OPERATIONS SECTION CHIEF

RESOURCE CATEGORY	Incident Management
RESOURCE KIND	Personnel
OVERALL FUNCTION	The Operations Section Chief manages tactical incident activities to achieve incident objectives and oversees Incident Action Plan (IAP) implementation
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	NO TYPE 4	NOTES
DESCRIPTION	Same as Type 2, PLUS: 1. Coordinates operations at the state level or across jurisdictions 2. Incorporates branch-level tactical planning within the Operations Section as necessary	Same as Type 3, PLUS: 1. Participates in the development and implementation of a transition plan based on escalating incident complexity 2. Supervises the development of Operations Section-related contingency plans for the incident 3. Works with the Logistics Section to define support needs for remote incident facilities (camps, staging areas and so on)	The Operations Section Chief: 1. Establishes or transitions into the Operations Section 2. Supervises and configures the Operations Section with branches, divisions, groups and units to support the incident 3. Manages all operations and progress related to the incident 4. Makes the tactical assignments documented in the IAP	No Type 4	Not Specified

COMPONENT	TYPE 1	TYPE 2	TYPE 3	NO TYPE 4	NOTES
			and directs the plan's execution 5. Makes expedient changes to current operations based on incident complexity or scope; reports changes to the Incident Commander (IC) 6. Ensures the safety and welfare of Operations Section personnel		
EDUCATION	Not Specified	Not Specified	Not Specified	No Type 4	Not Specified
TRAINING	Same as Type 2	Same as Type 3	Completion of the following: 1. IS-100: Introduction to the Incident Command System, ICS-100 2. IS-200: Basic Incident Command System for Initial Response, ICS-200 3. ICS-300: Intermediate Incident Command System for Expanding Incidents 4. ICS-400: Advanced Incident Command System for Command and General Staff – Complex Incidents 5. IS-700: National Incident Management System, An Introduction 6. IS-800: National Response Framework, An Introduction 7. E/G/L 0191: Emergency Operations	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 Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) in developing their own training plans, tailored to their specific needs.

DRAFT – PRE-DECISIONAL – DRAFT

COMPONENT	TYPE 1	TYPE 2	TYPE 3	NO TYPE 4	NOTES
			Center/Incident Command System Interface 8. E/L 0958: National Incident Management System Incident Command System All-Hazards Operations Section Chief Course, or equivalent 9. United States Fire Administration (USFA) O-0305: Type 3 All-Hazards Incident Management Team (AHIMT), or equivalent		
EXPERIENCE	Same as Type 2, PLUS: 1. Successful completion of the National Qualification System (NQS) Position Task Book (PTB) for the NIMS Type 1 Operations Section Chief, or equivalent AHJ documentation 2. Satisfactory performance as a NIMS Type 2 Operations Section Chief	Same as Type 3, PLUS: 1. Successful completion of the NQS PTB for the NIMS Type 2 Operations Section Chief, or equivalent AHJ documentation 2. Satisfactory performance as a NIMS Type 3 Operations Section Chief	1. Successful completion of the NQS PTB for the NIMS Type 3 Operations Section Chief, or equivalent AHJ documentation 2. Experience in incident management in a subordinate position within the Operations Section	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 an operational incident, planned event, exercise, drill, or simulation at least once every five years	Same as Type 3	Functions in this position or a higher position during an operational incident, planned event, exercise, drill, or simulation at least once every five years	No Type 4	A higher position is one for which this position is a prerequisite.

DRAFT – PRE-DECISIONAL – DRAFT

COMPONENT	TYPE 1	TYPE 2	TYPE 3	NO TYPE 4	NOTES
PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS	Not Specified	Not Specified	Not Specified	No Type 4	Not Specified

DRAFT – PRE-DECISIONAL – DRAFT

OPERATIONS SECTION CHIEF

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.
3. This document contains references to non-Federal resources and materials. Such references do not constitute an endorsement by the U.S. government, or any of its employees, of the information or content which a non-Federal resource or material provides.

REFERENCES

1. FEMA, NIMS 508: Incident Management Team
2. FEMA, NIMS 509: Incident Commander
3. FEMA, National Qualification System (NQS) Position Task Book for Operations Section Chief, latest edition adopted
4. FEMA, National Incident Management System (NIMS), October 2017
5. FEMA, NIMS Guideline for the NQS, November 2017
6. FEMA, NIMS Training Program, May 2020
7. FEMA, National Response Framework, October 2019
8. National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG), Position Catalog, latest edition published
9. United States Fire Administration (USFA), O-0305: All-Hazards Incident Management Team (AHIMT) training course, latest edition published