

Incident Management Teams

Incident Management Teams (IMTs) are comprised of professionals with a variety of specializations who work together to manage every aspect of a large incident. Commonly used to manage wildland fire, they also manage search and rescues, floods, hurricanes, or other complex incidents such as recovery efforts of the [Space Shuttle Columbia](#).

An incident management team of any type is dispatched or mobilized during complex emergencies to provide command and control infrastructure to manage the operational, logistical, informational, planning, fiscal, community, political, and safety issues associated with challenging incidents and will include people from a variety of federal, state, county and city agencies.

- National "Type 1" Incident Management Teams (IMTs) manage large-scale, highly complex incidents anywhere in the United States. These incidents usually involve large wildfires but can be assigned to any complex all-risk situation including hurricanes, floods and other disasters. All lead personnel must meet the National Wildlife Coordination Group (NWCG) requirements of Type 1 for their respective positions. There are sixteen Type 1 IMTs now operating operate through the U.S. Forest Service.
- National "Type 2" IMTs can be assigned to major fires, floods, lengthy search and rescues, law enforcement incidents or other multi-day special events. These incidents may be less complex than a Type 1 incident, but still require a high degree of organization. All personnel meet the NWCG qualifications at the Type 2 level for their specific position. Like Type 1 teams, these teams manage complex incidents for multiple operational periods. There are 35 Type 2 IMT's operating through the U.S. Forest Service. <https://www.nifc.gov/resources/firefighters/incident-management-teams>
- The National Incident Management Organization or "NIMO Team" consists of seven members, the Incident Commander, Safety Officer, Public Information Officer, Planning Section Chief, Operations Section Chief, Logistics Section Chief, and Finance Section Chief. NIMO teams are often paired with Type 2 Teams to manage Type 1 complexity Incidents. When not assigned to incidents, NIMO teams are committed to other national or regional priority projects. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/nimo/home>

During long duration incidents, such as the River Complex, multiple IMTs may cycle through, managing the incident for periods between 14 and 21 days. When new teams arrive, the outgoing team transfers management responsibilities, including downloading of appropriate strategies and key information necessary for a smooth transition.

Operational resources, such as fire engines, crews, and heavy equipment are not part of the IMT and continue their work on an incident independent of the IMT and continue their work across the transition.

California Interagency Incident Management Team 13 (CAIIMT13) is a Type 2 Team led by Incident Commander Wakowski and is replacing California Interagency Incident Management Team 15. NIMO Team 3 led by Incident Commander Houseman will be supporting CAIIMT13 in managing the River

Complex. Team 15 will be headed home for some much-needed rest, before coming available for their next deployment in a few days.