Appendix C

California Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) and the Incident Command System (ICS)
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A. Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS)

The Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) is a group of principles developed for coordinating state and local emergency response in California. SEMS provides for a multi-level emergency response organization and is intended to structure and facilitate the flow of emergency information and resources within and between the following organizational levels: field response, local government, operational areas, regions, and state management.

SEMS incorporates the use of the Incident Command System (ICS), California Disaster and Civil Defense Master Mutual Aid Agreement (MMAA), the Operational Area (OA) concept and multiagency or inter-agency coordination. State agencies and local government entities are required to use SEMS in order to be eligible for any reimbursement of response-related costs under the state's disaster assistance programs.

San Diego State University utilizes SEMS for response and recovery activities. The SDSU EOP conforms to SEMS.

B. Incident Command System (ICS)

The Incident Command System (ICS) was developed by the fire fighting agencies of California for the purpose of streamlining and integrating response to major fires. ICS provides standardized procedures and terminology, a unified command structure, a manageable span of control, and an action plan process that identifies response strategies and tactical actions. Other disciplines, such as law enforcement and medical services have adopted ICS. Emergency management planning in local jurisdictions throughout the state is also based on ICS.

SEMS essential features adapted from ICS include:

1. Essential Management
2. Management by Objectives
3. Action Planning
4. Modular Organization
5. Organizational Unity
6. Span of Control
7. Personnel Accountability
8. Common Terminology
9. Resource Management
10. Integrated Communications

San Diego State University has adopted and promotes ICS principles through its utilization of SEMS for response and recovery activities.

C. SEMS ORGANIZATION LEVELS

SEMS consists of five organizational levels:

1. Field Response

Emergency response personnel and resources, under the command of an appropriate authority, carry out tactical decisions and activities in direct response to an incident or threat. This is the incident level – where the emergency response begins. SEMS regulations require the use of ICS at this level of an incident.

*Emergency first response for San Diego State University is University Police. Emergency first response for San Diego State University, Calexico is Calexico Police. Emergency first response for San Diego State University, Brawley is Brawley Sherriff.*

2. Local Government Level

Local governments include cities, counties, and special districts. Local governments manage and coordinate the overall emergency response and recovery activities among emergency agencies within their jurisdiction. This is the first coordination level above the field response. Local governments are required to use SEMS when their emergency operations center is activated or a local emergency is declared.

*The local government level for San Diego State University is the City of San Diego.*

3. Operational Area

Operational area manages and/or coordinates information, resources, and priorities among local governments and serves as the link between the local government level and the regional level. At this level, the governing bodies are required in SEMS to reach consensus on how resources will be allocated in a major crisis affecting multiple jurisdictions or agencies. All member jurisdictions and agencies have equal influence in establishing priorities and formulating decisions.

*The Operational Area for San Diego State University is the County of San Diego.*
4. Regional

Because of its size and geography, the state has been divided into six mutual aid regions, all with operating Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs). The regions’ EOCs prioritize requests and provide support to the operational areas in their respective regions. This is to provide for more effective application and coordination of mutual aid and other related activities.

San Diego State University is part of Mutual Aid Region VI.

5. State

The state level is located in Sacramento at the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) headquarters. Cal OES manages state resources in response to the emergency needs of the other levels. The state level requests assistance from other state governments through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) and similar interstate compacts/agreements and coordinates with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) when federal assistance is requested. The state level operates out of the State Operations Center (SOC). The state also serves as the coordination and communication link between the state and federal disaster response process.

San Diego State University is part of FEMA Region IX.