

MCI Field Operations Study Guide 2024

For completing the MVEMSA computer-based training



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MVEMSA MCI Field Operations Student Study Guide

MVEMSA Multi-Casualty Incident (MCI) Training Requirements:

Initial Training:

All First Responders, EMTs, Paramedics and MICNs provide proof of successful completion of the MCI Field Operations course (<http://www.mvemsa.org>) prior to initial certification.

Renewal Training:

All First Responders, EMTs, Paramedics and MICNs must provide proof of successful completion of the MCI Field Operations course (<http://www.mvemsa.org>) dated not earlier than 90-days prior to re-certification, re-accreditation or re-authorization.

About this Study Guide:

This guide is a companion study aide for the MVEMSA Field Operations computer-based training requirement (see standards above). To take the modules, go to the Mountain Valley EMS Agency web page (<http://www.mvemsa.org>), on the top of the page, click on the Training & CE tab. On the drop-down menu, click on MCI Field Operations. You will see the following:

At the beginning of each of the following four self-study modules, you will be asked to register.

At the end of each module you will be offered a 20-question quiz, each question is worth 5 points.

You must complete each quiz with a passing grade of 80% to receive CE Credit. You will receive 1-hour CE Credit for each module (4 hours total).

Completion of all 4 Modules is MANDATORY. You MUST PRINT all 4 MCI Field Operations Module CE Certificates (OR IF SUBMITTING APPLICATION ON-LINE, SUBMIT BY PDF OR JPEG), dated within 90-days prior to certification, re-certification, re-authorization, accreditation or continuous accreditation, in compliance with Agency Policy 853.00 Prehospital Standards.

Click on each of the four modules to take each course: you must enter your name and certification number.

- ✓ **Introduction to SEMS/NIMS**
- ✓ **Basic Multi-Casualty ICS**
- ✓ **S.T.A.R.T.**
- ✓ **Patient/Control Facility Interaction**

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Unit 1 - SEMS/NIMS (1 of 4)

First name

Last name

Email address

Certification # or leave blank

[↓ CLICK HERE ↓](#)

UNIT 1 - SEMS/NIMS

I have reviewed Unit 1 (above) prior to taking test.

YES

Start ▶

NOTE: You can skip to the test and simply use these study guides to assist you See screenshot above. SUBJECT LINES IN RED ARE SIGNIFICANT TO THE TESTS!

Module One: Introduction to SEMS/NIMS

Course Objectives:

- List several elements for effective interagency emergency response
 - Describe the major components of the ICS system
 - List various levels of emergency response/management
 - Describe activities involved in disaster preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation
 - Demonstrate major principles of SEMS/NIMS
- ✓ SEMS/NIMS is based on a proven system that provides:
- Organization
 - Guidance
 - Training at each level of the emergency response

SEMS (Standardized Emergency Management System) was developed in response to the 1991 Oakland Hills Fire due to a lack of standardized protocols among various California fire agencies. SEMS became effective in September of 1994.

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➤ **SEMS = Standardized Emergency Management System.**

NIMS (National Incident Management System) was developed for the Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 (HSPD-5) for the management of domestic incidents. It is applicable across all jurisdictions and functions to improve the coordination and cooperation among responders.

✓ Who uses SEMS/NIMS?

All agencies who respond to emergencies involving multiple jurisdictions/multiple agencies should use SEMS/NIMS. It is also required to be eligible for State and Federal funding of preparedness/response related costs.

✓ **SEMS Organization Levels of Response:**

1. **Federal**
2. **State**
3. **Region**
4. **Operational Area**
5. **Local Government**
6. **Field Response**

Field Response Level:

This is where emergency response personnel and resources carry-out tactical decisions and activities in direct response to an incident or threat.

Local Government Level:

This is the level of Cities, Counties and Special Districts who manage and coordinate overall emergency response and recovery within the jurisdiction.

Operational Area Level:

This intermediate level includes County and political subdivisions. It coordinates among local Governments within the Operational Level and serves as coordinator and communication link between local Governments and the Region.

- **The Operational Area level of SEMS contains a County and all political subdivisions.**
- **When a local government needs additional resources, this is coordinated through the Operational Area.**

Regional Level:

This level coordinates among Operational Areas within the Region, between Operational Areas and the State, and coordinates overall State agency support for emergency response within the Region.

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State Level:

This level manages State resources in response to the needs of the other levels. It coordinates mutual aid programs and coordinates communications within Federal disaster response systems.

NOTE: The quiz for these levels **starts** at the Federal level and goes down to the Field level

✓ SEMS/NIMS Components:

The four major components of SEMS/NIMS are:

- Command/Management
- Preparedness
- Resource Management
- Communications/Information Management

➤ **SEMS /NIMS four major components include: Command/ Management, Preparedness, Resource Management and Communications.**

✓ SEMS/NIMS Command and Management:

The Incident Command System (ICS) is utilized for a standardized Command /Management system.

➤ **Incident Command System (ICS) is the command and management system used by SEMS/ NIMS.**

✓ ICS is:

- Modular and Scalable:
 - Only activate the positions that are needed on each incident
- Uses Common Terminology:
 - Plain English and common titles, standardized procedures which facilitate communication among responders
- Uses measurable objectives and Incident Action Plans
- It is a proven system that is based on organizational best practices

➤ **To ensure efficient, clear communication, ICS requires the use of common terminology. Standardized identification, allocation and tracking of resources**

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✓ Span of Control:

- The number of individuals or resources that one supervisor can manage effectively is “span of control”
- Resources are arranged into Sections, Branches, Groups, Divisions and Teams
- The ideal span of control is 1:5 (ranges from 1:3 to 1:7)

✓ Incident Commander (IC):

- The IC is the one position that is always activated on all emergency scenes
- The IC has overall responsibility for managing the incident
- It is the IC who activates other ICS positions and appoints staff based on the size and magnitude of the incident
- The IC should be the most qualified and trained person on scene (not necessarily based on rank, grade or seniority)
- Formal transfer of command should include:
 - Briefing for the incoming IC
 - Notification of all personnel of this change
 - Demobilization of the outgoing IC

➤ **The IC is responsible for the overall incident management.**

✓ The mission of the IC is to:

- Give overall strategic direction to the incident
- Ensure safety of all responders
- Initiate and approve the Incident Action Plan (IAP)
- Liaise with others on the incident

✓ Command Staff:

The three Officers of the Command Staff report directly to the IC:

- Public Information Officer (PIO)
- Safety Officer
- Liaison Officer

The PIO serves as a conduit for information to the media and other stakeholders’

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The Liaison Officer is the primary contact for outside agencies and organizations.

The Safety Officer must ensure the safety of all incident personnel and monitor and correct operations that pose a threat. The Safety Officer can halt any operation that poses a threat.

➤ **The PIO serves as the source of information for internal and external stakeholders, the media and other organizations seeking information.**

✓ General Staff:

The General staff consists of:

- Operations Section Chief – responsible for tactics
- Plans Section Chief – responsible for collecting data and predictions
- Finance Section Chief – responsible for tracking costs
- Logistics Section Chief – supports the responders and resources

➤ **The title for an individual assigned over a Section is “Chief”.**

Incident Command Post (ICP) is where the IC oversees all incident operations.

Staging areas are temporary locations where resources are made available to the incident.

Helibase is for the management of helicopter operations.

Helispot is a fixed or temporary location for helicopter landings and take-off.

✓ Unified Command:

- When more than one responding agency is responsible for the incident. OR
- When the incident crosses political jurisdictions
- The agency representatives should jointly develop overall objectives and priorities
- This is done by activating a Unified Command

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- **A Unified Command should be formed if representatives from multiple authorities or jurisdictions are involved in an incident.**
- **An application of ICS used when multiple authorities or jurisdictions respond to a single incident is Unified Command.**

✓ Area Command:

- Area Command may be established to oversee multiple Incident Command Posts
- It sets overall strategy and priorities
- Allocates critical resources
- Ensures management objectives are being met
- Develops a common Incident Action Plan (IAP)

- **Area Command should be established in order to coordinate resources and planning among multiple Incident Command Posts.**

✓ MACS – Multi-Agency Coordination System:

- Supports policies and procedures
- Ensures logistical support
- Allocates resources based on priorities
- Coordinates information among responders

✓ EOC- Emergency Operations Center is activated within MACS:

- It supports and coordinates communications
- May be established by all levels – from Local Government to the Federal Level

- **An EOC (Emergency Operations Center) supports multi-agency coordination and information management activities.**

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✓ MACS Post-Incident:

- The MACS makes revisions and updates to:
 - Plans
 - Procedures
 - Communications
 - Staffing
 - Other necessary items

➤ **MACS groups are typically responsible for ensuring that revisions or updates are made to plans and procedures, communications and staffing.**

✓ Joint Information System (JIS):

The JIS coordinates incident information and provides this information to the public.

Key elements are:

- Interagency coordination and integration
- Developing and delivering messages
- Support for decision makers
- Support for the PIO

➤ **The Joint Information System provides timely and accurate information to the public, and coordinates incident information.**

✓ Joint Information Center (JIC):

- Has a physical location within the EOC
- Can be established at various levels of Government
- PIO's are sent to the JIC for information

➤ **A local jurisdiction may activate a Joint Information Center in order to coordinate public information.**

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✓ Preparedness:

- Planning
- Training
- Exercises
- Personnel qualifications and certifications
- Equipment acquisition and certification
- Mutual aid agreements

The objective of preparedness is to establish and sustain the capability necessary for:

- Interoperability
- Coordination
- It is the responsibility of individual jurisdictions
- Each level of Government is responsible for its preparedness

➤ **Ensuring mission integration and interoperability is a major objective of preparedness.**

Planning:

- Sets priorities
- Integrates entities and functions
- Establishes relationships
- Manages resources
- Ensures that systems support the incident management activities

Types of plans include:

- EOC emergency operations plans
- Procedures such as SOP's, field operation guides, etc
- Preparedness plans – to ensure the training needs are identified and met
- Corrective action / mitigation plans – from lessons learned
- Recovery plans – to facilitate long-term recovery

➤ **Corrective action or mitigation plans are activities required to implement procedures based on lessons learned from actual incidents or training.**

Training / Exercises:

- Enhance capabilities
- Increase effectiveness of the response and recovery
- Tests plans, policies and systems

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- **Training and exercises are important aspects of Preparedness Planning.**
- **Enhancing all-hazard incident management capabilities, increasing effectiveness of response and recovery, and providing a mechanism to test plans, policies and systems is an aspect of training and exercising.**

Personnel Certifications and Qualifications:

- Training
- Experience
- Credentialing
- Continuing education on current practices
- Physical and mental fitness

Equipment Certifications:

- Equipment must be able to perform to certain standards
- Must be interoperable

- **Triage tags, PPE and Decon equipment are examples of EMS equipment that should be interoperable with other responders in the community.**

Mutual Aid:

- Mutual aid are agreements with other jurisdictions or Government agencies and private organizations
- They facilitate timely delivery of assistance
- State Mutual Aid Agreement of 1950 coordinates with:
 - Fire and Rescue
 - Law Enforcement
 - Medical / Health

- **The Regional Disaster Medical / Health Coordinator is the individual responsible for coordinating Medical / Health mutual aid requests from the Operational Area.**

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Resource Management:

- Establishing
- Activating
- Dispatching
- Deactivating

➤ **Resource Management has four primary tasks: establishing systems, activating systems, dispatching and deactivating resources.**

Classification of resources by:

- Kind and Type
- Credentialing system
- For all private and public organizations

➤ **If the “kind” of resource is a Doctor, the “type” might be a surgeon.**

Communications:

- To ensure consistency
- To ensure interoperable technology
- And to establish protocols in advance

MACS is associated with the EOC

Unified Command is associated with the ICP

Joint Information System is associated with the JIC

➤ **Ensuring consistency among all who respond is a key concept of communications and information management.**

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NOTE: AFTER Taking the Quiz

MVEMSA requires proof of completion of each of the four modules. Download your certificate BEFORE you leave the module, submit a copy of all four modules with your application.