispatch)

When a fire is not caught during the initial action two possible outcomes can be realized.

- It is managed as an extended attack fire (T3). Most of the time these fires can be supported at the local level.
- If the complexity increases beyond a T3, incident complexity will dictate if it is a T2 or T1 incident. When the incident exceeds the capability of the normal dispatch organization the agency will put the incident support organization (ISO) in place. The ISO includes expanded dispatch.
- The ISO will go to the Geographic Area Coordination Center (GACC) to fill orders.
- If the GACC cannot fill the orders with resources within the geographic area, they will place the orders with the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC).



It is important to note that everything on the Multi Agency Coordination side is an off-site support function, and that everything on the Incident Command System side is an onsite command function.

### **EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (Unit Dispatch)**

As they relate to incident management, their priority is to provide support to initial attack and extended attack T3 fires.

When extended attack is not successful the home unit will set up an Expanded Dispatch to handle the support needs of the T3 incident that evolves into a T2 or T1.

There are instances where the home unit will delegate initial attack responsibility to the IMT that is in place. An initial attack zone for IMT responsibility will be identified, most logical will be within a few miles surrounding the IMT's delegated area of responsibility.

## **INCIDENT SUPPORT ORGANIZATION (ISO)**

The ISO is composed of functional branches: Expanded Dispatch, Technical Support, and Administrative Support. The functional branches coordinate and cooperate to support the host agency and the incident(s).

The ISO works for the Agency Administrator and is responsible for providing support to T1 and/or T2 incidents.

The Incident Support Organization is implemented to address increased business volume and to supplement established organizations.

The ISO works to provide logistical support to the host agency and the incident(s).

Staffing positions in an ISO are based on need rather than a preconceived organizational chart.

Orders from the IMT will be placed through Expanded Dispatch and will be filled by Expanded Dispatch; purchasing will be done by the buying team.

## **GEOGRAPHIC AREA COORDINATION CENTER (GACC)**

GACCs, as related to incident management, are responsible to provide support to unit dispatch centers and to establish Expanded Dispatch.

They are responsible for the collection of all ICS 209s and mapping products from incidents within their geographic areas.

They make daily “call arounds” to unit dispatch and incidents to secure the most up to date information on the incidents to provide current information for ongoing daily briefings.

Geographic areas will establish priorities for their incidents and wildland fires and report them to NICC. GACCs will notify NICC and adjoining GACCs of the commitment of national resources within their area, and will notify the local dispatch offices and the NICC of geographic area drawdown decisions and actions.

GACCs will coordinate and work with the geographic area MAC group, and will coordinate communication and resource requests to the national MAC group.

## **NATIONAL INTERAGENCY COORDINATION CENTER (NICC)**

NICC coordinates emergency response at a national level.

When competition for wildland fire resources occurs among geographic areas, the National Multi-Agency Coordination Group (NMAC) at NIFC will establish national priorities and confirm drawdown levels.

When requested, geographic areas will establish priorities for their incidents and wildland fires and report them to NICC.

In setting national priorities and drawdown levels, the following criteria are considered:

- Protecting communities and community infrastructure, other property and improvements, and natural and cultural resources.
- Maintaining initial action capability.
- Limiting costs without compromising safety.
- Meeting agency suppression objectives.
- Providing support to the National Response Framework (NRF) taskings.

## AREA COMMAND

Area Command is an expansion of the Incident Command function designed to manage a very large incident, or multiple incidents with multiple Incident Management Teams (IMTs) assigned.

Area Command provides intra-or-inter-incident command and coordination to highly complex incident management situations.

Direction to the Area Command is established through a delegation of authority from the Agency Administrator(s). If you are under an area command they will issue your team a delegation of authority.

A primary role of Area Command is to coordinate the determination and implementation of overall objectives and strategies for the incident(s) and to set priorities for the allocation of critical resources within the Area Command.

Other responsibilities include:

- Establishing overall strategy, objectives, and priorities for the incident(s) under its command.
- Allocating critical resources according to agency priorities.
- Ensuring that incidents are properly managed.
- Coordinating mobilization, team transitions, and demobilization.
- Supervising, managing, and evaluating Incident Management Teams under its command.
- Minimizing duplication of effort and optimize effectiveness by combining multiple agency efforts under a single Area or Geographic Theater Plan.

## **NATIONAL MULTI-AGENCY COORDINATION (NMAC)**

Multi-agency Coordination Groups (MAC Groups) are an expansion of the Incident Command System designed to coordinate between agencies and areas at high levels of wildland fire activity, when competition for resources is occurring. MAC Groups can be formed at zone, geographic area, or national levels. For agencies with fire protection jurisdiction, the MAC Group representative is normally the senior fire manager at that level. Through Delegations of Authority from their Agency Administrators, MAC Group representatives are authorized to commit agency funds and resources.

Functions of a MAC Group include assembling current situation reports, prioritizing incidents and allocating resources. MAC Group direction is carried out through expanded dispatch and coordination center organizations. MAC groups, Area Commands and IMTs may communicate directly via site visits, meetings and conference calls.

Typically, a MAC Group is activated when resource requests exceed or may exceed the number of available resources. Normally this will occur when a number of jurisdictions are involved; are heavily supporting an effort; and/or are significantly impacted by the commitment of local resources.

## **GEOGRAPHIC AREA MULTI-AGENCY COORDINATION (GMAC)**

Geographic area multi-agency coordination is overseen by GMAC Groups which are comprised of geographic area (state, region) lead administrators or fire managers from agencies that have jurisdictional or support responsibilities, or that may be significantly impacted by resource commitments. GMAC responsibilities include:

- Establish priorities for the geographic area.
- Provide strategic intent for the region.
- Acquire, allocate, and reallocate resources.
- Provide NMAC with National Ready Reserve (NRR) resources as required.
- Determine need for and designate mobilization and demobilization centers.
- Anticipate future resource needs and incident situation complexity.
- Issue coordinated and collective situation status reports.
- Conduct daily IC briefings
- May request additional information from teams to make the best decisions on incident prioritization.
- Sets daily regional strategic Intent.

## **SUB-GEOGRAPHIC MULTI-AGENCY COORDINATION**

- Establish priorities for the sub-geographic area.
- Acquire, allocate, and reallocate resources.
- Provide Geographic Area MAC with ready reserve resources as required.
- Issue coordinated and collective situation status reports.

## **PARTNERS THAT HAVE INFLUENCE AND HOW TO INCLUDE THEM**

Fire Departments: Depending on the size and scope, having them as part of the unified command may be appropriate (conflagration). They will need to be included in the planning process, will be in the Incident Action Plan, and will work closely with operations personnel. Having a liaison with small rural fire departments will facilitate coordination and provide local expertise/knowledge to the team.

Sheriff Department: Can be a huge asset to the team; having a local sheriff liaison will help with issues of evacuations, law enforcement and road closures, to name a few.

Local Utilities: Incidents can have an impact to local communities due to power and other utilities that may be unavailable. Having a utilities liaison is key to understanding and working through issues such as how to facilitate overall incident safety issues while trying to get local communities the utilities they need as soon as safe to do so.

Environmental Protection Agency: Depending on the size and scope, having them as part of the unified command may be appropriate, they can provide input to incident objectives that are achievable. Having a liaison may be appropriate where the environmental impact is on a smaller scale and where they can provide expertise/knowledge to the team.

OTHERS:

- County Commissioners
- Department of Highways
- Governor's Office
- Mayor's Office
- Red Cross
- Port Authority
- Etc.

Each assignment will be unique. Every MAC, Area Command and Incident Management team brings different personalities and methods of operation to an incident. Cooperation and coordination between all teams is essential to the safe and efficient accomplishment of the objectives established by the agency(s) for whom they are working.

Communicating on a daily basis, building a positive, respectful, and cooperative working relationship is the key to success.