

*2016  
State Interoperability  
Conference*

***Incident/Event Radio Communications Planning***

***Bryce Tracy***

***Michigan Communications Working Group***

***Michigan's Public Safety Communications Interoperability Board***

***Mackinac County 911***

# *Discussion & Training Objectives*

- Things we will talk about include;
  1. Development and completion of the ICS Form 217A, the Communications Resource Availability Worksheet.
  2. ICS Form 205, the Incident Radio Communications Plan
  3. ICS Form 205 A, Communications List
  4. Pre-Event / Incident Planning
  5. Resources (Local, State, Federal)
  6. Forms - How to get them, How to complete (few exercises)
  7. Bringing it all together.
  8. Communications Chart (Bonus Form – You must develop)
  9. County Communications Plan Template

*Who/What gets blamed for failures?*

*#1 Answer at emergency events = “COMMUNICATIONS”*

- Lack of planning, training before it happens...
- Trying to use day-to-day communications practices for larger than single resources response emergencies or special events
- In some cases, lack of radio system capabilities (knowing what it can & can't do)
- Operator error – training, radio ergonomics, functions
- Not following chain of command or orders (ICS best practices)
- Resiliency and redundancy – what if primary systems are down
- Do you practice for worse case scenarios?

## *Where is everyone at with their communications planning?*

- Local, Regional, State – National?
- Written Down?
- Shared with others?
- In your Head?
- Updated in the last year, last 5 years.. Or ever?
- Would all your assistants, staff, responders members know what to do? (What if your on vacation?)

# *Local Communications Plan*

- Needs to be written down or organized
- Simple easy to read understand
- User friendly – Quick Reference
- Can be used for training also
- Functional applicable
- Current information
- Can match/merge with Regional, State even National communication plans standards
- NIMS / ICS best practices included

# *What resources do you have to pick from ?*

## *Use the - ICS 217A Form*

- Listed database of what is available (pre-incident/event)
  - Identify all available local and adjacent radio systems
    - Simplex, Duplex, Trunked, Digital, P25, VHF, UHF, 700/800
  - Authorized usable channels / talk-groups
    - Local, Regional, Statewide, National (Guidelines, MOU's, Comm Plans)
  - Tactical, on-scene type Channels / Talk-Groups
- Once form is completed, you can directly cut/copy and past into the ICS 205 Form

# *Filling in the ICS FORM 205*

- Determine communications needs with Command
  - Who is here?
  - How is the incident organized?
- Understand roles of responding resources
  - What is their assignment?
  - Where are they doing it?
  - When are they doing it?

# *ICS FORM 205*

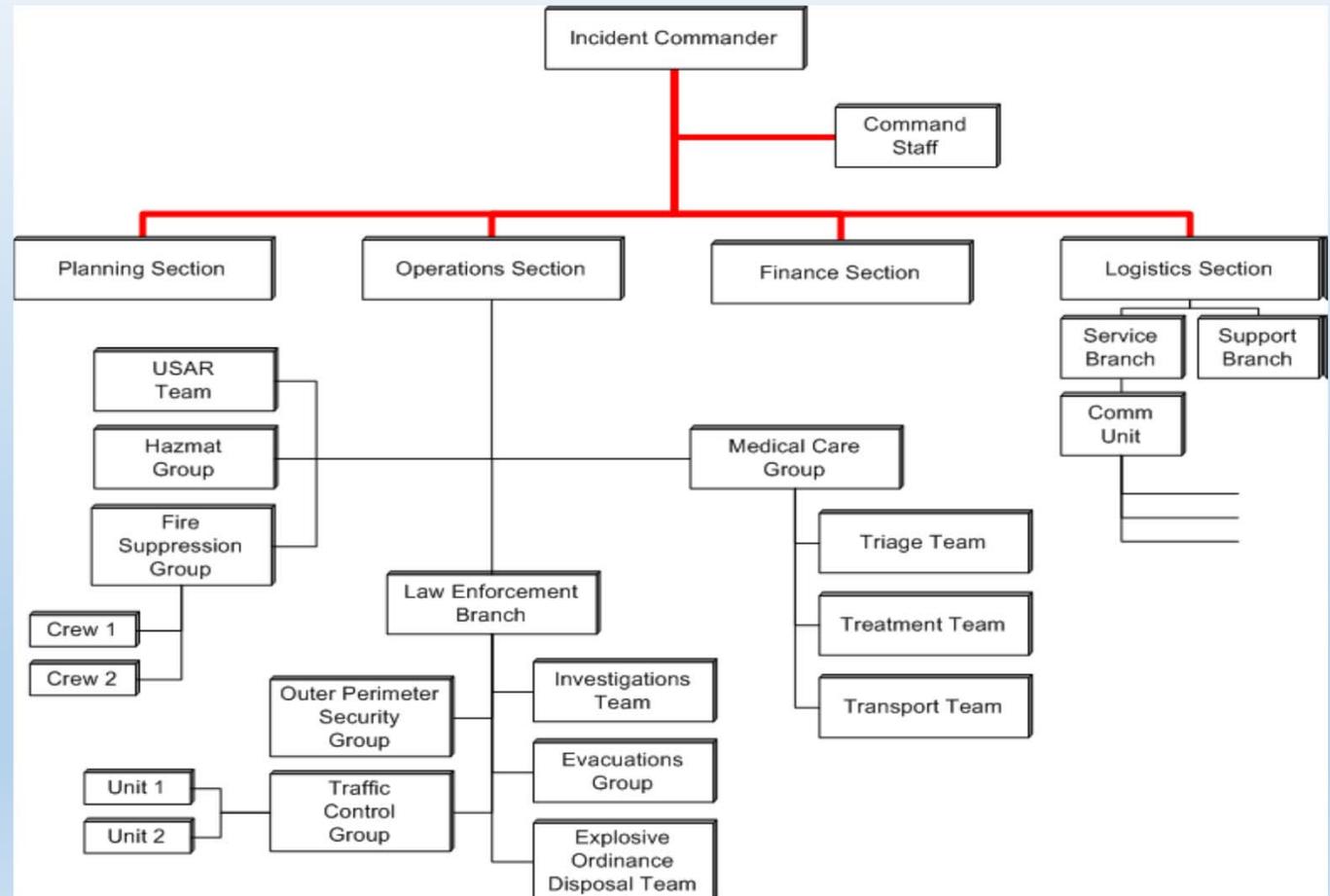
- Assess Available Resources
  - Determine most appropriate and available
    - System resources
    - Shared channels / talk-groups
    - Gateways (fixed, mobile, field deployable)
    - Radio cache equipment (Local, Regional, State)
- Assign networks/nets (By function, chain of command, ICS Organization)
  - Command
  - Operations
  - Tactical
  - Incident support
- Create/develop the ICS Form 205

# *ICS FORM 205*

- Apply resources for networks/nets, addressing:
  - What channels/talk-groups are available and programmed into the users' radios?
  - What and where is coverage required?
  - Is there an interoperability/mutual aid component to the incident that allows (according to the federal regulations or state/regional procedures) for the use of designated interagency channels?

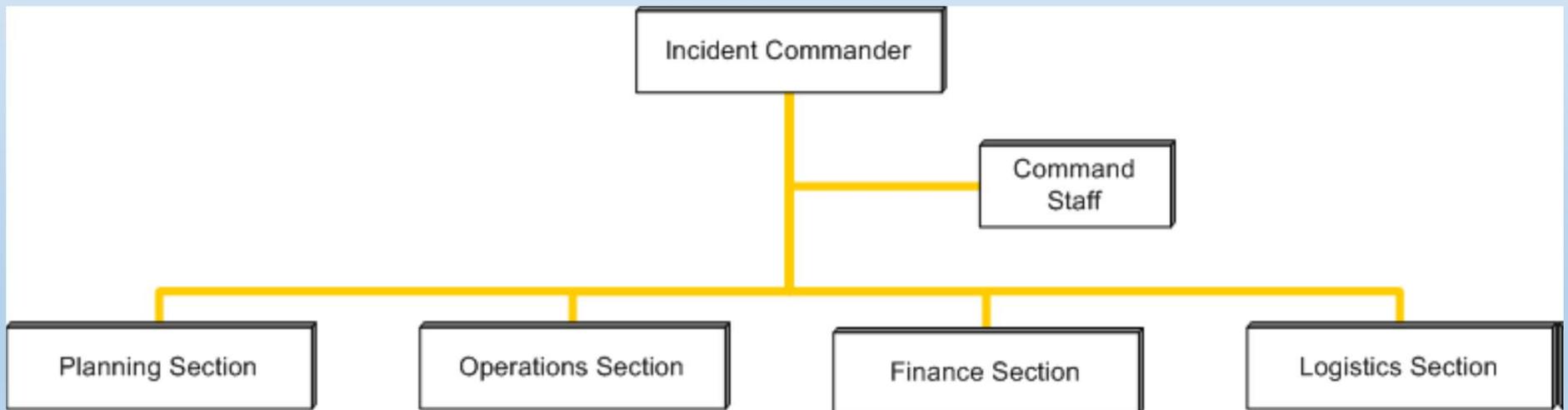
# Functional Assignments

How are the IC, Command, and General Staff going to communicate?



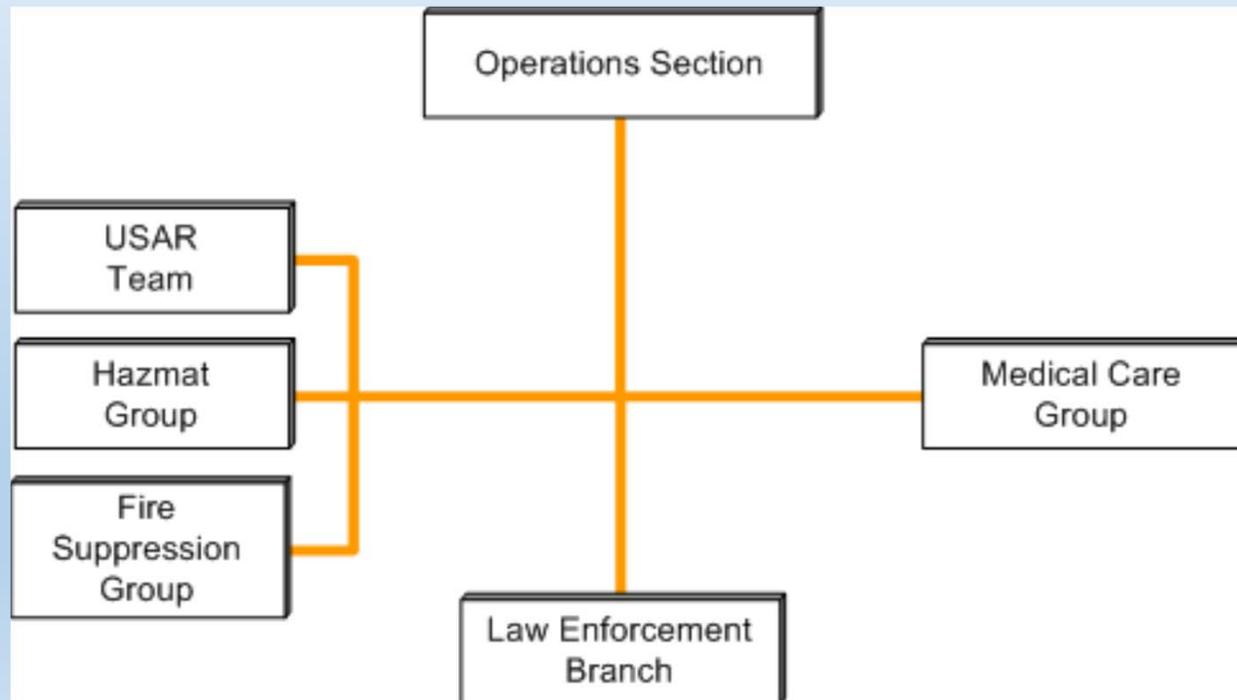
# *Functional Assignments*

“The IC, Command, and General Staff all carry compatible 800 MHz trunked radios. Incident command will be established on the **Command-1** Talk-group.”



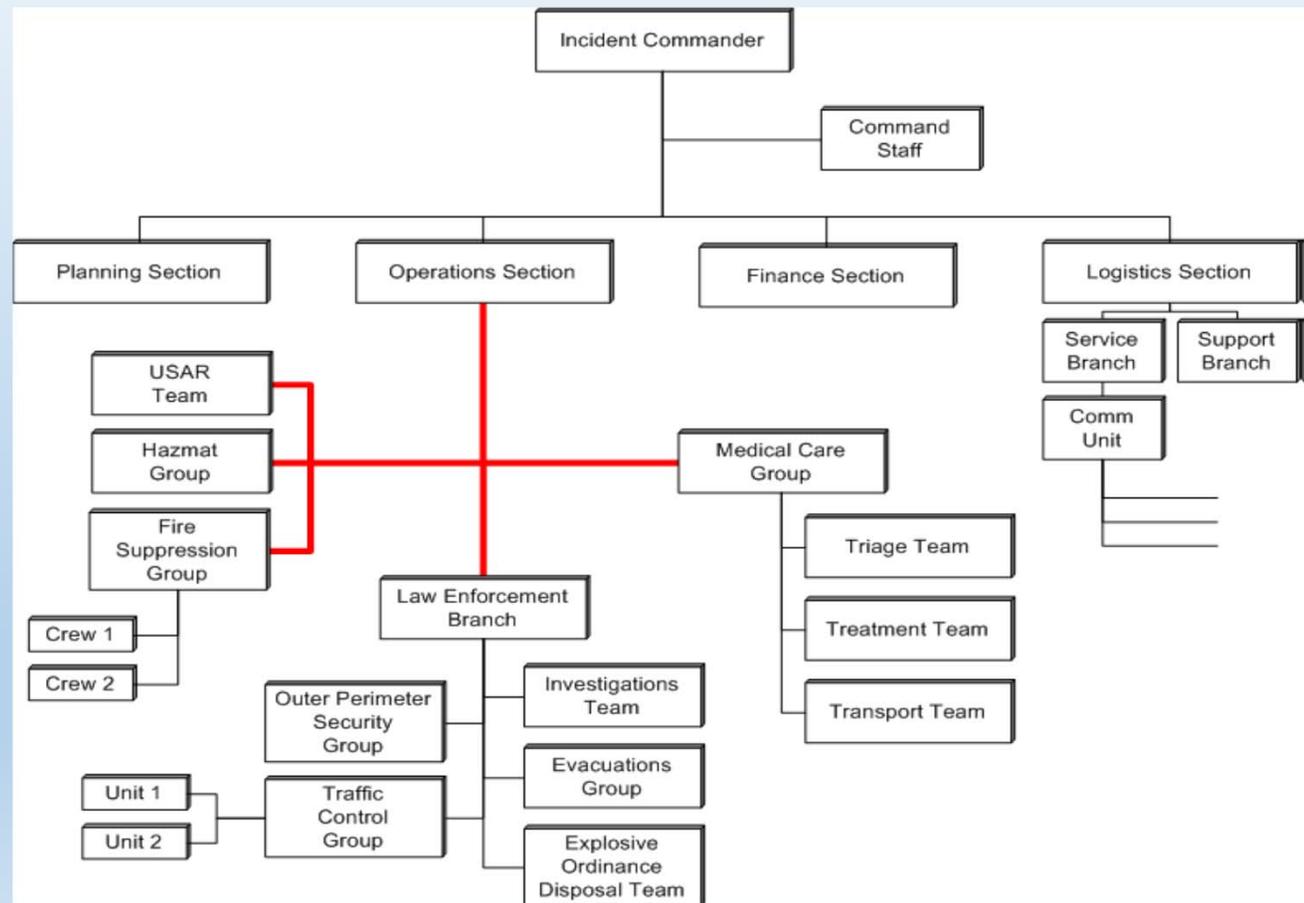
# Functional Assignments

Note: The Command Net may be used by the highest level of Operations Section management, in some cases.



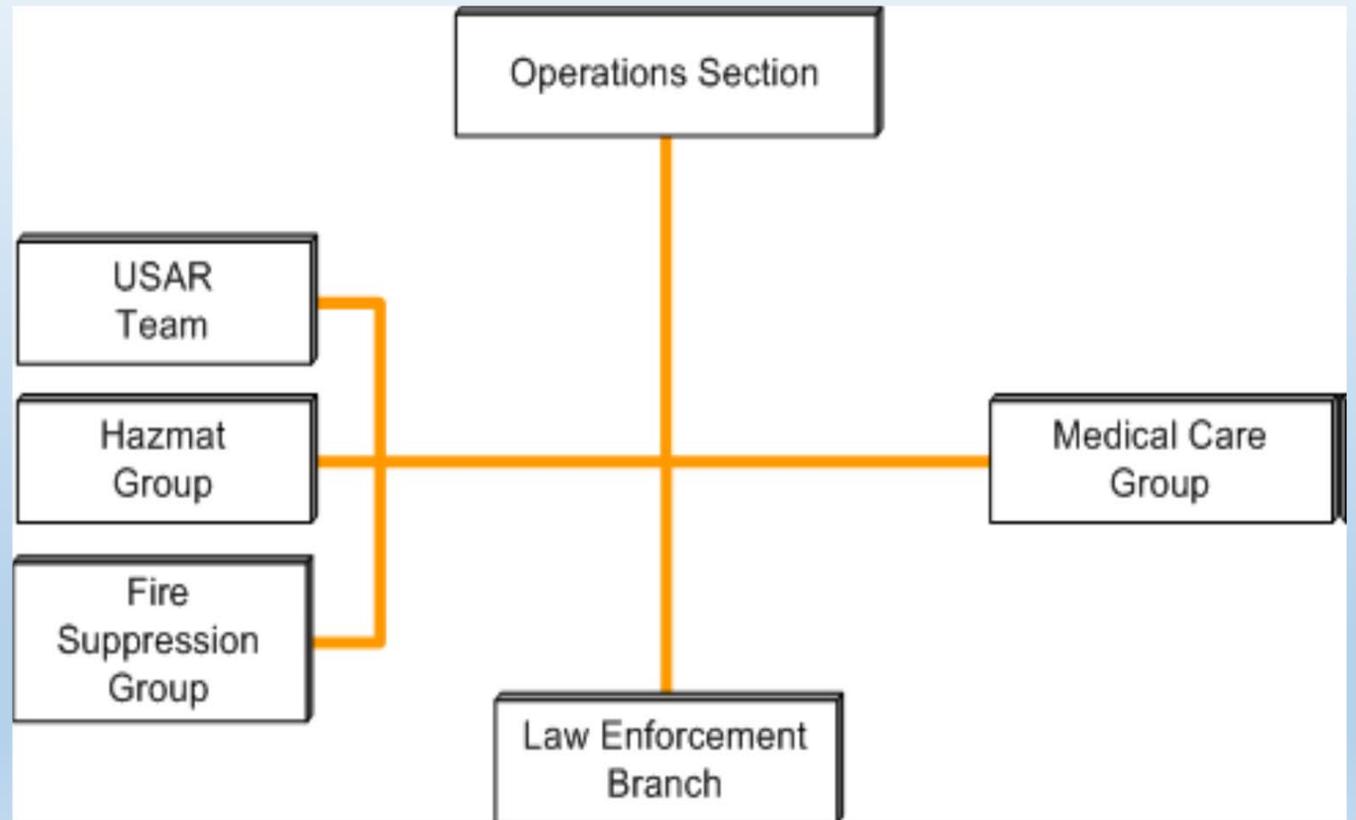
# Functional Assignments

What is an alternative to using the Command Net for Operations Section management?



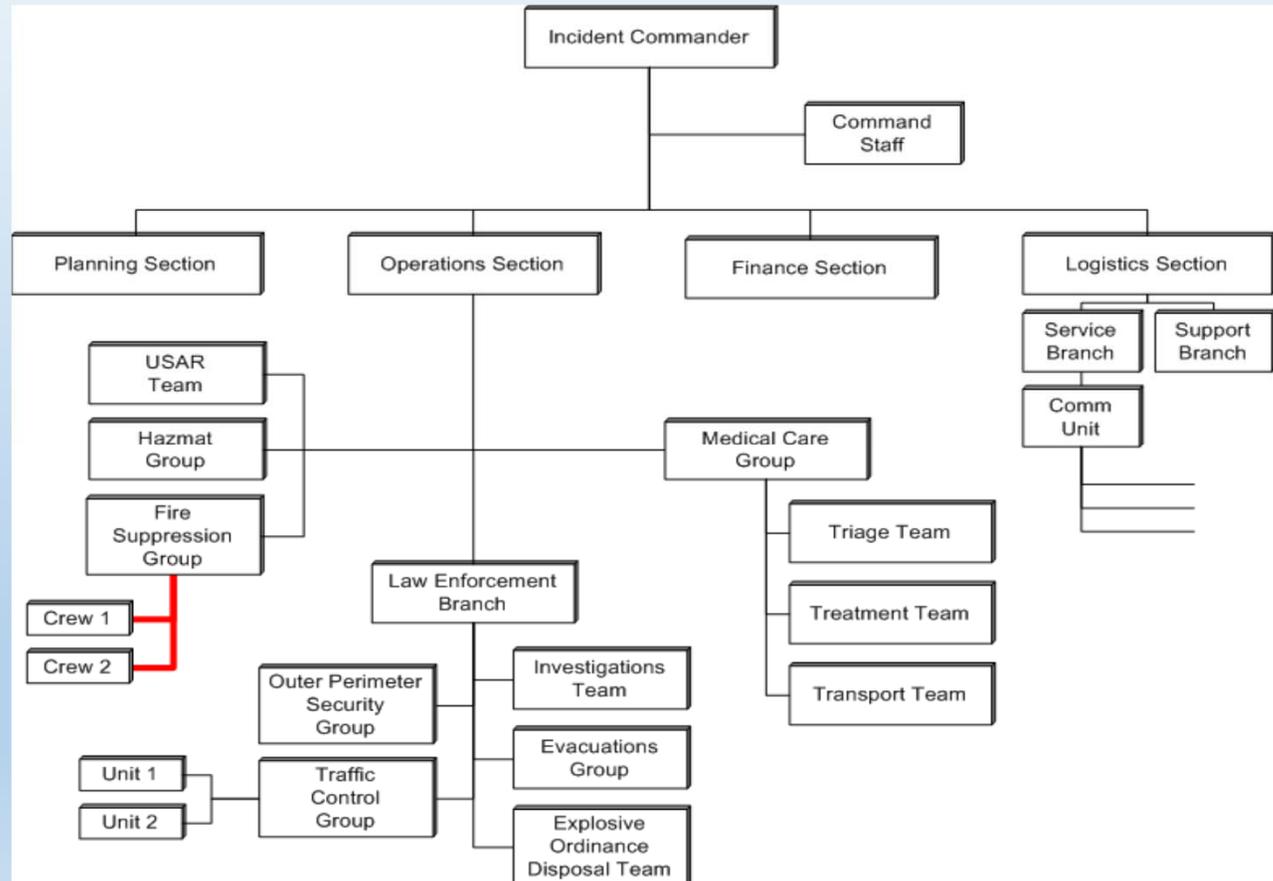
# Functional Assignments

“The Operations Section Chief and staff all carry compatible 800 MHz trunked radios. They will operate a tactical net on the **Ops-1** Talk-group.”



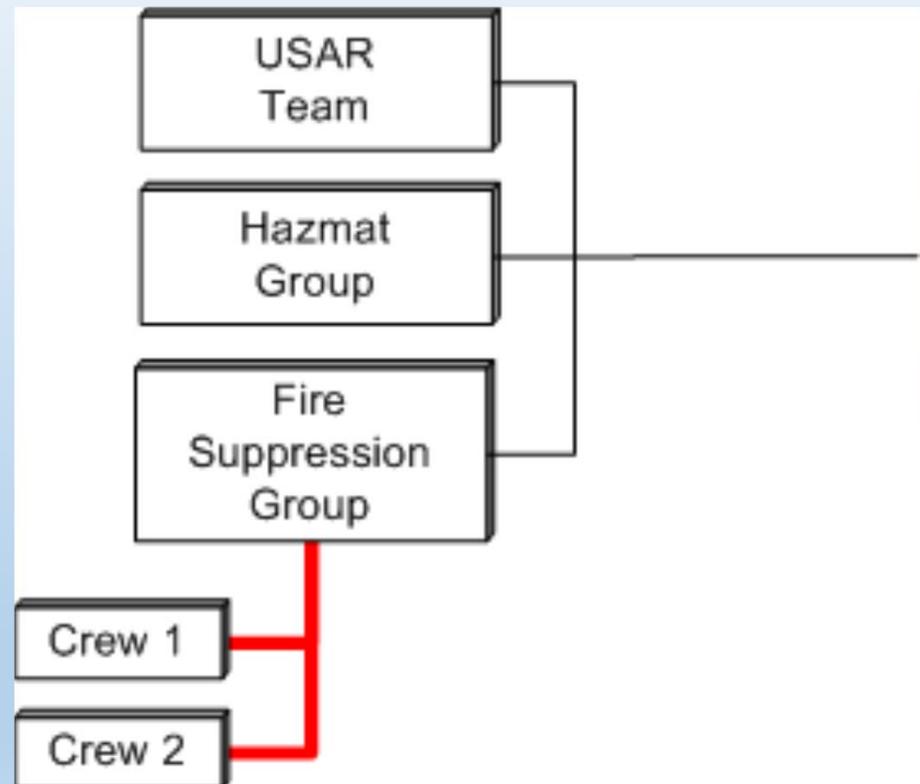
# Functional Assignments

What tactical net will the Fire Suppression Group be assigned?



# Functional Assignments

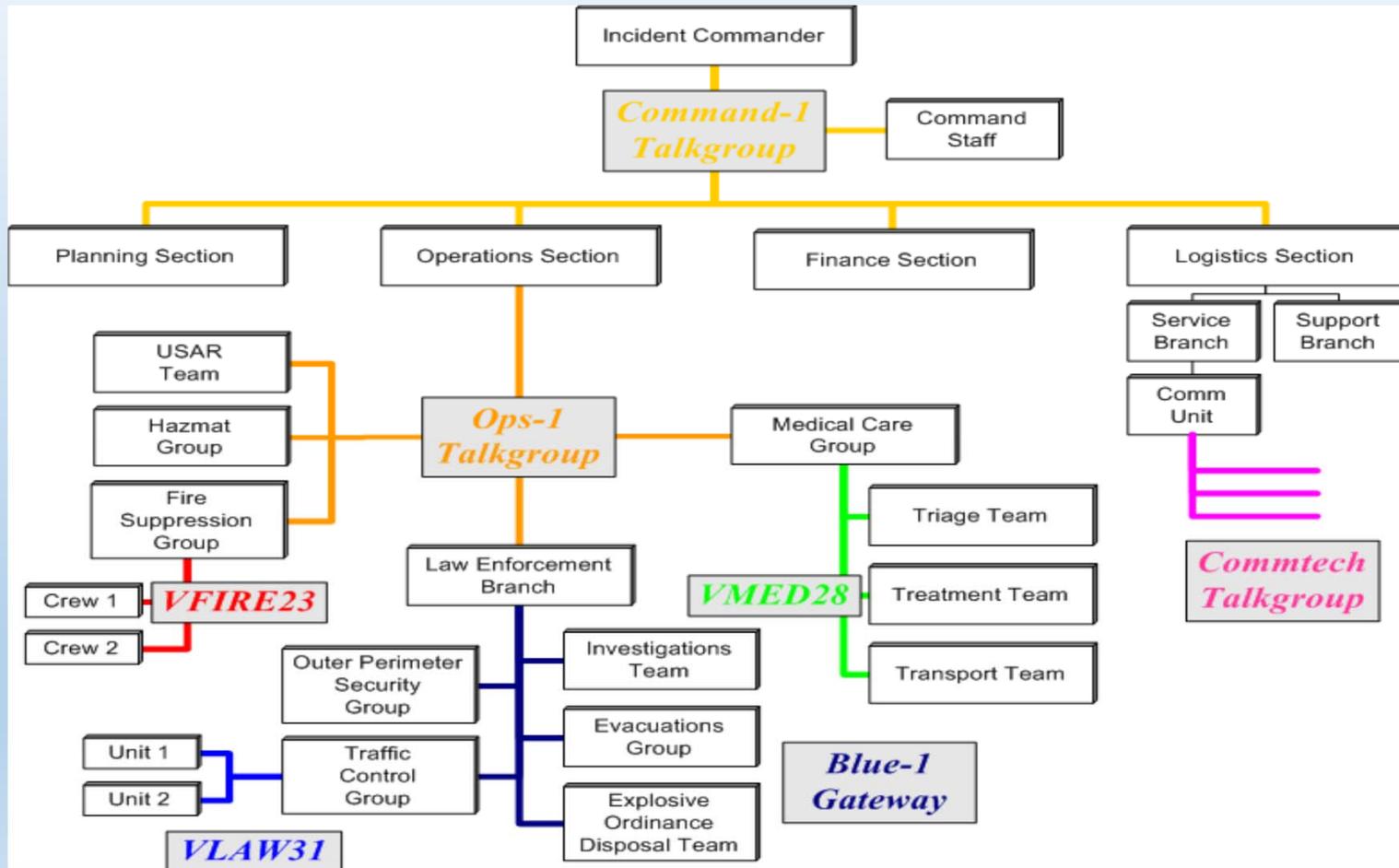
“All Fire Suppression Group resources are from local agencies that carry VHF radios with the common national channels. The group supervisor and crew leaders will use **VFIRE23** - (154.2950 MHz).”

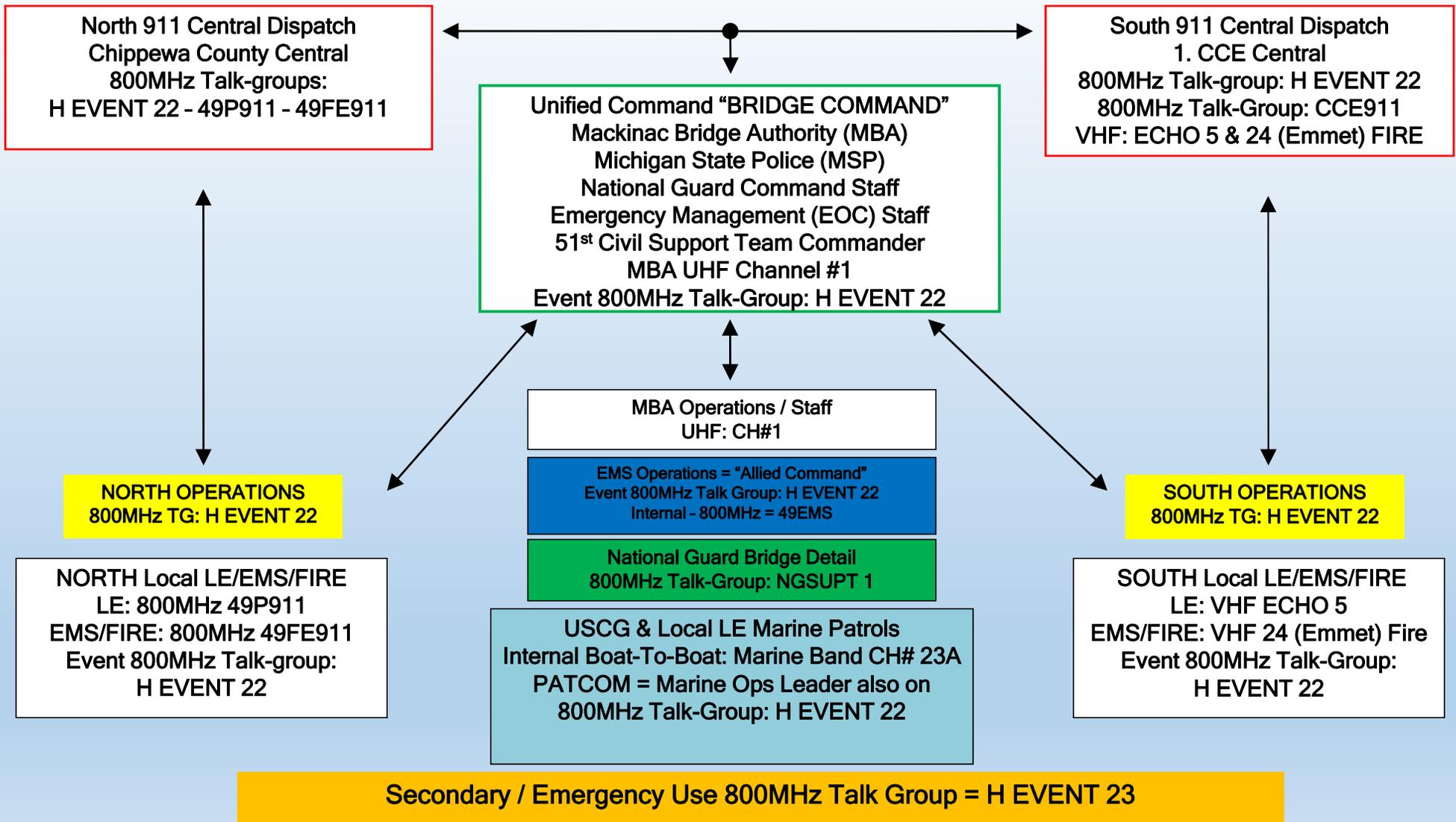


## *Exercise - Resources*

- Current Radio Systems & Available Channels/Talk-groups
  - ✓ Local Fire/EMS VHF Repeaters Two (2) Towers Simulcast - Channel 1
  - ✓ VHF Tactical Channels – Channel 2/Channel 3
  - ✓ 800 Talk-groups – FIRED, EMSD, LAWD, COM1, COM2, EVENT11, EVENT12
  - ✓ UHF City DPW Repeater – DPW1
  - ✓ Marine Band Channels – 16, 21A, 23A

# Communications / ICS Chart





# *Neat Communications Training Video*

FIRE TRAINING - Radio Communications Procedures  
Fairfax Firefighters

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VLC\\_AuNhDak](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VLC_AuNhDak)



# *Questions??*

Forms & Resource Information:

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