



Position Qualification for Planning
Incident Management

PLANNING SECTION CHIEF (NQS)

RESOURCE CATEGORY	Incident Management
RESOURCE KIND	Personnel
OVERALL FUNCTION	The Planning Section Chief (PSC) manages all aspects of the Planning Section
COMPOSITION AND ORDERING SPECIFICATIONS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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.

COMPONENT	TYPE 1	TYPE 2	TYPE 3	NOTES
DESCRIPTION	Same as Type 2, PLUS: Coordinates planning efforts across multiple jurisdictions	Same as Type 3, PLUS: Develops and implements a transition plan based on escalating incident complexity	The Planning Section Chief: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manages all aspects of the Planning Section 2. Manages the preparation of strategies and plans for the incident and submits incident status reports 3. Prepares, collects, evaluates, disseminates, and uses incident information to develop the Incident Action Plan (IAP) 4. Facilitates incident information to maintain situational awareness (current and future) 5. Provides periodic predictions on incident potential and incident course of actions 6. Coordinates planning efforts at the local level 7. Establishes or transitions into the Planning Section 8. Supervises and configures section with units and single resources as necessary 	Not Specified
EDUCATION	Not Specified	Not Specified	Not Specified	Not Specified



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COMPONENT	TYPE 1	TYPE 2	TYPE 3	NOTES
TRAINING	Same as Type 2	Same as Type 3	Completion of the following: 1. IS-100: Introduction to the Incident Command System, ICS-100 2. IS-200: Basic Incident Command System for Initial Response, ICS-200 3. ICS-300: Intermediate Incident Command System for Expanding Incidents 4. ICS-400: Advanced Incident Command System for Command and General Staff - Complex Incidents 5. IS-700: National Incident Management System, An Introduction 6. IS-703: National Incident Management System Resource Management 7. IS-706: National Incident Management System Intrastate Mutual Aid - An Introduction 8. IS-800: National Response Framework, An Introduction 9. IS-2900: National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF) Overview 10. E/L 0962: National Incident Management System Incident Command System All-Hazards Planning Section Chief Course, or equivalent 11. E/G/L 0191: Emergency Operations Center/Incident Command System Interface 12. United States Fire Administration (USFA) 0305: Type III All-Hazards Incident Management Team Course, or equivalent	1. Identified equivalent trainings should meet or exceed course learning objectives. 2. For Type 2, recommend National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) S-420: Command and General Staff training or an equivalent team training. 3. For Type 1, recommend NWCG S-520: Advanced Incident Management training or equivalent team training.
EXPERIENCE	Same as Type 2, PLUS: 1. Successful completion of the National Qualification System (NQS) Position Task Book (PTB) for the National Incident Management System (NIMS) Type 1 Planning Section Chief, or equivalent Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) documentation 2. Satisfactory performance as a NIMS Type 2 Planning Section Chief	Same as Type 3, PLUS: 1. Successful completion of the NQS PTB for the NIMS Type 2 Planning Section Chief, or equivalent AHJ documentation 2. Certification as a NIMS typed position within the Planning Section 3. Satisfactory performance as a NIMS Type 3 Planning Section Chief	1. Successful completion of the NQS PTB for the NIMS Type 3 Planning Section Chief, or equivalent AHJ documentation 2. Experience in incident management in a subordinate position	Not Specified



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COMPONENT	TYPE 1	TYPE 2	TYPE 3	NOTES
PHYSICAL/MEDICAL FITNESS	Same as Type 2	Same as Type 3	Light	The NIMS Guideline for the NQS defines Physical/Medical Fitness levels for NQS positions.
CURRENCY	Same as Type 2	Same as Type 3	Functions in this position during an operational incident, planned event, exercise, drill, or simulation at least once every five years	Not Specified
PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS	Not Specified	Not Specified	Not Specified	Not Specified



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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 Planning 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