

Operations Section Chief Position Checklist

The following checklist should be considered as the minimum requirements for this position. Note that some of the tasks are one-time actions; others are ongoing or repetitive for the duration of the incident.



Task

1. Obtain briefing from Incident Commander:

- Determine incident objectives and recommended strategies.
- Determine status of current tactical assignments.
- Identify current organization, location of resources, and assignments.
- Confirm resource ordering process.
- Determine location of current Staging Areas and resources assigned there.

2. Organize Operations Section to ensure operational efficiency, personnel safety and adequate span of control.

3. Establish operational period.

4. Establish and demobilize Staging Areas.

5. Attend Operations Briefing and assign Operations personnel in accordance with Incident Action Plan (IAP):

- Brief Staging Area Manager on types and numbers of resources to be maintained in Staging.
- Brief tactical elements (Branches, Divisions/Groups, Task Force/Strike-Team Leaders) on assignments, ordering process, protective equipment, and tactical assignments.

6. Develop and manage tactical operations to meet incident objectives.

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7. Assess life safety:

- Adjust perimeters, as necessary, to ensure scene security.
- Evaluate and enforce use of appropriate protective clothing and equipment.
- Implement and enforce appropriate safety precautions.

8. Evaluate situation and provide update to Planning Section:

- Location, status, and assignment of resources.
- Effectiveness of tactics.
- Desired contingency plans.

9. Determine need and request additional resources.

10. Notify Resources Unit of Section Branches, Divisions/Groups, Strike Teams/Task Forces, and single resources which are staffed, including location of resources and names of leaders.

11. Keep Resources Unit up to date on changes in resource status.

12. Write formal Operations portion of IAP with the Planning Section Chief, if so directed by the Incident Commander:

- Identify assignments by Division or Group.
- Identify specific tactical assignments.
- Identify resources needed to accomplish assignments.

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13. Ensure coordination of the Operations Section with other Command and General Staff:

- Ensure Operations Section time-keeping, activity logs, and equipment use documents are maintained and passed to Planning, Logistics, and Finance/Administration Sections, as appropriate.
- Ensure resource ordering and logistical support needs are passed to Logistics in a timely fashion-enforce ordering process.
- Notify Logistics of communications problems.
- Keep Planning up-to-date on resource and situation status.
- Notify Liaison Officer of issues concerning cooperating and assisting agency resources.
- Keep Safety Officer involved in tactical decision-making.
- Keep Incident Commander apprised of status of operational efforts.
- Coordinate media field visits with the Public Information Officer.

14. Attend the Tactics Meeting with Planning Section Chief, Safety Officer, and Incident Commander prior to the Planning Meeting to review strategy, discuss tactics, and outline organization assignments.

15. Attend Planning Meetings:

Sample Planning Meeting Agenda

Agenda Item	Responsible Party
1 Briefing on situation/resource status.	Planning/Operations Section Chiefs
2 Discuss safety issues.	Safety Officer
3 Set/confirm incident objectives.	Incident Commander
4 Plot control lines & Division boundaries.	Operations Section Chief
5 Specify tactics for each Division/Group.	Operations Section Chief
6 Specify resources needed for each Division/Group.	Operations/Planning Section Chiefs
7 Specify facilities and reporting locations.	Operations/Planning/Logistics Section Chiefs
8 Develop resource order.	Logistics Section Chief
9 Consider communications/medical/transportation plans.	Logistics/Planning Section Chiefs
10 Provide financial update.	Finance/Administration Section Chief
11 Discuss interagency liaison issues.	Liaison Officer
12 Discuss information issues.	Public Information Officer
13 Finalize/approve/implement plan.	Incident Commander/All

16. Hold Section meetings, as necessary, to ensure communication and coordination among Operations Branches, Divisions, and Groups.