# OPERATIONS SECTION CHIEF (NQS)

**RESOURCE CATEGORY**
- Incident Management

**RESOURCE KIND**
- Personnel

**OVERALL FUNCTION**
The Operations Section Chief (OSC) manages all operations and progress related to the incident.

**COMPOSITION AND ORDERING SPECIFICATIONS**
1. This position can be ordered as a single resource or in conjunction with a NIMS typed team (Incident Management Team).
2. Requestor specifies any additional qualifications necessary based on incident complexity and needs.
3. Discuss logistics for deploying this position, such as working conditions, length of deployment, security, lodging, transportation, and meals, prior to deployment.

Each type of resource builds on the qualifications of the type below it. For example, Type 1 qualifications include the qualifications in Type 2, plus an increase in capability. Type 1 is the highest qualification level.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPONENT</th>
<th>TYPE 1</th>
<th>TYPE 2</th>
<th>TYPE 3</th>
<th>NOTES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| DESCRIPTION     | Same as Type 2, PLUS: Coordinates operations at the state level or across jurisdictions | Same as Type 3, PLUS: Develops and implements a transition plan based on escalating incident complexity | The OSC:
1. Manages all aspects of the Operations Section
2. Provides the tactical assignments documented in the Incident Action Plan (IAP) and directs its execution
3. Makes expedient changes to current operations based on the complexity or magnitude of the incident and reports those changes to the Incident Commander (IC)
4. Manages all operations and progress related to the incident
5. Ensures the safety and welfare of Operations Section personnel
6. Coordinates operations at the local level
7. Establishes or transitions into the Operations Section
8. Supervises and configures section with branches, divisions, groups, and units to support operations | Not Specified |
| EDUCATION       | Not Specified                                                          | Not Specified                                                          | Not Specified                                                          | Not Specified    |
Position Qualification for Operational Coordination  
Incident Management

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EXPERIENCE</td>
<td>Same as Type 2, PLUS: 1. Satisfactory performance as a National Incident Management System (NIMS) Type 2 Operations Section Chief (OSC) 2. Successful completion of the National Qualification System (NQS) Position Task Book (PTB) for the National Incident Management System (NIMS) Type 1 Operations Section Chief, or equivalent Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) documentation</td>
<td>Same as Type 3, PLUS: 1. Satisfactory performance as a NIMS Type 3 OSC 2. Successful completion of the NQS PTB for the NIMS Type 2 Operations Section Chief, or equivalent AHJ documentation</td>
<td>1. Successful completion of NQS PTB for the NIMS Type 3 Operations Section Chief, or equivalent AHJ documentation 2. Experience in incident management in a subordinate position</td>
<td>Not Specified</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHYSICAL/MEDICAL FITNESS</td>
<td>Same as Type 2</td>
<td>Same as Type 3</td>
<td>Light</td>
<td>The NIMS Guideline for the NQS defines Physical/Medical Fitness levels for NQS positions.</td>
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<td>CURRENCY</td>
<td>Same as Type 2</td>
<td>Same as Type 3</td>
<td>Functions in this position during an operational incident, planned event, exercise, drill, or simulation at least once every five years</td>
<td>Not Specified</td>
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<tr>
<td>PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS</td>
<td>Not Specified</td>
<td>Not Specified</td>
<td>Not Specified</td>
<td>Not Specified</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NOTES
Nationally typed resources represent the minimum criteria for the associated category.

REFERENCES
1. FEMA, NIMS 508: Incident Management Team
2. FEMA, National Qualification System (NQS) Position Task Book for Operations Section Chief, latest edition adopted
3. FEMA, National Incident Management System (NIMS), October 2017
4. FEMA, NIMS Guideline for the NQS, November 2017
5. FEMA, National Response Framework, June 2016