



# EOC Position Credentialing Program

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## Frequently Asked Questions

### **1. What is the purpose of the EOC credentialing program?**

The program has been developed to identify measures and competencies for EOC staff. The program documents professional qualifications, certifications, training and educational requirements that define basic criteria expected of emergency services personnel for effective EOC management and operations.

### **2. When did the program become effective?**

The credentialing program becomes effective Nov, 2016

### **3. Is a local emergency management office “required” by CalOES to participate in the EOC Credentialing Program?**

No, EOC position credentialing is voluntary. The coursework and requirements outlined in the three task books outline a pathway for any individual to apply for an EOC position credential. While credentialing *IS* voluntary, CalOES will not deploy personnel as part of EMMA or EMAC without either a Type II or Type I credential.

### **4. Why are there three types?**

The credentialing program has been developed to comply with basic NIMS resource typing. Type 3 is the most basic Type offered as is recommended for personnel working in local EOCs and DOCs. Type 2 is an intermediate level that ensures a personnel member is available for deployment under EMMA & EMAC. Type 1 is the most complex level and is subject to the most stringent renewal timelines in the program.

### **5. What happens if a local emergency management office decides not to participate?**

Participation in the EOC position credentialing program is not required. However, the program has been built on best practices and is highly recommended for those serving in local EOC/DOC positions. Credentials are issued to personnel members and *NOT* emergency management offices. Your personnel are welcome to apply for credentials regardless of the participation of the office.

### **6. Is there a cost?**

In 2016 the program will be released with no cost anticipated for individuals to apply for their EOC Credential.



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### **7. What if my EOC isn't structured the same way as the position chart in the program?**

EOC position credentialing is built based on a standard set of positions anticipated in most EOCs/DOCs. If your local EOC/DOC isn't structured the same as the org chart in the task book, refer to your local emergency management professional to assist you in deciding which position most closely relates to the position you fill in your EOC/DOC.

### **8. I have a credential under the old system....how do I get a new credential?**

Credentials in the EOC position credentialing program are issued and renewed on a cycle:

- Type III – every 5 years
- Type II – every 4 years
- Type I – every 3 years

If your credential was not issued within the timeline allotted, you will need to re-apply for a new credential. During the initial startup of the program, credentials *MAY* be issued based on experience prior to the timelines on a case by case basis.

### **9. As the program is developed, how far back will coursework be accepted?**

During the initial startup of the program, coursework may be submitted prior to the 5 year timeframe. However, coursework *MUST* meet the standards of curricula currently requested in the program. As the program progresses, FEMA ISP courses will be necessary for renewal *IF* the online course is updated by FEMA between the original date taken and the submission renewal date. CSTI may make exceptions on a case by case basis.

### **10. For renewals how much of the curricula needs to be repeated?**

Continuing education coursework will be offered by the California State Training Institute for renewal purposes. Exercises and Real-world deployments submitted for renewals *MUST* be within the timeframe outline for each specific credential.

### **11. For those positions that require it, what needs to be in my letter of support?**

Certain positions require letters that support either a level of experience (2 years, etc.) or level of participation (participation in specialty teams). To satisfy this requirement a letter can be submitted and signed by the supervisor who can verify the experience (immediate work supervisor, team leader, etc.).



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### **12. What is a 226 and how do I fill it in?**

The 226 form is an ICS form which has been slightly modified to serve as the standard for proving operational experience. In the Type III program 226's may be submitted for exercises or real-world deployments. In the Type II & I programs *ONLY* real-world deployments will be accepted. The Resource book accompanying the program contains a pre-filled 226 for every position in the program. You need only have the supervisor overseeing your experience fill in the bottom section of the form.

### **13. If I miss the renewal....do I have to start all over again?**

Depending on how far back the renewal period, CSTI will advise you as to what steps are necessary to fulfill your requirements.

### **For questions or comments please contact:**

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