Unit 5:
NIMS Coordination: MAC Groups and the Joint Information System

Unit Terminal Objective

Explain the interconnectivity between the MAC Group, EOCs, the Joint Information System, and Incident Command.

Unit Enabling Objectives

- **Explain the functions and purpose of a Multiagency Coordination Group.**
- **Explain the functions and purpose of a Joint Information System.**
- **Describe the interconnectivity of the NIMS Command and Coordination systems.**

NIMS Components

Resource Management

Command and Coordination

- **Incident Command System**
- **Emergency Operations Center**
- **Multiagency Coordination Groups**
- **Joint Information Systems**

Communications and Information Management

Multiagency Coordination Group

The MAC Group

- Provides policy guidance
- Supports resource prioritization and allocation
- Enables decision-making among elected and appointed officials and senior executives
- Is often comprised of:
  - Elected officials
  - Senior decision-makers
  - Senior public safety officials
  - High-level, subject-matter experts

The SR Official/ MAC Group Role

- Define the mission and strategic direction
- Identify operational priorities
- Provide policy guidance to EOC, IC and JIC/PIO
- Resolve scarce resource allocation issues
- Delegate command authority to the IC/ UC
- Delegate appropriate authority to the EOC and JIS
- Determine the MAC Group decision-making process
- Determine who will be included in the MAC Group
- Issue Initial Policy Statement to guide the EOC
- Determine reporting requirements

Operational Priorities

MAC Groups apply priorities at policy level:

- **Save lives**
- **Protect property and environment**
- **Stabilize the incident**
- **Provide for basic human needs**
- **Restore essential utilities.**
- **Restore essential program functions.**
- **Coordinate among appropriate stakeholders**
- **Represent Political, Financial and Legal Concerns.**

Joint Information System

Joint Information System (JIS)

Multiagency Coordination Entities

EOC

JIC

JIC Coordinates:

- Critical emergency information.
- Crisis communications.
- Public affairs functions.

PIO

PIO:

- Represents and advises Incident Command.
- Manages media and public inquiries.

Senior Official & Spokesperson

Managing Public Information

The Public Information Officer (PIO):

- **Manages media and public inquiries.**
- **May be separate PIOs for:**
  - **Incident Command**
  - **EOC**
  - **Senior Official / MAC Group**

PIOs coordinate and disseminate incident information through the JIC:

- **Critical emergency information**
- **Crisis communications**
- **Public affairs functions**

NIMS Describes Systems . . . Not a Facility

Dispatch

On-Scene Command

Coordination Resource Centers

NIMS Command and Coordination

Coordination Entities/ Groups

Emergency Operations Centers

Interconnectivity of NIMS Command and Coordination

Review of the Senior Official's Role

In most jurisdictions the Senior Official is responsible for:

- **Ensuring the safety of the citizens and protection of property**
- **Ensuring the continuity of government**
- **Activating specific legal authorities (disaster declarations, evacuations, state of emergency, or other protective actions)**
- **Delegating Authority for Incident Command to an IC/ UC**
- **Coordinating with the PIO to keep the media and public informed**
- **Requesting assistance from State agencies through the EOC**
- **Resolving any resource allocation conflicts**
- **Coordinating with other Sr. Officials & whole community partners**
- **Participating in a Multiagency Coordination Group (MAC)**

Objectives Review

- What is the purpose of a Multiagency Coordination Group?
- What is the purpose of a Joint Information System?
- How are the NIMS Command and Coordination systems interconnected?