



(SEMS) STANDARDIZED EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

As of January 1995, all the City's emergency response activities have been managed under the new state mandated Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS).

This is a system required by new legislation (Government Code 8607 (a)) for managing response to multi-agency and multi-jurisdictional emergencies in California. During any declared emergency, all responders (civilian volunteers as well as all government and school employees) will use SEMS guidelines, rules and procedures.

SEMS consists of five organizational levels which are activated as necessary:

- (1) Field Response (City field crews);
- (2) Local Government (City EOC);
- (3) Operational Area (Orange County);
- (4) Region (So. California); and
- (5) State.

SEMS incorporates the use of the Incident Command System (ICS), the Master Mutual Aid Agreement, existing mutual aid systems, the Operational Area concept, and multi-agency or inter-agency coordination.

It is intended to:

- * facilitate coordination among City departments and other responding agencies.
- * facilitate the flow of information within and between levels of the system (e.g., the City EOC, neighboring jurisdictions, and the Operational Area); and
- * improve the mobilization, deployment, utilization, tracking, and demobilization of needed mutual aid resources.
- * reduce the incidence of poor coordination and communications, and duplicate resources ordering on multi-agency and multi-jurisdiction responses. Local government must comply with SEMS regulations in order to be eligible for state funding of response-related personnel costs. SEMS regulations require local governments to:

- 1) use SEMS when:
 - a) the local government EOC is activated, or
 - b) a local emergency is declared or proclaimed.
- 2) establish coordination and communications with emergency response personnel (IC, Branch/Unit Leaders, etc.) within the City, either:
 - a) directly to the EOC, when activated, or
 - b) through field command posts (FCP) and/or department level command centers to the EOC, when activated;
- 3) use existing mutual aid systems for coordinating fire and law enforcement resources;
- 4) establish coordination and communications between the City's EOC and any county or state emergency response agency assisting the City; and
- 5) use multi-agency or inter-agency coordination to facilitate decisions for overall local government level emergency response activities.



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