

Welcome to the self-study Introductory  
Course of the:

Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS)  
and the  
National Incident Management System (NIMS)

**A project sponsored by  
Mountain-Valley EMS Agency.**

# Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- 1 List several elements for effective interagency emergency response.
- 2 Describe the major components of the Incident Command System.
- 3 List various levels of emergency response and management.
- 4 Describe activities involved in disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation.
- 5 Illustrate the major principles of SEMS and NIMS

# S.E.M.S. / N.I.M.S. Introductory Course

- The Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) and National Incident Management System are based upon a proven system which provides:
  - Organization
  - Guidance
  - Training at each level of the emergency response

# Basis for SEMS

- SEMS was developed in response to the 1991 Oakland Hills Fire, due to lack of standard response protocols among responding agencies in California
- The SEMS Regulations became effective in September 1994



# National Incident Management System

## Basis for NIMS

- Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 (HSPD-5):  
Management of Domestic Incidents:
  - Directed the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to develop and administer NIMS
  - Is applicable across all **jurisdictions** and **functions** to improve coordination and cooperation among responders
  - Requires all Federal departments and agencies to adopt NIMS

# Who Uses SEMS / NIMS

- All agencies must use SEMS / NIMS when responding to emergencies involving multiple jurisdictions or multiple agencies to be eligible for state / federal funding of preparedness and response related costs



# 5 Levels of Response

## SEMS Organizational Levels



# Field Response Level

- The level where emergency response personnel and resources carry out **tactical** decisions and activities in direct response to an incident or threat



# Local Government Level

- Cities, Counties, & Special Districts
- Local Governments manage and coordinate the overall emergency response and recovery within their jurisdictions

# Operational Area Level

- Intermediate level which includes the county and all political subdivisions
- Coordinates among local governments within the Operational Area
- Serves as the coordination and communication link between local governments and the region

# Regional Level

- Coordinates among operational areas within the region
- Coordinates between operational areas and the state
- Coordinates overall state agency support for emergency response activities within the region

# State Level

- Manages state resources in response to needs of other levels
- Coordinates mutual aid program
- Serves as coordination and communication with federal disaster response system

# Similarities between NIMS and SEMS

- Incident Management System
- Multi-agency coordination
- Mutual Aid
- EOP Features
- All Hazards



# NIMS : SEMS

✓ National Incident Management	✓ CA System – Incident to EOC
✓ After/Corrective Action	✓ After Action
✓ Resource Mgmt. System, includes Mutual Aid	✓ Master Mutual Aid
✓ Certs. & Quals.	✓ Some disciplines Certs/Quals
✓ ICS Instruction adding NIMS components	✓ ICS Based-SEMS Approved Course of Instruction

# Key Differences with SEMS

**NIMS**

- **ICS** - Separates Intelligence from Planning/Intelligence, some terms are slightly different
- **Corrective Actions** - More emphasis on corrective actions, mitigation and follow-up



# SEMS/NIMS Components

## **Major Components of SEMS/NIMS include:**

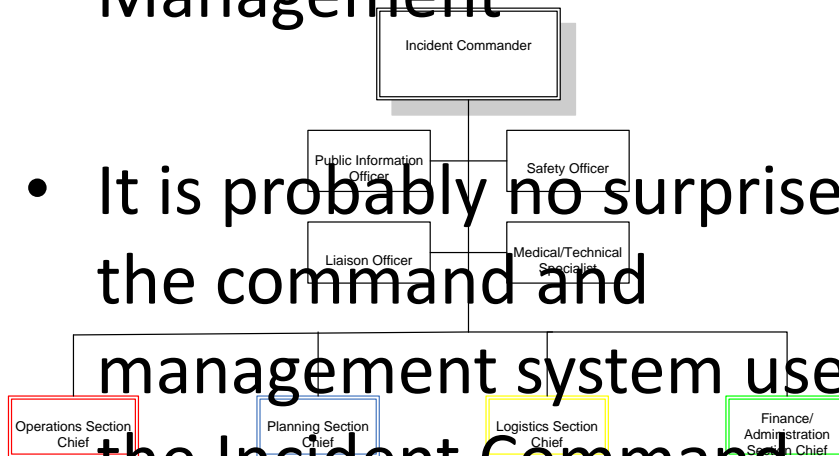
- Command and management**
- Preparedness**
- Resource management**
- Communications and information management**



# SEMS/NIMS Command & Management

- The first component of SEMS & NIMS is Command & Management

- It is probably no surprise that the command and management system used is the Incident Command System (ICS)



# SEMS/NIMS Command & Management

- In this section we will be reviewing:
  - Basic Principles of ICS
  - Span of Control
  - Role of the Incident Commander
  - Roles of the Command Staff & General Staff
  - Incident Facilities
  - Unified Command & Area Command
  - Multi-agency Coordination System
  - Joint Information System

# SEMS/NIMS Command & Management

## Incident Command System

- ICS is...
  - Modular and scalable  
You only activate the positions you need
  - Common terminology, standards and procedures  
ICS uses plain English and common titles, standards and procedures that facilitate communication and common procedures among responders

# SEMS/NIMS Command & Management

## Incident Command System

- ICS uses Measurable objectives and Incident Action Planning
- ICS is a proven incident management system based on organizational “best practices”

# SEMS/NIMS Command & Management

## Span of Control

- Span of Control is defined as:
  - The number of individuals or resources one supervisor can manage effectively
  - Is accomplished by organizing resources into Sections, Branches, Groups, Divisions and Teams
- Ideal span is 1:5 personnel per supervisor
  - Ratios may vary from 3 to 7 personnel/supervisor

# SEMS/NIMS Command & Management

## The Incident Commander

- ICS uses Measurable objectives and Incident Action Planning
- ICS is a proven incident management system based on organizational “best practices”

# SEMS/NIMS Command & Management

## The Incident Commander

- The IC is the one position **ALWAYS** activated
- The IC has overall responsibility for managing the overall incident
- The IC activates ICS positions and appoints staff, based upon the size and magnitude of the incident

# SEMS/NIMS Command & Management

## The Incident Commander

- The IC should be the most qualified and trained person, not appointed by rank, grade, or seniority
- The IC is responsible until the authority is delegated to another person
- The IC may appoint one or more deputies
- Formal transfer of command includes:
  - Command briefing for incoming IC
  - Notification to all personnel of the effective time and date of the change in command.
  - Demobilization of the out-going IC to avoid confusion.



# SEMS/NIMS Command & Management

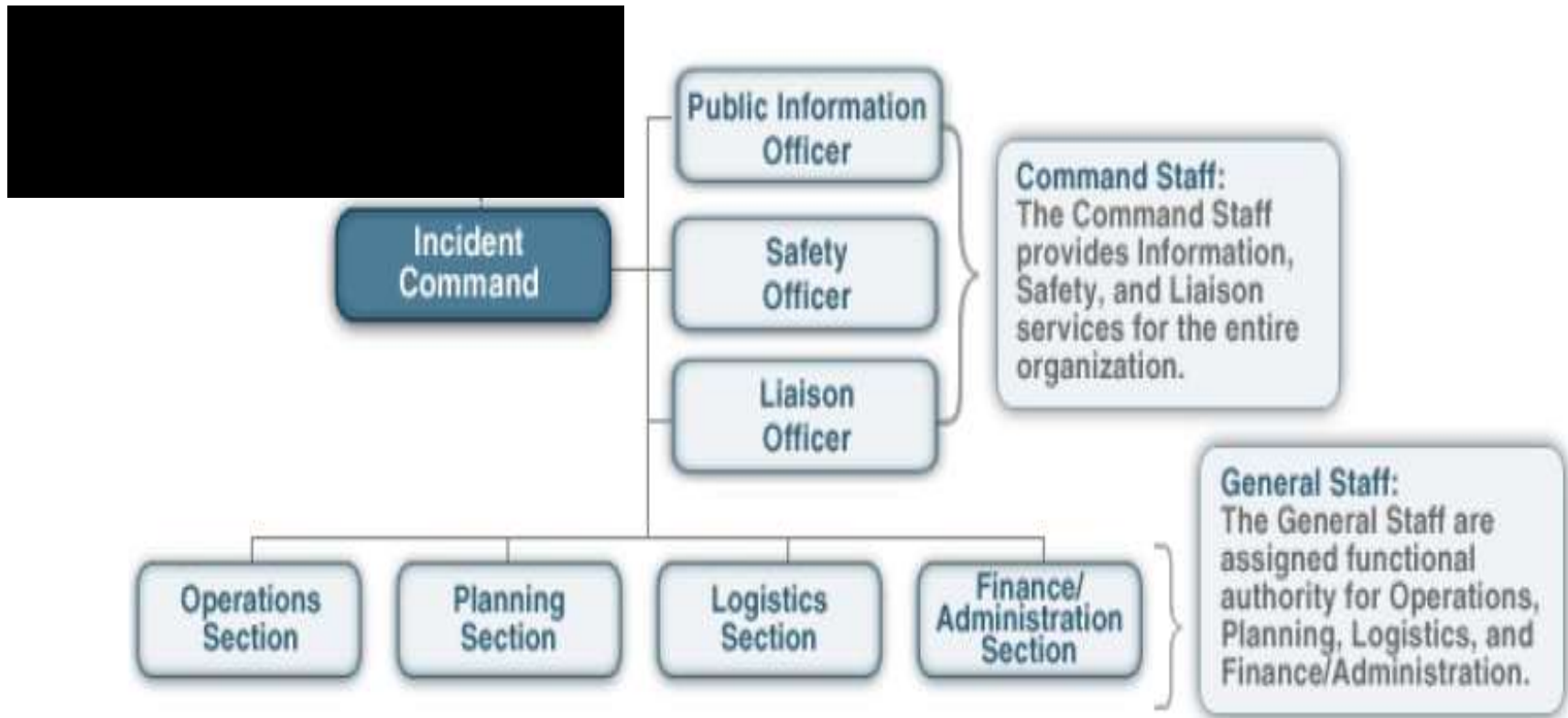
## The Incident Commander

### ■ IC Mission:

- Give overall strategic direction for incident management and support activities, response and recovery
- Ensure incident safety
- Initiate and approve the Incident Action Plan
- Liaison with agency executives, governing boards and other organizations

# SEMS/NIMS Command & Management

## The ICS Organization



# SEMS/NIMS Command & Management

## Command Staff

### ■ The Command Staff positions, include:

- Public Information Officer
- Safety Officer
- Liaison Officer

# SEMS/NIMS Command & Management

## Command Staff

### ■ PIO Mission:

- Serve as the conduit for information to the news media and other stakeholders.



# SEMS/NIMS Command & Management Command Staff

## ■ Safety Officer Mission:

- Ensure safety of all incident personnel, monitor and correct hazardous conditions.
- Has the authority to halt any operation that poses immediate threat to life and health



# SEMS/NIMS Command & Management

## Command Staff

### ■ Liaison Officer

#### Mission:

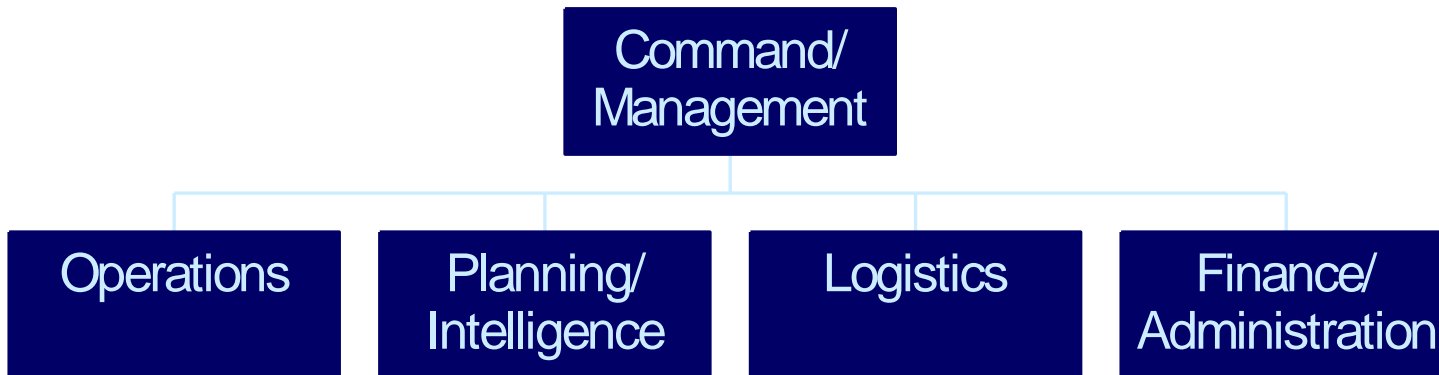
- Function as the primary contact for outside agencies and organizations



# SEMS/NIMS Command & Management

## General Staff

### The ICS Organization



**The Incident Commander may appoint Chiefs to assist in overseeing Sections of incident management: Operations, Planning, Logistics, and Finance.**

# SEMS/NIMS Command & Management

## Incident Facilities

- The **Incident Command Post** is the location where the IC oversees all incident operations





# SEMS/NIMS Command & Management

## Incident Facilities

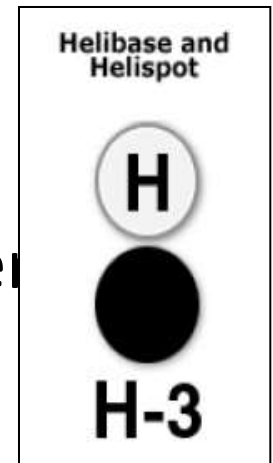
- **Staging Areas** are temporary locations where resources are available and waiting for assignment



# SEMS/NIMS Command & Management

## Incident Facilities

- Helibase
  - Location for management of helicopter operations
- Helispots
  - Fixed or temporary areas where helicopters can land and take off



# SEMS/NIMS Command & Management

## Unified Command

### Unified Command

Unified Command is an application of ICS used when:

- There is more than one responding agency with responsibility for the incident.
- Incidents cross political jurisdictions (like two counties or states).



**In a Unified Command, agency representatives jointly develop overall incident objectives and priorities.**

# SEMS/NIMS Command & Management

## Area Command

- An Area Command may be established to oversee multiple Incident Command Posts (ICPs) on a very large scale



# SEMS/NIMS Command & Management

## Area Command

### An Area Command:

- Sets overall strategy and priorities
- Allocates critical resources
- Ensures incident is managed, objectives are met, and strategies are followed
- Develops a common Incident Action Plan



# SEMS/NIMS Command & Management

## Multi-agency Coordination Systems

**Another component under SEMS/NIMS  
Command and Management is:**

## Multi-agency Coordination Systems (MACS)

**MACS groups typically consist of principals from organizations with direct incident management responsibilities or with significant incident management support or resource responsibilities. These entities may be used to facilitate incident management and policy coordination.**

# SEMS/NIMS Command & Management

## Multi-agency Coordination Systems

### **The Multi-agency Coordination System (MACS)**

- Supports policies and procedures developed for the system
- Ensures logistical support of responders
- Allocates resources based on the priorities of the responding agencies
- Coordinates information among responders and issues coordinated messages



# SEMS/NIMS Command & Management

## Multi-agency Coordination Systems

- **An Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is an entity in a Multi-agency Coordination System**
- **An EOC supports multi-agency coordination and information management activities**
- **EOCs may be established by emergency management agencies at the local, operational area, regional, state, and federal levels**



# SEMS/NIMS Command & Management

## Multi-agency Coordination Systems

### Post-incident Responsibilities

Following incidents, MACS groups are typically responsible for ensuring that revisions or updates are made to:

- Plans
- Procedures
- Communications
- Staffing
- Other capabilities necessary for improved incident management

# SEMS/NIMS Command & Management

## Joint Information Systems

**The next component of SEMS/NIMS under Command and Management are Joint Information Systems**

**The Joint Information System:**

- coordinates incident information and provides timely and accurate information to the public**
- has established policies and procedures and is usually led by government agencies**

# SEMS/NIMS Command & Management

## Joint Information Systems

**Key elements of a Joint Information System include:**

- **interagency coordination and integration,**
- **developing and delivering coordinated messages,**
- **support for decision makers.**

**The Public Information Officer uses the Joint Information System to ensure that decision makers—and the public—are fully informed throughout a domestic incident response.**

# SEMS/NIMS Command & Management

## Joint Information Systems

**Under ICS, the Public Information Officer (PIO) is a key member of the command staff.**

**The PIO advises the Incident Commander on all public information matters related to the management of the incident, including media and public inquiries, emergency public information and warnings, rumor monitoring and control, media monitoring, and other functions required to coordinate, clear with proper authorities, and disseminate accurate and timely information related to the incident.**

# SEMS/NIMS Command & Management

## Joint Information Center

**An entity in a Joint Information System is a Joint Information Center (JIC.)**

**A JIC is a physical location, usually established in the Emergency Operations Center, where the information management activities are performed.**

**Emergency response agencies typically send a PIO to the JIC to represent their agency and assist with coordinated message development and dissemination. The PIO can be physically or “virtually” (connected by phone and computer) in the JIC.**

# SEMS/NIMS Command & Management

## Joint Information Systems

**JICs provide the organizational structure for coordinating and disseminating official information.**

**Incident Commanders and Multi-agency Coordination Entities are responsible for establishing and overseeing JICs, including processes for coordinating and clearing public communications.**

**The JIC includes representatives of all agencies in managing the response, including jurisdictions, agencies, private entities, and nongovernmental organizations.**



# SEMS/NIMS Command & Management

## Joint Information Systems

**JICs may be established at various levels of government. All JICs must communicate and coordinate with each other on an ongoing basis using established JIS protocols.**

**When multiple JICs are established, information must be coordinated among them to ensure that a consistent message is disseminated to the public.**

# SEMS/NIMS Command & Management

## Summary

- **ICS** is the command and management system used under SEMS & NIMS
- The **IC** is the one position always activated
- The **Command Staff** consists of the PIO, Liaison, & Safety Officer
- The **General Staff** consists of the Operations, Planning, Logistics, and Finance Chiefs



# SEMS/NIMS Command & Management

## Summary

- In a **Unified Command**, agency reps jointly develop incident objectives & priorities
- An **Area Command** oversees multiple ICPs
- The ideal **Span of Control** is 1:5
- The **EOC** is an entity in a **Multi-Agency Coordination System**
- Agencies typically send PIOs to the **JIC** to coordinate public information messages

# SEMS/NIMS: Preparedness

**The next component of SEMS/NIMS is preparedness.**

**Preparedness includes:**

- **Planning**
- **Training**
- **Exercises**
- **Personnel qualification and certification**
- **Equipment acquisition and certification**
- **Mutual aid agreements**

# SEMS/NIMS: Preparedness

**Preparedness is critical to emergency management.**

**Preparedness involves all of the actions required to establish and sustain the level of capability necessary to execute a wide range of incident management operations.**

**Preparedness is implemented through a continual cycle of planning, training and equipping, exercising, and evaluating and taking action to correct and mitigate.**

# SEMS/NIMS: Preparedness

**A major objective of preparedness is to ensure mission integration and interoperability in response to emergent crises across functional and jurisdictional lines.**

**Preparedness also includes efforts to coordinate between public and private organizations.**

**Preparedness is the responsibility of individual jurisdictions, which coordinate their activities among all preparedness stakeholders.**

**Each level of government is responsible for its preparedness.**

# SEMS/NIMS: Preparedness Plans

**Preparedness includes developing plans**

**Plans include:**

- **Setting priorities**
- **Integrating entities/functions**
- **Establishing relationships**
- **Managing resources**
- **Ensuring that systems support all incident management activities**

# SEMS/NIMS: Preparedness Plans

**Jurisdictions must develop several types of plans, including:**

- **Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs)**, which describe how the jurisdiction will respond to emergencies
- **Procedures**, which may include overviews, standard operating procedures, field operations guides, job aids, or other critical information needed for a response
- **Preparedness Plans**, which describe how training needs will be identified and met, how resources will be obtained through mutual aid agreements, and the facilities and equipment required for the hazards faced by the jurisdiction
- **Corrective Action or Mitigation Plans**, which include activities required to implement procedures based on lessons learned from actual incidents or training and exercises
- **Recovery Plans**, which describe the actions to be taken to facilitate long-term recovery and resumption of business

# SEMS/NIMS: Preparedness

## Training/Exercises

The next SEMS/NIMS Preparedness component is Training and Exercises

### Training and Exercising:

- Enhances all-hazard incident management capabilities
- Increases effectiveness of response and recovery
- Provides a mechanism to test plans, policies and systems

# SEMS/NIMS: Preparedness

## Personnel Certs/Quals

- Under NIMS, preparedness is based on:
  - National standards for qualification and certification of emergency response personnel
- Standards include:
  - Training
  - Experience
  - Credentialing
  - Continuing education on current practices
  - Physical and mental fitness



# SEMS/NIMS: Preparedness

## Equipment

- Equipment is needed to perform mission-essential tasks
  - Equipment must perform to certain standards and be interoperable with other responders
- EMS equipment should be interoperable with other responders in the community, i.e.,
  - Triage Tags
  - PPE
  - Decontamination equipment

# SEMS/NIMS: Preparedness

## Mutual Aid

- Jurisdictions at all levels are encouraged to enter into agreements with:
  - Other jurisdictions or government agencies
  - Private organizations
- Mutual aid agreements facilitate the **timely delivery of assistance** during incidents

# SEMS/NIMS: Preparedness

## Mutual Aid

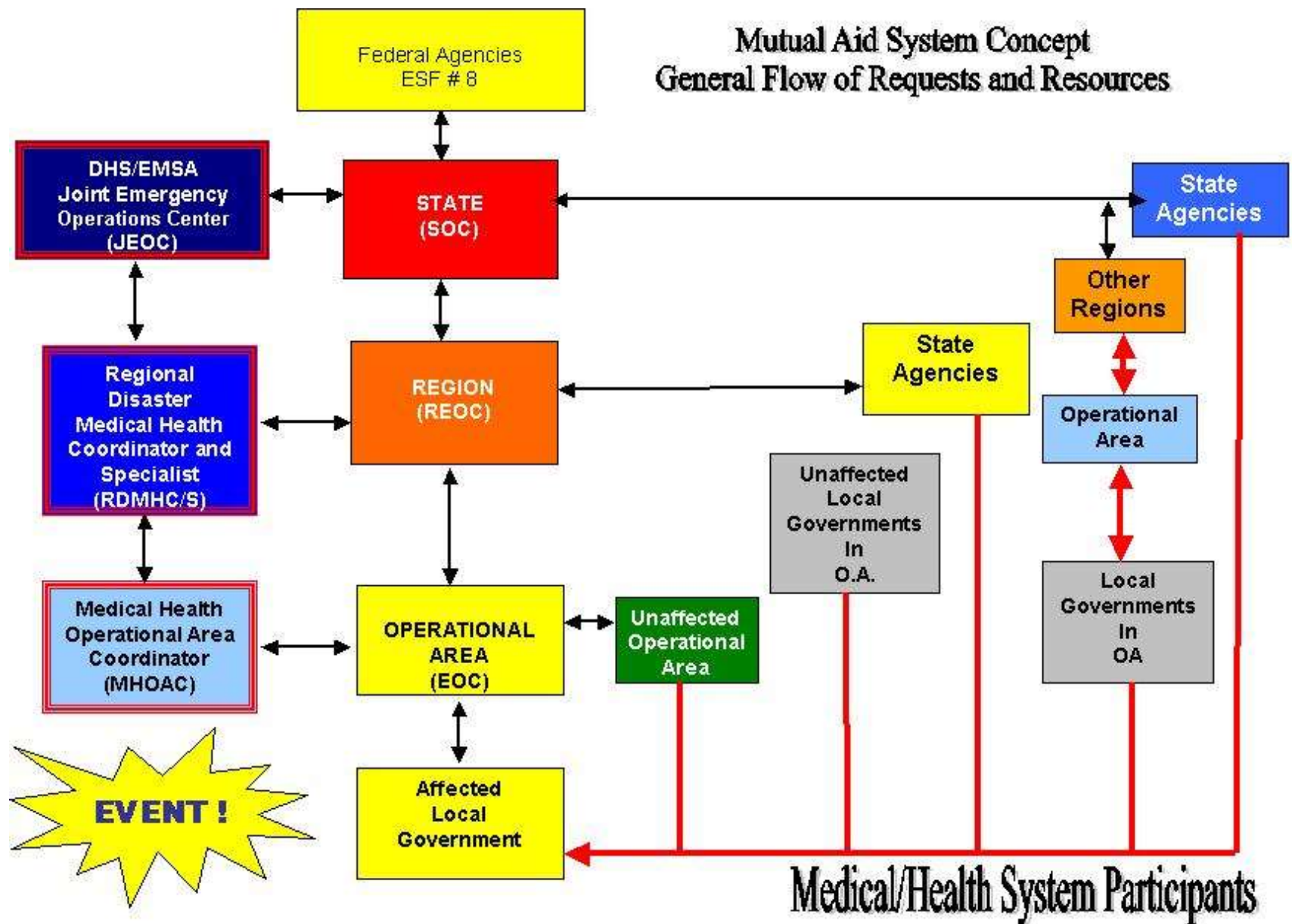
- The State Master Mutual Aid Agreement was signed by most cities and counties in California in 1950
- The Master Mutual Aid agreement describes how public agencies will share resources during an emergency

# SEMS/NIMS: Preparedness

## Mutual Aid

- Several formal mutual-aid systems currently exist in California, including:
  - Fire & Rescue Mutual Aid
  - Law Enforcement Mutual Aid
  - Medical/Health Mutual Aid

# Mutual Aid System Concept General Flow of Requests and Resources



**The above diagram shows the general flow of information and resources between the Local, Operational Area, Region, State, and Federal levels**

# SEMS/NIMS: Resource Management

- Resource management involves four primary tasks:
  - **Establishing** systems for describing, inventorying, requesting, and tracking resources
  - **Activating** those systems prior to, during, and after an incident
  - **Dispatching** resources prior to, during, and after an incident
  - **Deactivating** or recalling resources during or after an incident

# SEMS/NIMS: Resource Management

## Classification of Resources

- Requires standardizes identification, allocation, and tracking of resources by:
  - Classification of resources by **kind and type**
  - Implementation of personnel and equipment credentialing system
  - Incorporating resources from both private and public organizations

# SEMS/NIMS: Communications

- The key concept of Communications and Information Management is ensuring **consistency** among all who respond
- This includes:
  - Ensuring communications technology is interoperable among all responders
  - Establishing communication protocols with key responders in advance of an event



# MCI's Happen...



# Congratulations – You have completed the course content

- Click START to begin the test
- REMEMBER to download your CE Certificate (print or save to your device), then click continue to move to the next module