

Incident Types

Incidents may be typed in order to make decisions about resource requirements. Incident types are based on the following five levels of complexity. (Source: U.S. Fire Administration)

Type 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The incident can be handled with one or two single resources with up to six personnel. ▪ Command and General Staff positions (other than the Incident Commander) are not activated. ▪ No written Incident Action Plan (IAP) is required. ▪ The incident is contained within the first operational period and often within an hour to a few hours after resources arrive on scene. ▪ Examples include a vehicle fire, an injured person, or a police traffic stop.
Type 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Command staff and general staff functions are activated only if needed. ▪ Several resources are required to mitigate the incident. ▪ The incident is usually limited to one operational period in the control phase. ▪ The agency administrator may have briefings, and ensure the complexity analysis and delegation of authority are updated. ▪ No written Incident Action Plan (IAP) is required but a documented operational briefing will be completed for all incoming resources. ▪ The role of the agency administrator includes operational plans including objectives and priorities.
Type 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ When capabilities exceed initial attack, the appropriate ICS positions should be added to match the complexity of the incident. ▪ Some or all of the Command and General Staff positions may be activated, as well as Division/Group Supervisor and/or Unit Leader level positions. ▪ A Type 3 Incident Management Team (IMT) or incident command organization manages initial action incidents with a significant number of resources, an extended attack incident until containment/control is achieved, or an expanding incident until transition to a Type 1 or 2 team. ▪ The incident may extend into multiple operational periods. ▪ A written IAP may be required for each operational period.
Type 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This type of incident extends beyond the capabilities for local control and is expected to go into multiple operational periods. A Type 2 incident may require the response of resources out of area, including regional and/or national resources, to effectively manage the operations, command, and general staffing. ▪ Most or all of the Command and General Staff positions are filled. ▪ A written IAP is required for each operational period. ▪ Many of the functional units are needed and staffed. ▪ Operations personnel normally do not exceed 200 per operational period and total incident personnel do not exceed 500 (guidelines only). ▪ The agency administrator is responsible for the incident complexity analysis, agency administrator briefings, and the written delegation of authority.
Type 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This type of incident is the most complex, requiring national resources to safely and effectively manage and operate. ▪ All Command and General Staff positions are activated. ▪ Operations personnel often exceed 500 per operational period and total personnel will usually exceed 1,000. ▪ Branches need to be established. ▪ The agency administrator will have briefings, and ensure that the complexity analysis and delegation of authority are updated. ▪ Use of resource advisors at the incident base is recommended. ▪ There is a high impact on the local jurisdiction, requiring additional staff for office administrative and support functions.