

Handout 4-4: Roles of Area Command Positions

The following is an example of key actions conducted by the Area Commander/ Unified Area Command. It is provided as an example only (not as official FEMA guidance):

- **Area Commander (Unified Area Command):** Responsible for the overall direction of assigned incidents. This responsibility includes ensuring that conflicts are resolved, incident objectives are established, and strategies are selected for the use of scarce resources. The Area Commander coordinates with local, state, tribal, territorial, and Federal departments and agencies, as well as NGOs and other private sector elements.
- **Assistant Area Commander–Logistics:** Provides facilities, services, and materials at the Area Command level (by ordering resources needed to support the Area Command) and ensures the effective allocation of scarce resources and supplies among the incidents.
- **Assistant Area Commander–Planning:** Collects information from various incidents to assess and evaluate potential conflicts in establishing incident objectives, strategies, and priorities for allocating scarce resources.
- **Area Command Aviation Coordinator:** Assigned when aviation resources at multiple incidents compete for common airspace and scarce resources. This role works in coordination with incident aviation organizations to evaluate potential conflicts, develop common airspace management procedures, ensure aviation safety, and allocate scarce sources in accordance with Area Command priorities.
- **Technical Specialists:** The Area Command may assign technical specialists as additional command advisors, depending on the nature, scope, complexity, and location(s) of the incident(s), or according to specific needs the Incident Commander or Unified Command establishes.
- **Area Command Support Positions:** Activated as necessary:
 - **Area Command Resources Unit Leader-** Tracks and maintains the status and availability of scarce resources assigned to each incident under the Assistant Area Commander–Planning.
 - **Area Command Situation Unit Leader-** Monitors the status of objectives for each incident assigned to the Area Command.
 - **Area Command PIO-** Provides coordination between incident locations and serves as the point of contact for media requests to the Area Command.
 - **Area Command Liaison Officer-** Helps maintain off-incident interagency contacts and coordination.