

Planning 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. Tasks may be delegated to the appropriate Unit Leader



Task

1. Obtain briefing from Incident Commander:
 - Determine current resource status (ICS Form 201).
 - Determine current situation status/intelligence (ICS Form 201).
 - Determine current incident objectives and strategy.
 - Determine whether Incident Commander requires a written Incident Action Plan (IAP).
 - Determine time and location of first Planning Meeting.
 - Determine desired contingency plans.

2. Activate Planning Section positions, as necessary, and notify Resources Unit of positions activated.

3. Establish and maintain resource tracking system.

4. Complete ICS Form 201, if not previously completed, and provide copies to Command, Command Staff, and General Staff.

5. Advise Incident Command Post (ICP) staff of any significant changes in incident status.

6. Compile and display incident status summary information. Document on ICS Form 209, Incident Status Summary (or other approved agency forms):
 - Forward incident status summaries to Agency Administrator and/or other designated staff once per operational period, or as required.
 - Provide copy to Public Information Officer.

7. Obtain/develop incident maps.

8. Establish information requirements and reporting schedules for ICP and field staff.

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9. Prepare contingency plans:

- Review current and projected incident and resource status.
- Develop alternative strategies.
- Identify resources required to implement contingency plan.
- Document alternatives for presentation to Incident Commander and Operations, and for inclusion in the written IAP.

10. Meet with Operations Section Chief and/or Command, prior to Planning Meetings, to discuss proposed strategy and tactics and diagram incident organization and resource location.

11. Conduct Planning Meetings according to following agenda:

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

12. Supervise preparation and distribution of the written IAP, if indicated. Minimum distribution is to all Command, Command Staff, General Staff, and Operations personnel to the Division/Group Supervisor level:

- Establish information requirements and reporting schedules for use in preparing the IAP.
- Ensure that detailed contingency plan information is available for consideration by Operations and Command.
- Verify that all support and resource needs are coordinated with Logistics Section prior to release of the IAP.

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- Include fiscal documentation forms in written IAP as requested by the Finance/Administration Section.
- Coordinate IAP changes with General Staff personnel and distribute written changes, as appropriate.

13. Coordinate development of Incident Traffic Plan with Operations and the Ground Support Unit Leader.

14. Coordinate preparation of the Safety Message with Safety Officer.

15. Coordinate preparation of the Incident Communications Plan and Medical Plan with Logistics.

16. Instruct Planning Section Units in distribution of incident information.

17. Provide periodic predictions on incident potential.

18. Establish a weather data collection system, when necessary.

19. Identify need for specialized resources; discuss need with Operations and Command; facilitate resource requests with Logistics.

20. Ensure Section has adequate coverage and relief.

21. Hold Section meetings as necessary to ensure communication and coordination among Planning Section Units.

22. Ensure preparation of demobilization plan, if appropriate.

23. Ensure preparation of final incident package and route to Agency Administrator for archiving or follow-up after Incident Management Team (IMT) demobilization.

24. Provide briefing to relief on current and unusual situations.

25. Ensure that all staff observe established level of operational security.

26. Ensure all Planning functions are documenting actions on Unit Log (ICS Form 214).

27. Submit all Section documentation to Documentation Unit.