

# ORGANIZATIONAL LEVELS

**Field Response** is where emergency response personnel, under the command of an appropriate authority, carry out tactical decisions and activities in direct response to an incident or threat. SEMS regulations require the use of ICS at the field response level of an incident.



**Local Government** manages and coordinates the overall emergency response and recovery activities within their jurisdiction. The local government emergency management organization and its relationship to the field response level may vary depending upon factors related to geographical size, population, function, and complexity.

**Operational Area** is a county, such as Alameda County, and its political subdivisions, cities and special districts. The Operational Area coordinates damage information and requests resources from California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA).

**Region** manages and coordinates information and resources among Operational Areas within the mutual aid region, and also between the Operational Areas and the state level. The Coastal Region REOC also coordinates overall state agency support for emergency response activities within the region.



**State** coordinates resources in response to requests from the statewide REOCs, and coordinates mutual aid among the mutual aid regions and between the region level and state level. The State Operations Center (SOC) also serves as the coordination and communication link between the state and the federal disaster response system.

To:

Oakland Fire Department  
Office of Emergency Services  
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**N**ational **S**tandardized  
**I**ncident **&** **E**mergency  
**M**anagement **M**anagement  
**S**ystem **S**ystem

**Responding to an Emergency**  
*Who, Why and Where*



**Oakland Fire Department**  
**Office of Emergency Services**

(510) 238-3938

<http://www.oaklandnet.com/fire/oes/oes.htm>

## WHAT ARE NIMS & SEMS?

### NIMS

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) is a structured framework used nationwide for both governmental and nongovernmental agencies to respond to natural disasters and or terrorist attacks at the local, state, and federal levels of government.

### SEMS

The Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) is the system required by California Government Code Section 8607(a) for managing emergencies involving multiple jurisdictions and agencies. SEMS consists of five organizational levels, which are activated as necessary.



NIMS/SEMS can be used in any emergency, including fires, mudslides, toxic releases, civil unrest, earthquakes and others.

## WHO USES NIMS/SEMS?

Local governments, including special districts, must use SEMS in order to be eligible for funding of their response related personnel costs under state disaster assistance programs.



In Oakland, all City employees, volunteers, and non-government agencies who might assist/support an emergency or disaster response must be NIMS/SEMS compliant.



## NIMS/SEMS/ICS FUNCTIONS

**Command/Management** provides the overall direction and sets priorities for an emergency.

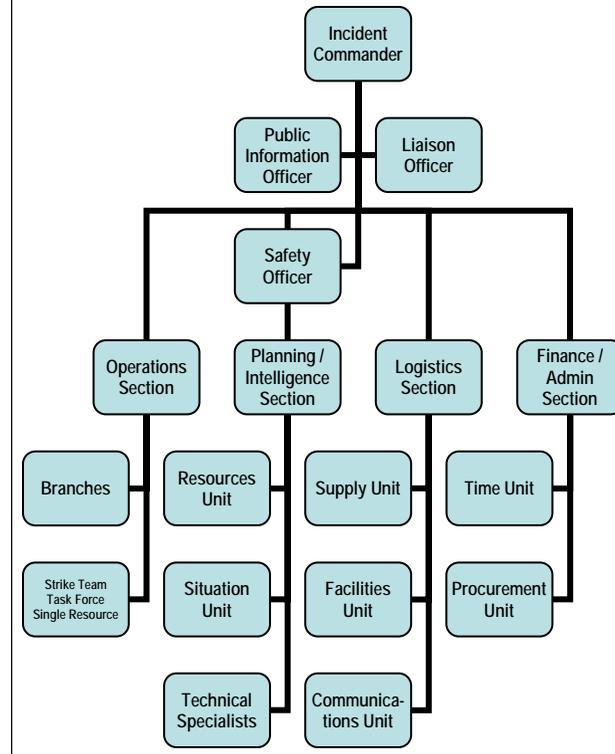
**Operations** implements the priorities established by management.

**Planning/Intelligence** gathers and assesses information.

**Logistics** obtains resources to support the operations.

**Finance/Administration** tracks all costs related to the operations.

### NIMS/SEMS/ICS ORG CHART



## SEMS OVERVIEW

SEMS incorporates the functions and principles of the Incident Command System, the Master Mutual Aid Agreement, existing mutual aid systems, the Operational Area concept, and Multi-Agency or Inter-Agency Coordination.

**Incident Command System** is a field level emergency response system based on management-by-objectives. ICS has been adopted for use in Oakland's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) as well.

**Mutual Aid** is a statewide system for obtaining additional emergency resources from non affected jurisdictions.

**Operational Area concept** is a county and its political subdivisions, cities and special districts. The OA coordinates damage information and requests resources from California Emergency Management Agency.

**Multi Agency Coordination** allows affected agencies to work together to coordinate allocations of resources and emergency response activities.