



S-130 Unit 4: Resources and Organization

Summary:

This unit is intended to familiarize entry level fire personnel with the identification, description, structure, and primary function of common suppression resources that they will be assigned to as crewmembers. Students will also be introduced to the organization of resources and the specific roles and functionality of those resources.

Incident Position Description (IPD) Alignment:

This unit aligns with the following FFT2 IPD specific duties
(<https://www.nwcg.gov/positions/fft2/position-ipd>):

- Use Incident Command System (ICS) terminology, organization, and command structure.
- Follow crew Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).
- Follow established processes and chain of command for collecting, producing, and distributing information.

Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- Identify different types of common fire resources.
- Describe the chain of command and span of control concepts that apply to common crew configurations.
- Identify a position above FFT2 in most common crew configurations.

Unit at a Glance:

Topics	Method	Duration
The Crewmember	Presentation	5 Minutes
Resources	Presentation	15 Minutes
Chain of Command	Presentation	20 Minutes
Span of Control	Presentation	20 Minutes
Total Unit Duration		1 Hour



Materials:

- Incident Response Pocket Guide (IRPG), PMS 461, <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/461>.
- Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations, NFES 2724, https://www.nifc.gov/policies/pol_ref_redbook.html.
- NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Resource Typing, PMS 200, <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/200>.
- NWCG Standards for Helicopter Operations, PMS 510, <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/510>.
- Notebook for participants.
- S-130 Student Evaluation Task Sheet.
- Ability to display images and video on large screen.
- White board or easel access for group breakouts.

Unit 4: Resources and Organization

Slide 1



Unit 4: Resources and Organization

Slide 2

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Identify different types of common fire resources.
- Describe the chain of command and span of control concepts that apply to common crew configurations.
- Identify a position above FFT2 in most common crew configurations.

S-130 Unit 4: Resources and Organization 2

- ☐ Review unit objectives.

Unit 4: Resources and Organization

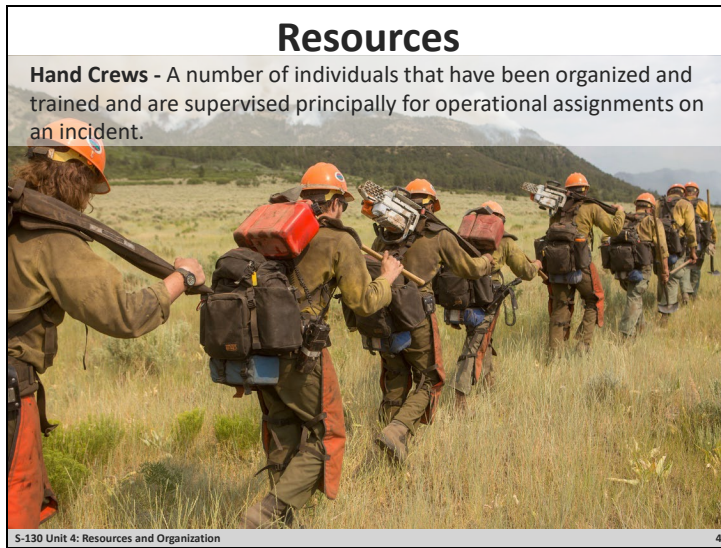
Slide 3



- ☐ Discuss the role of the Crew member (FFT2):
 - An entry level wildland firefighter who will, in most cases, fill positions on three types of resources used in suppression activities; hand crews, engines, and helitack.
 - The function of a Crew member is similar between the three resources. A Crew member is a basic resource used in the control and containment of any wildland fire under the supervision of highly qualified leadership.
- ☐ Discuss the common tasks expected of Crew members:
 - Perform wildland fire and prescribed fire duties including suppression, preparation, ignition, monitoring, holding, and mop-up. Use standard firefighting tools such as pulaskis, shovels, McLeods, chainsaws, drip torches, and fusees to do this work.
 - Ensure objectives and instructions are understood.
 - Operate within your skill level and limitations.
 - Establish and maintain the physical fitness level necessary to effectively perform hard physical labor for extended periods under adverse climate, fuel, and terrain conditions.
 - Use and maintain Personal Protection Equipment (PPE).
 - Report all accidents or injuries to supervisor.
 - Identify health and safety hazards from smoke and mitigate exposure as necessary.
- ☐ Reference the *FFT2 Incident Position Description*, <https://www.nwcg.gov/positions/fft2/position-ipd>.

Unit 4: Resources and Organization

Slide 4




- ❑ Discuss the primary use of hand crews:
 - Constructing fireline by using hand tools and chainsaws.
 - Executing firing operations based on incident objectives.
 - Removing heat from previously burned areas of a fire.
 - Removing hazard trees from work areas.
 - Constructing hose lays and operating pumps.
 - Constructing landing areas and equipment drop sites for helicopter use.
- ❑ Discuss the three types of crews used in wildland fire and their differences using the *Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations*, NFES 2724, <https://www.nifc.gov/standards/guides/red-book>.
 - Type 1 IHC crews - are an interagency national resource funded by fire management. Standard handline production rates are higher, and the physical training and conditioning expectations are much higher. IHC's are full-time organized crews.
 - Type 2IA crews - are local agency resources used mainly for suppression responsibilities on the land for which that agency manages. They can however be made available to respond to incidents nationally. Some Type 2IA crews are full-time organized crews, however a Type 2IA crew can also be formed by using experienced personnel from various other resources to meet the required minimum standards given a short notice.
 - Type 2 crews - can be federal, state, local government, or a privately contracted organization. Unlike Type 1 and Type 2 IA crews, these crews generally have much lower standards to maintain. They are not required to be a full-time organized crew but only fight fire as a crew when requested.

Unit 4: Resources and Organization

Slide 5

Resources

Engine Crew - A resource that includes an engine of a specific type. The type specifies tank capacity, pump rating, hose capacity and number of personnel.

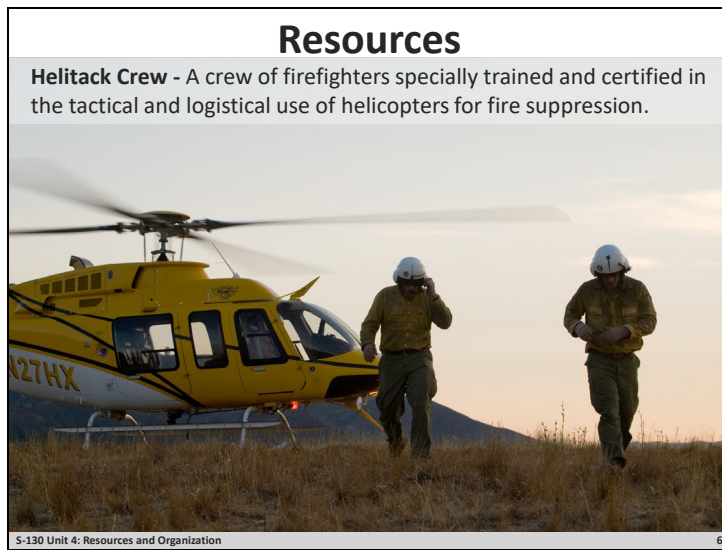


S-130 Unit 4: Resources and Organization 5

- ☐ Discuss the primary uses of engines:
 - Mobile attack
 - Hose lays
 - Support of firing operations
 - Structure protection
 - Fire suppression using a combination of hand tools and water
- ☒ Reference Engine ICS Typing in the *Incident Response Pocket Guide (IRPG)*, PMS 461, <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/461>.
- ☐ Discuss the following engine types and their differences, focusing on tank capacity and pump volume:
 - Type 7
 - Type 6
 - Type 5
 - Type 4
 - Type 3

Unit 4: Resources and Organization

Slide 6



- ☐ Reference *NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Resource Typing*, PMS 200, <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/200>.
- ☐ Discuss the primary use of helitack crews:
 - Initial attack (IA) on small remote fires
 - Transporting ground crews to remote fires or fires with limited access
- ☐ Discuss tactical use:
 - Bucket drops
 - Insert personnel for IA
 - Rappel operations
- ☐ Discuss logistical use:
 - Transporting equipment
 - Transporting personnel and gear
- ☐ Discuss the different types of helicopters used in wildland fire:
 - Type 1 (heavy)
 - Type 2 (medium)
 - Type 3 (light)


Unit 4: Resources and Organization

Slide 7

Knowledge Check

What position is found between FFT2 and CRWB for most common crew configurations?

FFT1 or Squad Boss



S-130 Unit 4: Resources and Organization 7

Question: What position is found between FFT2 and CRWB for most common crew configurations?

Answer: FFT1 or Squad Boss

Unit 4: Resources and Organization

Slide 8



- ☐ Discuss chain of command as the hierarchy and succession of leaders, in order of authority, for which tasks and objectives are developed and distributed for execution and completion within an organization.
- ☐ Discuss the purpose of knowing the chain of command and who an individual reports to:
 - Knowing who you work for allows for successful communication within the organization.
 - Creates an environment where all resources involved receive necessary information to do their jobs safely and effectively.
- ☐ Discuss that agency, district, and individual suppression resource organizations can have various chain of command structures.
- ☐ Discuss that Command structures on wildland fire incidents are shared by all agencies using the Incident Command System (ICS). The Size of the organization and positions vary depending on the size of the incident and number of resources.

Example:

Incident chain of command:

- Engine crew reports to a task force leader (TFLD)
- TFLD reports to a division supervisor (DIVS)
- DIVS reports to an operations section chief (OSC)
- OSC reports to the incident commander (IC)

Unit 4: Resources and Organization

Slide 9



- ❑ Discuss how the command structure of a hand crew can vary depending on agency and crew type and provide students with multiple examples.

Example

Crew chain of command:

- Crew member reports to a squad boss
- Squad boss reports to an assistant supervisor
- Assistant supervisor reports to the supervisor

Unit 4: Resources and Organization

Slide 10



- ☐ Discuss how engine crew size and command structure can vary depending on agency, district, and engine type.

Example

Engine chain of command:

- Crew member reports to a squad boss
- Squad Boss reports to an assistant engine boss
- Assistant reports to engine boss

Unit 4: Resources and Organization

Slide 11



- ☐ Discuss how the command structure will vary depending on the agency, district, and type of aircraft and its purpose.

Example

Chain of command on Helitack crew:

- Helicopter crew member (HECM) reports to a helicopter manager (HMGB)

Unit 4: Resources and Organization

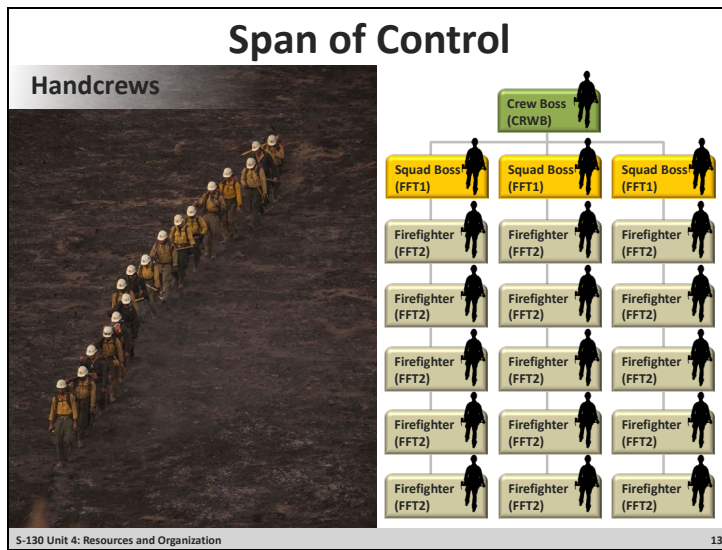
Slide 12



- ☐ Discuss span of control as a measure of how many resources a leader should directly supervise at any given time.
- ☐ Discuss some reasons span of control is such an important part of wildland fire management:
 - Helps maintain situational awareness
 - Promotes safety
 - Enhances communication
 - Helps maintain operational tempo

Unit 4: Resources and Organization

Slide 13



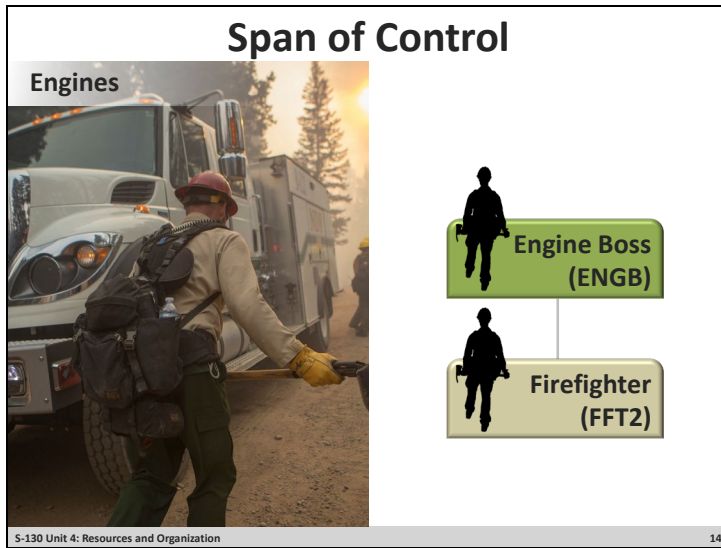
- ☐ Discuss that the graph represents span of control for a Type 2 crew based on the *Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations (Red Book)*, NFES 2724, <https://www.nifc.gov/standards/guides/red-book>
- ☐ Discuss that minimum staffing can vary depending on Agency and Geographic area policies.

Exercise: (limit to five minutes)

- ☐ Provide students with a printed copy of Minimum Crew Standards for National Mobilization located in the Red Book.
- ☐ Break students into groups.
- ☐ Task groups with identifying how span of control is maintained between Type 1, Type 2 IA, and Type 2 crews, with a focus on the following:
 - Crew size
 - Leadership qualifications
- ☐ Identify a group speaker.
- ☐ Have a group speaker report on their findings.

Unit 4: Resources and Organization

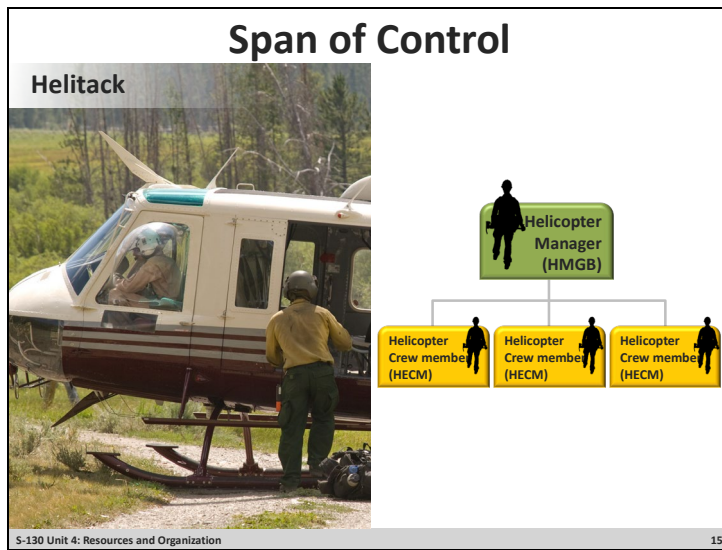
Slide 14



- ☐ Reference minimum staffing for Type 4,5,6, and 7 engines in the *Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations (Red Book)*, NFES 2724, <https://www.nifc.gov/standards/guides/red-book>
- ☐ Discuss that graph in the slide represents minimum staffing for Type 4, 5, 6, and 7 Engines.
- ☐ Discuss that minimum staffing for Type 3 engines is one engine boss plus two firefighters.
- ☐ Discuss that minimum staffing can vary depending on district, agency, and geographic area policies.
- ☐ Discuss how span of control could be maintained within an engine organization and what the leadership structure would look like for the following:
 - 7-person module
 - 5-person module
 - 3-person module

Unit 4: Resources and Organization

Slide 15



- ☐ Reference Helicopter Staffing Requirements in the *NWCG Standards for Helicopter Operations*, PMS 510, <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/510>.
- ☐ Discuss that graph in the slide represents minimum crew staffing for a Type 2 helicopter.
- ☐ Discuss how span of control can be maintained given the following examples of staffing a helicopter during operations:
 - Type 1 staffed with a helicopter manager and 4 helicopter crew members
 - Type 2 staffed with a helicopter manager and 3 helicopter crew members
 - Type 3 staffed with a helicopter manager and 2 helicopter crew members

Unit 4: Resources and Organization

Slide 16



- ☐ Reference Indicators of Incident Complexity, in the *Incident Response Pocket Guide (IRPG)*, PMS 461, <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/461>.
- ☐ Discuss situations that may indicate an incident needs to increase or decrease in complexity based on the IRPG reference.
- ☐ Discuss some span of control indicators that coincide with incident complexity types for the following:
 - Type 5 incident
 - Type 4 incident
 - Type 3 incident


Unit 4: Resources and Organization

Slide 17

Knowledge Check

What is the definition of chain of command?

A series of management positions in order of authority.



S-130 Unit 4: Resources and Organization 17

Question: What is the definition of chain of command?

Answer: A series of management positions in order of authority.

Unit 4: Resources and Organization


Slide 18

Knowledge Check

Span of control is _____?

Select one:

- A. Supervising individuals on a module.
- B. The most people a supervisor can manage.
- C. The supervisory ratio of three to seven individuals, with five-to-one being optimum.



S-130 Unit 4: Resources and Organization 18

Question: Multiple choice, Span of control is _____ ?

Answer: C. The supervisory ratio of three to seven individuals, with five-to-one being optimum.

Unit 4: Resources and Organization

Slide 19

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Identify different types of common fire resources.
- Describe the chain of command and span of control concepts that apply to common crew configurations.
- Identify a position above FFT2 in most common crew configurations.

S-130 Unit 4: Resources and Organization 19

- ☐ Review unit objectives.