

# SEMS and RESOURCE TYPING

**Q: What is the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS):**

**A:** SEMS is a comprehensive California state-wide emergency management system that law, fire, and other disaster responders use in emergency situations, and is applicable to all local jurisdictional levels. The primary goal of SEMS is to aid in communications and response by providing a common management system and language. The basic framework of SEMS incorporates the use of the FIRESCOPE Incident Command System, multi-agency coordination, and the California Emergency Management Agency's State Mutual Aid System. SEMS provides an organizational framework and acts as the umbrella under which all response agencies may function in an integrated fashion.

**Q: Why do we need SEMS?**

**A:** SEMS provides a consistent framework and approach to enable local government, the private sector, and nongovernmental organizations to work together to prepare for, prevent, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of incidents regardless of the incident's cause, size, location, or complexity. Consistent application of SEMS lays the groundwork for efficient and effective responses, from a single agency fire response to a multiagency, multijurisdictional natural disaster or terrorism response. SEMS provides commonality in preparedness and response efforts that allow diverse entities to readily integrate and, if necessary, establish unified command during an incident.

**Q: To whom does SEMS apply?**

**A:** SEMS is applicable to local governments, private sector organizations, critical infrastructure owners and operators, nongovernmental organizations and other organizations with an active role in emergency management and incident response.

**Q: How does SEMS relate to local incident command?**

**A:** A basic premise of SEMS is that all incidents begin and end locally. SEMS does not take command away from local authorities. SEMS simply provides the framework to enhance the ability of responders, including the private sector and non-government organizations, to work together more effectively.

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**Q: What is resource typing?**

**A:** Resource typing is the categorization and description of response resources that are commonly exchanged in disasters through mutual aid agreements. Resource typing definitions can give emergency responders the information they need to make sure they request and receive the appropriate resources during an emergency or disaster. Ordering resources that have been typed using these definitions makes the resource request and dispatch process more accurate and efficient.

**Q: What is the purpose of resource typing?**

**A:** Resource typing enhances emergency readiness and response at all levels of government through a system that allows an already overwhelmed jurisdiction to augment its response resources during an incident. Standard resource typing definitions help responders request and deploy the resources they need through the use of common terminology. They allow emergency management personnel to identify, locate, request, order, and track outside resources quickly and effectively and facilitate the movement of these resources to the jurisdiction that needs them.

**Q: Are there other reasons why we should participate in the Fire & Rescue Division Resource Typing Program?**

**A:** Yes -

- Encourages and reinforces the use of the FIREScope Standardized Equipment List
- Establishes a standardized platform for equipment throughout the State based on performance
- Encourages and reinforces the use of the CSTI certified Hazardous Materials Technician and Specialist training curriculums
- Inspection process quantifies and verifies accurate measure of Haz-Mat Team "Type"
- Meets and exceeds the Haz-Mat Team Typing criteria of FEMA Target Capabilities
- Typed teams officially recognized, and added to State Haz-Mat Mutual Aid Roster
- Request for resources is standardized and is in keeping with the State Mutual Aid Plan
- Dependable haz-mat resource lists are maintained in Operational Area Dispatch Centers
- Assembly of Haz-Mat Team resources follows FIREScope protocols and FOG
- Builds confidence and continuity among all participating Typed teams
- Increases opportunities for future equipment grant applications

**Q: Is resource typing part of SEMS?**

**A:** Yes, in an adjunct manner. FIREScope and the FIREScope Incident Command System (ICS) are a part of SEMS. And part of the ICS system incorporates the concept of resource typing. Resource typing is an important part of resource management.