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INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

RESOURCE CATEGORY	Incident Management
RESOURCE KIND	Personnel
OVERALL FUNCTION	The Incident Command System (ICS) Public Information Officer (PIO) is responsible for interfacing with the public, the media and with other jurisdictions/organizations with incident-related information needs.
COMPOSITION AND ORDERING SPECIFICATIONS	1. This position can be ordered as a single resource or in conjunction with a National Incident Management System (NIMS) typed team (Incident Management Team). 2. Discuss logistics for deploying this position, such as working conditions, length of deployment, security, lodging, transportation and meals, prior to deployment. 3. Requestor specifies any additional qualifications necessary, based on incident complexity and needs.

Each type of resource builds on the qualifications of the type below it. For example, Type 1 qualifications include the qualifications in Type 2, plus an increase in capability. Type 1 is the highest qualification level.

COMPONENT	TYPE 1	TYPE 2	TYPE 3	TYPE 4	NOTES
DESCRIPTION	Same as Type 2, PLUS: Conducts public information and external affairs activities in complex and protracted operations involving state, regional and Federal entities	Same as Type 3, PLUS: 1. Interfaces with PIOs from other agencies and jurisdictions to ensure the release of accurate information to the public and media 2. Develops and implements a transition plan based on escalating incident complexity	The ICS PIO: 1. Serves in an ICS role 2. Interfaces with the public, media and other agencies; monitors public information to ensure accuracy 3. Engages in active communication and information sharing with elected and appointed officials 4. Collects, verifies, prepares, coordinates and disseminates community-related incident information to the public through the news media, radio, newspaper and social media stakeholders to provide information and	No Type 4	Not Specified

COMPONENT	TYPE 1	TYPE 2	TYPE 3	TYPE 4	NOTES
			updates based on changes in incident status 5. Uses information from other members of the Incident Management Team (IMT) and Command and General Staff to develop accurate, accessible and complete information on an incident's cause, size, current situation, resources committed and other matters of general interest for internal and external audiences 6. Establishes a Joint Information Center (JIC) and a Joint Information System (JIS) as necessary 7. Supervises assistants, as necessary		
EDUCATION	Not Specified	Not Specified	Not Specified	No Type 4	Not Specified

| TRAINING | Same as Type 2 | Same as Type 3, PLUS:
1. E/L 0388: Advanced Public Information Officer, or equivalent | Completion of the following:
1. IS-29: Public Information Officer Awareness
2. IS-100: Introduction to the Incident Command System, ICS-100
3. IS-200: Basic Incident Command System for Initial Response, ICS-200
4. ICS-300: Intermediate Incident Command System for Expanding Incidents
5. ICS-400: Advanced Incident Command System for Command and General Staff – Complex Incidents
6. IS-700: National Incident Management System, An Introduction
7. IS-800: National Response Framework, An Introduction
8. E/G/L 0191: Emergency Operations Center/Incident Command System Interface
9. E/L 0952: National Incident Management System Incident Command System All-Hazards Public Information Officer, or equivalent
10. United States Fire Administration (USFA) O-0305: Type 3 All-Hazards Incident Management Team (AHIMT) Introduction, or equivalent | No Type 4 | 1. Identified equivalent trainings should meet or exceed course learning objectives.
2. The NIMS Training Program defines a national baseline to guide and promote NIMS training. It provides recommendations to assist the Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) in developing their own training plans, tailored to their specific needs.
3. ICS PIOs serving in an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) or JIC should refer to the NIMS Training Program for training. |

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COMPONENT	TYPE 1	TYPE 2	TYPE 3	TYPE 4	NOTES
EXPERIENCE	Same as Type 2, PLUS: 1. Successful completion of the National Qualification System (NQS) Position Task Book (PTB) for the NIMS Type 1 Incident Command System Public Information Officer, or equivalent AHJ documentation 2. Successful performance as a NIMS Type 2 ICS PIO	Same as Type 3, PLUS: 1. Successful completion of the NQS PTB for the NIMS Type 2 Incident Command System Public Information Officer, or equivalent AHJ documentation 2. Successful performance as a NIMS Type 3 ICS PIO	1. Successful completion of the NQS PTB for the NIMS Type 3 Incident Command System Public Information Officer, or equivalent AHJ documentation 2. Experience in incident management in a subordinate position	No Type 4	Not Specified
PHYSICAL / MEDICAL FITNESS	Same as Type 2	Same as Type 3	Light	No Type 4	The NIMS Guideline for the NQS defines Physical/Medical Fitness levels for NQS positions.
CURRENCY	Functions in this position during a qualifying incident, planned event, exercise, drill or simulation at least once every three years	Same as Type 3	Functions in this position or a higher position during a qualifying incident, planned event, exercise, drill or simulation at least once every three years	No Type 4	A higher position is one for which this position is a prerequisite.
PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS	Not Specified	Not Specified	Not Specified	No Type 4	Not Specified

NOTES

1. Nationally typed resources represent the minimum criteria for the associated component and capability.

2. Additional training on this position is available from the National Wildfire Coordinating Group at https://www.nwcg.gov/positions.

REFERENCES

1. FEMA, NIMS 508: Incident Management Team

2. FEMA, National Qualification System (NQS) Position Task Book for Incident Command System Public Information Officer, latest edition adopted

3. FEMA, National Incident Management System (NIMS), October 2017

4. FEMA, NIMS Guideline for the NQS, November 2017

5. FEMA, NIMS Training Program, May 2020

6. FEMA, National Response Framework, October 2019

7. National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG), Position Catalog, latest edition published

8. United States Fire Administration (USFA), O-0305: All-Hazards Incident Management Team (AHIMT) Introduction, latest edition published