



**HISTORY OF  
INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM  
AND ITS PROGRESSION IN GOVERNMENT**

# The History

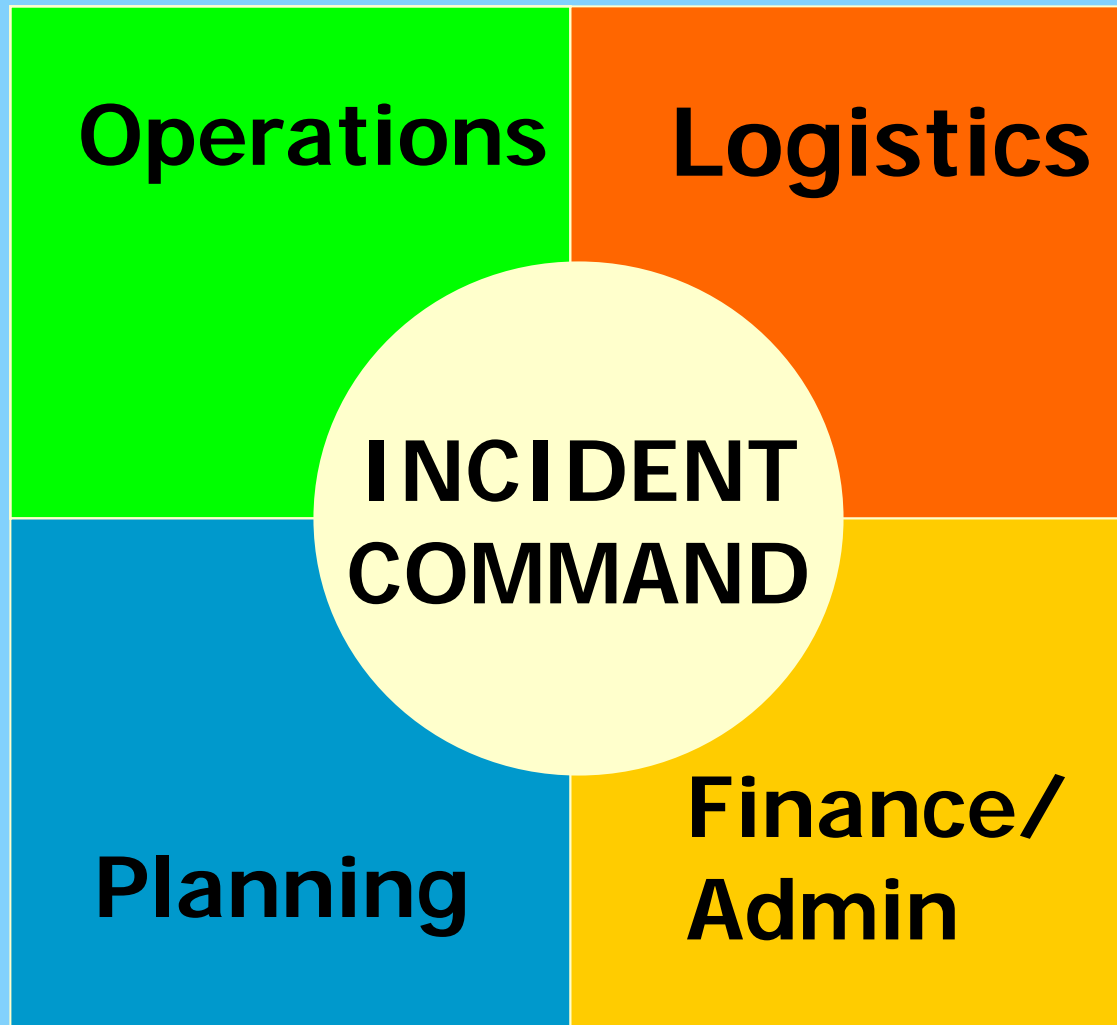
**In the 1970s, as California was battling significant wildfires, emergency managers learned that the existing management structures - frequently unique to each agency - did not scale to dealing with massive mutual aid responses involving dozens of distinct agencies.**



**As a result, the Incident Command System (ICS) was collaboratively developed (actually in Santa Barbara County) to provide a consistent, integrated framework for the management of large, multi-agency emergencies.**

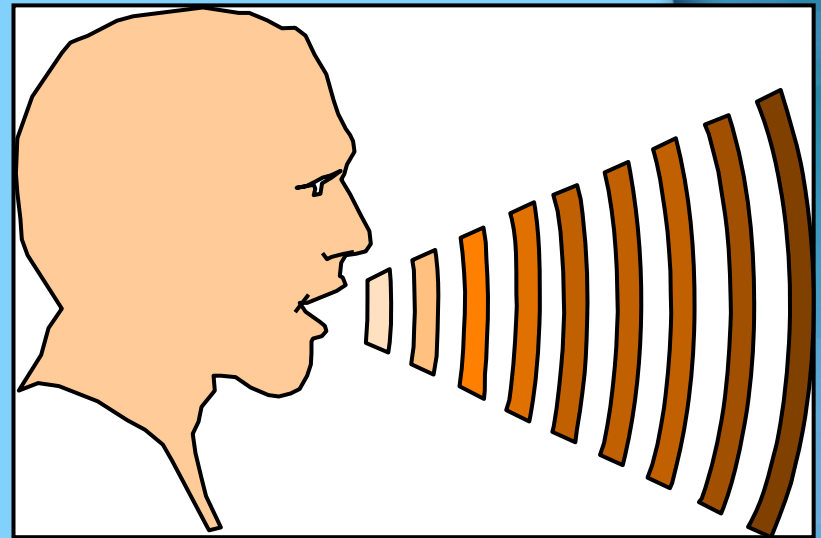


# So, What is ICS



# Benefits of ICS

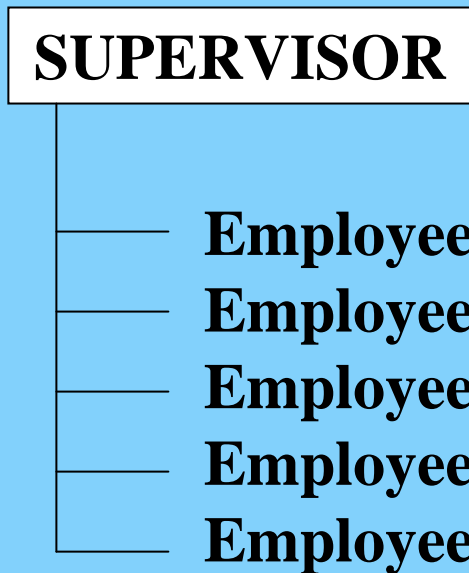
- # The use of common terms
- # Some distinct terms are used by various disciplines



# Benefits of ICS

## CONSISTENT HEIRARCHY:

- Appropriate supervision ratio (Span of Control)
- Clear organizational lines of authority (Unity of Command)



# Benefits of ICS

## Management by Objectives

- Flexible, Measurable & attainable objectives
- Identified time-frames (Operational Period) by using Incident Action Planning (IAP)

*SEMS  
Functions*



**Operational  
Period**



*Objectives  
Met*

# Benefits of ICS

## INCIDENT ACTION PLANNING (IAP):

- Conducted at the Incident
- Conducted in the EOC
- Objective Driven
- Eliminates Redundancy
- Establishes Accountability
- Responsibility of Planning/ Intelligence



**December 1, 1996**

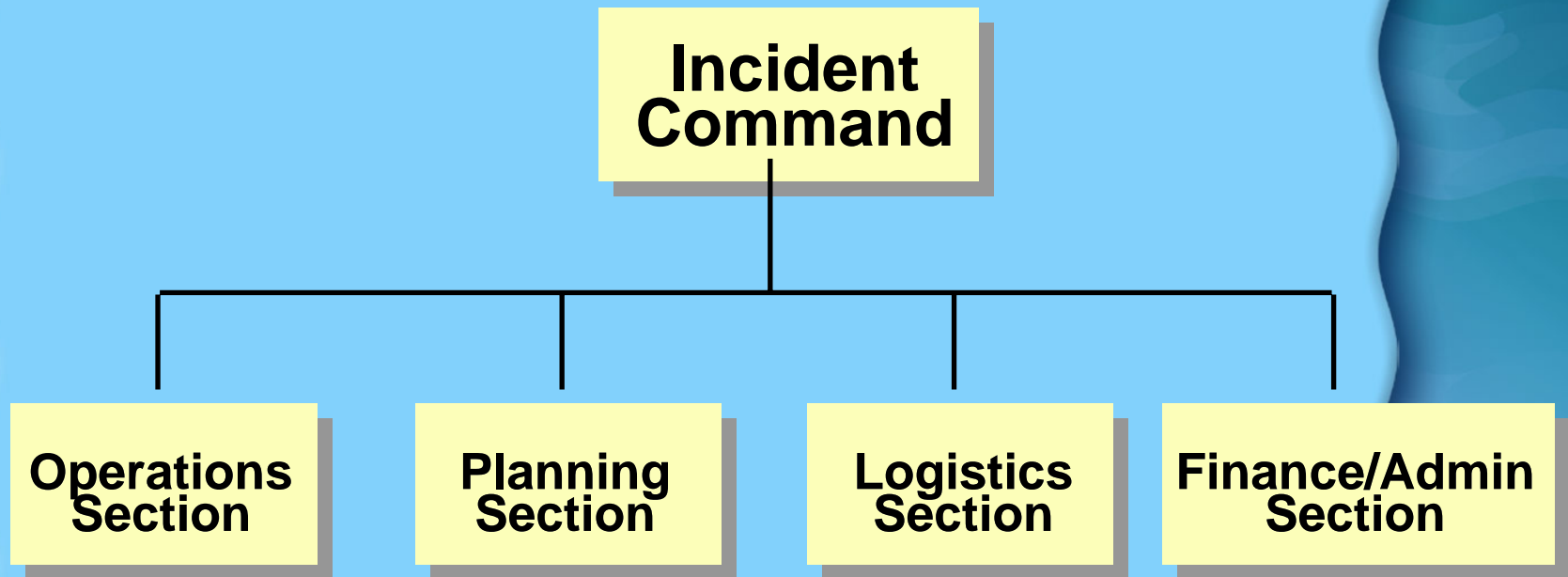
**ICS is transition by Law (SB 1841) to the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) by the State of California**

**Intent of law to improve the coordination of state and local emergency response in California using the ICS concept.**

**ICS has now found its way into everything from law enforcement to every-day business, as the basic goals of clear communication, accountability, and the efficient use of resources is common to all.**

# Look familiar???

## The General Staff



Same components of ICS

**February 28, 2003**

**ICS-SEMS becomes the National Information System (NIMS) established by the Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD)-5**

**HSPD-5 requires all federal agencies to adopt NIMS and to use it in their individual domestic incident management and emergency prevention, preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation programs and activities.**

**In addition, all State, tribal and local personnel with any type of emergency assignment must complete NIMS training by October 1, 2006.**

# Concepts and Principals of NIMS:

NIMS is based on an appropriate balance of flexibility and standardization:

## Flexibility

- NIMS provides a consistent, flexible and adjustable national framework within which government and private entities at all levels can work together to manage domestic incidents, regardless of their cause, size, location or complexity.

## Standardization

- NIMS provides a set of standard organizational structures, as well as requirements for processes, procedures and systems designed to improve operability among jurisdictions and disciplines in various areas.

**Look familiar???**

# IT ALL BOILS DOWN TO:

- **Having a Emergency Operations Plan that is operable**
- **Practicing the plan**
- **Standardizing your Plans**
  - **Common Terminology**
  - **Flexibility**
  - **Learn to management by objectives**



**Y.O.Y.O**



## WHAT WILL BE YOUR MOTTO!!?

**“When in danger,  
when in doubt,  
run in circles,  
scream and shout.”**



**REMEMBER:**

**PEOPLE DON'T DO WHAT THEY'VE  
LEARNED; THEY DO WHAT THEY'VE  
PRACTICED!**