Unit 4:
NIMS Coordination:
Emergency Operations Centers

Unit Terminal Objective

Explain the attributes and purpose of Emergency Operations Centers.

Unit Enabling Objectives

- Explain the functions and structure of the Emergency Operations Center
- Explain the direction provided by the Senior Official / MAC Group to the EOC

NIMS Components

Resource Management

Command and Coordination

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

Communications and Information Management

Emergency Operations Centers

EOC Functions

- Collecting, analyzing, and sharing information.
- Supporting resource needs and requests, including allocation and tracking.
- Coordinating plans and determining current and future needs.
- Coordinating plans to support the Incident Command.
- In some cases, providing coordination and policy direction.

EOC Organizational Structure

- While EOCs have common functions, their structure will vary between jurisdictions.
- Three common EOC organizational models:
  - ICS or ICS-Like
  - Incident Support Model
  - Departmental.
- Jurisdictions or organizations may choose to use one of these structures, a combination of elements from different structures, or an entirely different structure.

EOC Benefits

- Helps establish a shared situational picture.
- Simplifies information verification.
- Facilitates long-term operations.
- Increases continuity.
- Provides ready access to all available information.
- Aids resource identification and use.

EOC and the SR Official/ MAC Group

- Local statutes or delegations of authority may limit an EOC's functions or actions.
  - Example: Monetary spending thresholds
- A SR Official/ MAC Group may:
  - Authorize additional fiscal resources.
  - Provide operational guidance.
  - Oversee complex incidents.
  - Provide operational or policy guidance.

SR Official/ MAC Group guides the EOC

The Senior Official or MAC Group guides the EOC by:

- **Delegating appropriate authority to the EOC Director.**
- **Issuing an Initial Policy Statement to the EOC.**
- **Determining EOC reporting requirements.**
- **Determining the Senior Official/ MAC Group decision-making process.**
- **Identifying fiscal issues and possible parameters for the EOC.**
- **Defining strategic level priorities for the incident.**

Objectives Review

- What are the functions and structure of the Emergency Operations Center?
- What direction is provided by the Senior Official / MAC Group to the EOC?