


"D-13"

	Queensland Fire and Rescue Service Operations Doctrine	Command and Control
	INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM	Escalation of an Incident (Level One, Two & Three)
Version: 3.0 Valid from: 01/05/2010		IMS 2.3

1. PURPOSE

- (a) To outline requirements for the escalation of an incident from Level One through to Level Three.

2. APPLICATION

- (a) Applies to all fire officers and volunteers.

3. ESCALATION OF AN INCIDENT

3.1 General

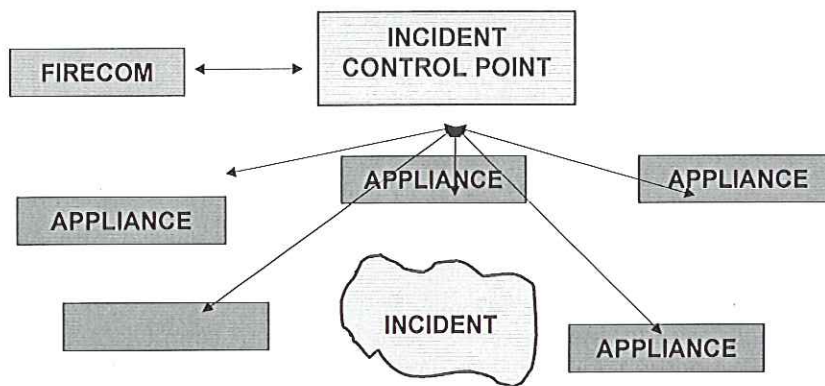
- (a) From the initial response of local resources, escalation of the incident may require a scaling up of the Incident Management System. This may be the result of the intensifying complexity, increased application of resources and a predicted protracted incident - or a combination of all factors.
- (b) At all stages of the escalation of the management structure, communications and control measures must maintain their effectiveness and have a seamless operational continuity for all personnel.
- (c) During a classified Level 2 or Level 3 incident all regional resources (urban and rural) will come under the direct control of the regional Assistant Commissioner.

3.2 Level One Incident

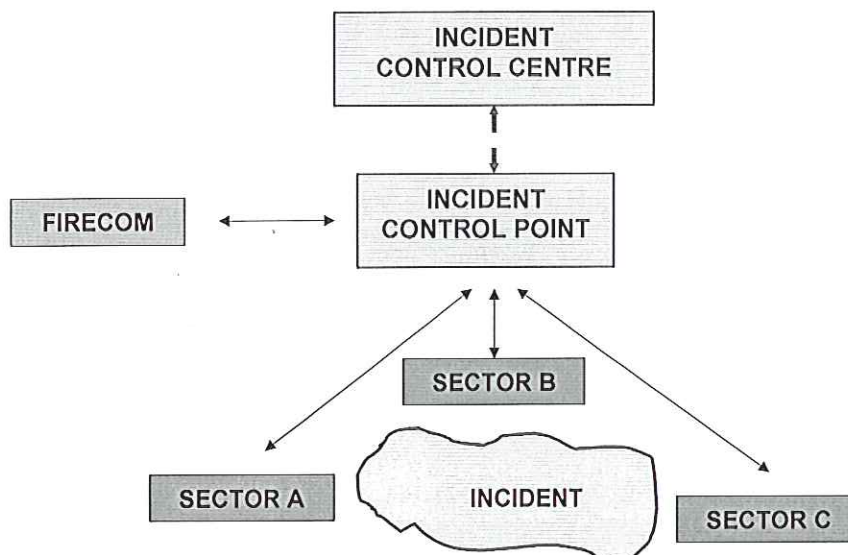
- (a) At a Level One incident the Officer-in-charge takes control and informs the relevant Fire Communication Centre of the nominated Incident Control Point and provides the appropriate Situation Reports.
- (b) Where a higher ranked Officer arrives and assesses the incident to be within the scope of the existing level of control, the higher ranked Officer need only advise the Incident Controller of their arrival and that they will not be taking control. When this occurs, the higher ranked Officer may, at their discretion, be delegated another role, leave the scene or remain to observe.
- (c) If the assessment determines the existing level of control is not adequate for the incident, the higher ranked Officer, after appropriate briefing (SMEACS format) with the current Incident Controller, shall immediately assume the role of Incident Controller.
- (d) Immediately after the higher ranked Officer assumes control, the relevant Fire Communication Centre and personnel at the incident shall be notified of the new Incident Controller and the location of the Incident Control Point.

- (e) As an incident escalates and more sectors (geographical or functional) are required, the ability to appropriately manage the incident from a Level One Incident Control Point may not be possible.
- (f) The Incident Controller will request the establishment of an Incident Control Centre and will maintain control until advised of the establishment of the Incident Control Centre.
- (g) The Incident Control Centre maybe predetermined in regional response plans or may be suitably located near the incident (e.g. refinery, Emergency Operations Room).

LEVEL 1 INCIDENT



LEVEL 1 TO LEVEL 2 TRANSITION

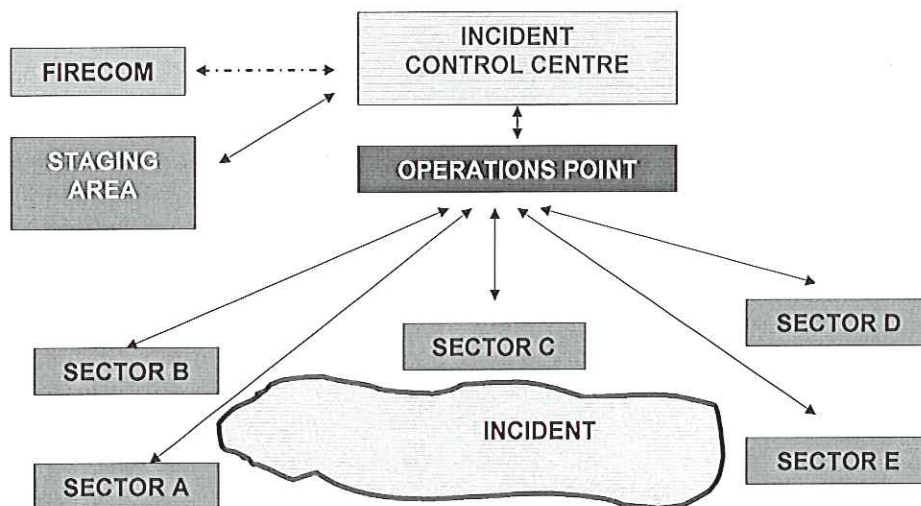


- Sectorisation Occurs
- Incident escalates
- Requires more sectors - geographical or functional
- Request for an Incident Control Centre be established
- Maintain control until Incident Control Centre is established

3.3 Level Two Incident

- (a) An incident shall be reclassified as a Level Two (2) Incident by a Senior Urban Officer or Senior Rural Operations Officer.
- (b) Where the Senior Urban Officer or Senior Rural Operations Officer determines the incident should be reclassified, the Incident Controller must be consulted.
- (c) Once advised that the Incident Control Centre is established the Incident Controller will generally become the Operations Officer and continue to tactically command the incident from an Operations Point.
- (d) If it is operationally necessary to locate the Operations Officer in the Incident Control Centre then a single Division Commander can be appointed.
- (e) In many urban cases a dedicated 'control' vehicle may be substituted for an Incident Control Centre.
- (f) All relevant incident information including resource summary, personnel accountability, and incident option analysis is to be made available at the new Incident Control Point or the Incident Control Centre.
- (g) When an Incident Control Centre is established then a Staging Area should be established.
- (h) The transfer of control is communicated at the incident to all personnel and a Situation Report is sent to the relevant Fire Communication Centre, confirming new appointments of roles, new Incident Control Point or Incident Control Centre location, geographic area being managed and any update on the incident status.

LEVEL 2 INCIDENTS

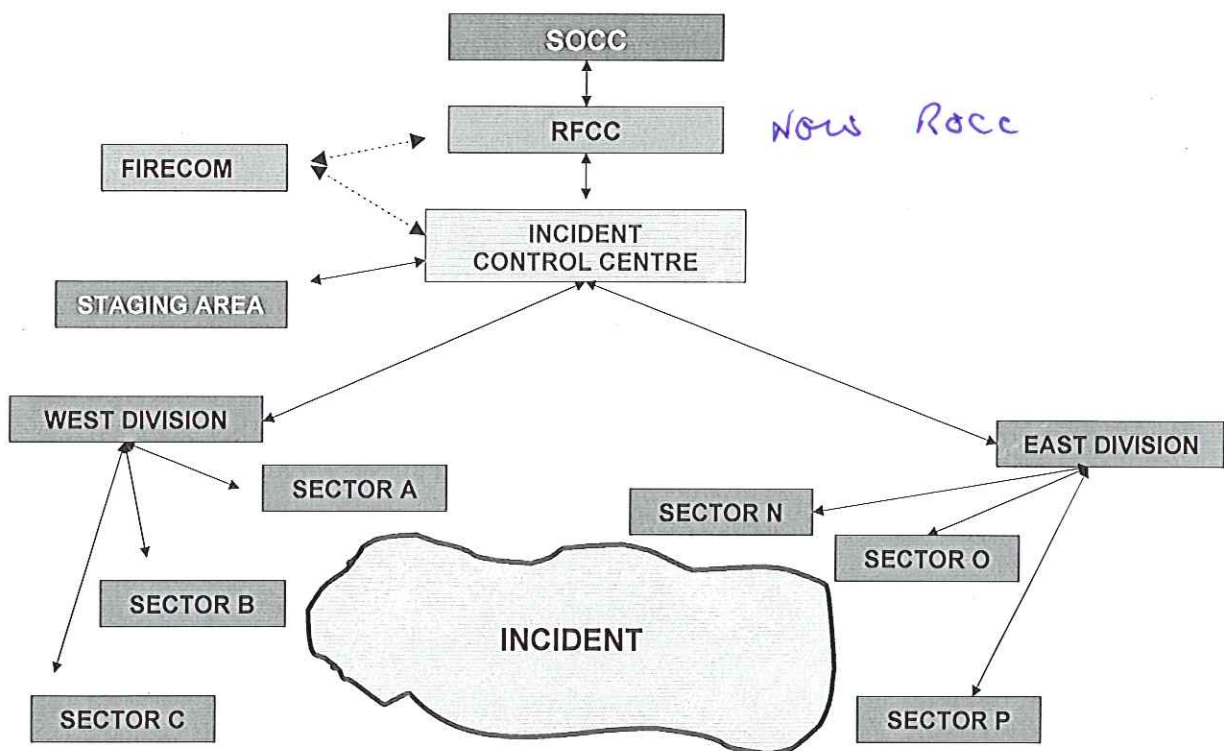


- Control is transferred to Incident Control Centre (Incident Name Control)
- Firecom to Incident Control Centre (Identify boundaries)
- Incident Control Point becomes Operations Point
- Resourcing from Staging Area

3.4 Level Three Incident

- (a) An incident shall only be reclassified as a Level (3) three incident by the Assistant Commissioner. This is necessary, as the suspension of regional non-essential duties may need to be considered.
- (b) If there is a continuing escalation of the incident, i.e. the establishment of Divisions, preparation for the transfer from a Level Two Incident Control Point or Level Two Incident Control Centre to a Level Three Incident Control Centre, will begin.
- (c) A Division Point(s) will replace the Operation Point Division Commander(s) will be appointed and the Operations Officer previously working from an Operation Point will work within the Incident Control Centre.
- (d) The Incident Control Centre must be fully operational before transfer from the Level Two Incident Control Point occurs. If a Level Two Incident Control Centre is functioning the only change is in staffing.
- (e) The Incident Control Centre may be predetermined in regional response plans or may be identified for suitability in relation to the incident location.
- (f) The transfer of control is communicated at the incident to all personnel and a Situation Report is sent to the relevant Fire Communication Centre, confirming new appointments of roles, new Division Command Points location, geographic area being managed and any update on the incident status.
- (g) The Regional Operations Coordination Centre and the State Operations Coordination Centre will be established at the appropriate levels relevant to the requirements of the incident.

LEVEL 3 INCIDENTS



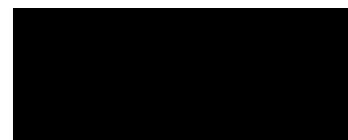
4. QFRS RELEVANCY

IMS 2.3	URBAN OPERATIONS		RURAL OPERATIONS	RURAL FIRE BRIGADES				
	Full time	Part time	Full time	Special	iZone	Village	Rural	Primary Producer
Applicable	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Not Applicable								
May Apply *								✓

* This document may apply to some Rural brigades. Check with your Senior Officer for additional information.

REFERENCES

The Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System
 Fire and Rescue Service Act 1990
 QFRS Training Material
 QFRS Operational Guides



Lee A Johnson AFSM MIFireE
Commissioner

