



# Incident Management Assistance Team

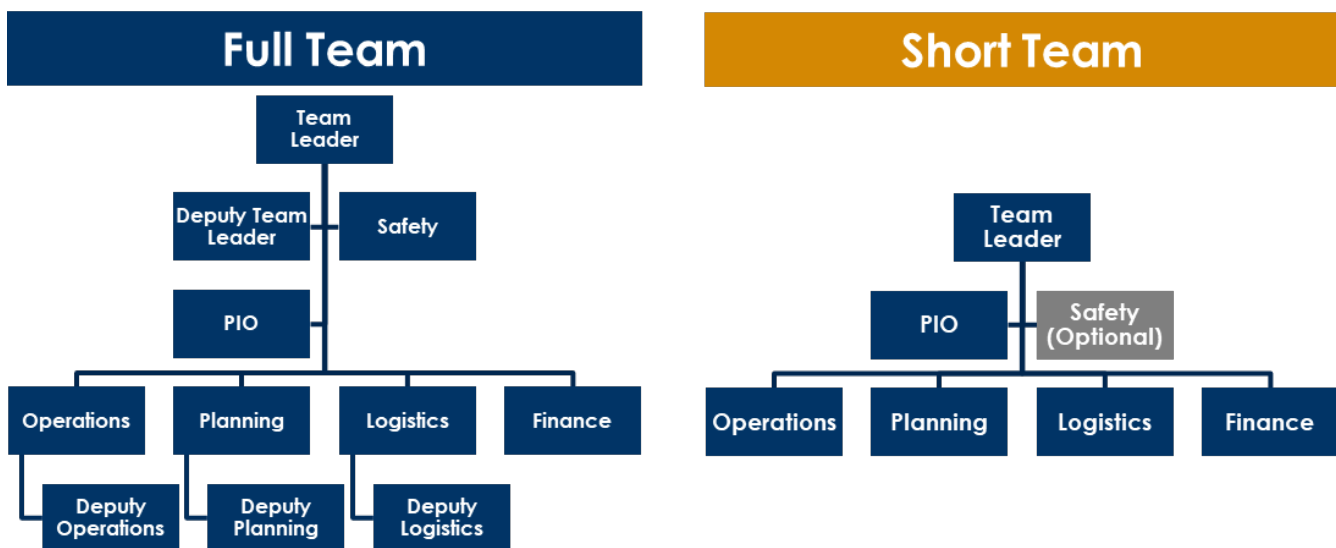
## Overview and Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT)?

The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT) is a full-time team that deploys in support of local emergency managers and state agencies to help coordinate the response to major emergencies and disasters.

Modeled after the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) IMAT program, the Cal OES IMAT supports disaster survivors by enhancing emergency response coordination at the field, local, Operational Area, and state levels. By coordinating and managing resources, developing response plans, tracking cost expenditures, and analyzing disaster information, the IMAT can help deliver a swift and well-organized response to incidents such as wildfires, earthquakes, floods, public health emergencies, and other disasters.

The IMAT works in partnership with Cal OES Region staff to provide unified support.



### How is the IMAT organized?

The 11 IMAT staff are organized in accordance with the five sections of the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS): Management, Operations, Planning and Intelligence, Logistics, and Finance and Administration. The IMAT is modular and can be deployed in a variety of scaled configurations to fit a jurisdiction's needs. The graphic above shows Full Team and Short Team configurations. IMAT personnel can also be deployed as single resources.

## How does the IMAT assist during a disaster?

The IMAT is primarily designed to support local Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) during large or complex disasters. The IMAT acts as a force multiplier, providing additional EOC Credentialed personnel and enabling the EOC to manage the increased demands of the disaster. Additionally, the IMAT coordinates with the State Operations Center (SOC) to manage state and federal agency assistance. Examples of mission areas the IMAT can assist local emergency managers with include:

- Incident Stabilization
- Public Information
- EOC Safety Support
- EOC Operations
- State Agency Coordination
- EOC Action Plan Development
- Situation Status Reporting
- Resource Requesting and Logistics
- Emergency Contracting and Procurement Support
- Disaster Finance and Cost Recovery
- Technical Assistance
- Recovery Transition Planning
- Lessons Learned from Prior Incidents

## Does the IMAT self-deploy to local EOCs?

**No.** The IMAT provides incident management assistance and only deploys to an EOC when specifically requested by the local agency. The IMAT does not assume command of an incident or EOC. Preferably, IMAT personnel work alongside local agency counterparts and assist them in performing their EOC roles. At a minimum, the local agency must continue to provide an EOC Director.

During major disasters or specialized incidents, Cal OES may deploy the IMAT to support state response coordination, such as establishing a Joint Field Office (JFO) or assisting another state agency response within its authorities.

## Are IMAT deployments free to the requesting agency?

**Yes.** IMAT personnel are full-time salaried Cal OES employees. All travel and supporting expenses are paid by Cal OES.

## How is the IMAT requested?

Operational Areas can request IMAT support through their **Region Emergency Services Coordinator (ESC)**. The ESC will help locals define their assistance request and will coordinate with Cal OES leadership to seek approval. If only singular positions are needed, Operational Areas should first try to secure the resource through the Emergency Management Mutual Aid (EMMA) system. The IMAT is also available through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact.



<https://tinyurl.com/Cal-OES-IMAT>