

RELATED TERMS

- Incident Commander
- Air Assets
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PRIMARY DISCIPLINES

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- Fire

PRACTICE NOTE

Incident Management: Jefferson County, Colorado, Incident Management Team’s Complexity Analysis Form

PRACTICE

The Jefferson County, Colorado, Incident Management Team (IMT) developed a Complexity Analysis Form to help determine whether or not the team should be activated to respond to an incident. It also helps decide if the county should request outside mutual aid.

DESCRIPTION

Jefferson County established the first regional Type III IMT in Colorado in 1992 to give the county a greater capability to respond to large wildfires. The county reorganized the team in 2001. It now trains team members to respond to a variety of incidents, including mass casualty events, urban search and rescue situations, and incidents involving weapons of mass destruction. The Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office coordinates the team, which consists of 95 emergency responders from 20 different county agencies. The Sheriff’s Office has activated the team to respond to wildfires 13 times in the last 5 years. The team also provides assistance to the US Forest Service, the Colorado State Forest Service, and the Colorado Division of Emergency Management during major incidents outside Jefferson County.

When an incident occurs, the incident commander completes the county’s Complexity Analysis Form to help determine the size and scale of the incident. The form consists of 41 yes or no statements about the incident in 6 categories: General, Air Assets, Topography, Fire Behavior, Containment Costs, and Personnel and Resources. Examples of statements on the form include “Structures directly exposed to fire” and “Interagency strike teams are required.”

The incident commander will tally the total number of statements that apply to the incident. The incident commander will use this total to assign an incident “Mode” that falls between 0 and 4, with Mode 0 as the least complex type of incident and Mode 4 as the most complex.

Mode	Number of Affirmative Answers
0	None
1	1-6
2	7-20
3	21-36
4	37-41

The incident Mode itself does not dictate whether or not the Sheriff's Office mobilizes the IMT, but it does serve as a type of quick reference guide to describe how large and complex the incident is. If the incident is considered a Mode 2, the Sheriff's Office will activate the IMT. If the incident is a Mode or 3 or 4, the county may consider requesting assistance from Type I or Type II national or state-level IMTs.

LINKS

Jefferson County Type III Incident Management Team
http://www.co.jefferson.co.us/sheriff/sheriff_T62_R104.htm

CITATIONS

Jefferson County, Colorado, Sheriff's Office. *Incident Management Team Mobilization Guidelines*. Feb 2007.

https://www.llis.dhs.gov/member/secure/detail.cfm?content_id=25441

Jefferson County, Colorado, Sheriff's Office. *Jefferson County Complexity Analysis Form*. Feb 2007

https://www.llis.dhs.gov/member/secure/detail.cfm?content_id=25310

McSherry, Tim. Director, Emergency Management, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office. Interview with *Lessons Learned Information Sharing*, 07 Feb 2007.

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