

Milestones

October 1991 -Oakland Hill fire draws attention to the need for better coordination among the emergency services responders.

January 1993 -Governor Wilson signs into law SB 1841 (Petis), Government Code §8607, requiring the development of a Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) by Cal OES.

February 1993 -SEMS Steering Committee is formed to direct development of SEMS regulations.

March 1993 -SEMS Advisory Committee is formed representing agencies at all levels of government that will be using SEMS. Their task is to advise in regulation development.

September 1994 -SEMS Regulations take effect after a series of public hearings.

December 1994 -Cal OES completes the coordinated development of the Approved Course of Instruction (ACI).

December 1995 -Counties organized into Operational Areas (OAs).

December 1, 1996 – The Law Requires state agencies to use SEMS and requires local governments to use SEMS for reimbursement of personnel response-related costs when responding to multi-jurisdictional or multi-agency emergencies.

February 2005 -The State of California adopted the National Incident Management System (NIMS) by Executive Order S-2-05.

September 2005 -California initiates SEMS/NIMS integration.

For more information on SEMS please contact any of the following offices of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services:

Headquarters

Preparedness Branch
3650 Schriever Avenue
Mather, CA 95655
(916) 845-8731

Coastal Region

2333 Courage Drive, Suite H
Fairfield, CA 94533
(707) 862-2372

Inland Region

630 Sequoia Pacific Blvd., MS 31
Sacramento, CA 95811
(916) 657-9210

Southern Region

4671 Liberty Ave #283
Los Alamitos, CA 90720
(562) 795-2900

For SEMS training contact:

California Specialized Training Institute (CSTI)

Camp San Luis Obispo
10 Sonoma Ave., Bldg. 904
San Luis Obispo, CA 93405
(805) 549-3535



SEMS

Standardized Emergency Management System



Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

Why SEMS?

In order to respond to frequent and multiple disasters occurring anytime and anywhere in the state, it is important that emergency response agencies operate within a clear and consistent organizational structure.

Public agencies are increasingly required to manage the cost of emergencies more effectively with fewer resources.

Many different agencies must work together effectively to protect lives, property, and the environment during disasters.

SEMS facilitates priority setting, interagency cooperation, and the efficient flow of resources and information.

The System

The Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) utilizes the Incident Command System (ICS). ICS was originally developed by the fire system for managing emergency response to wildland fires.

SEMS incorporates:

Incident Command System -A field-level emergency response system based on management by objectives.

Multi/interagency coordination -Affected agencies working together to coordinate allocations of resources and emergency response activities.

Mutual Aid -A system for obtaining additional emergency resources from non-affected jurisdictions.

Operational Area Concept -County and its sub-divisions to coordinate damage information, resource requests, and emergency response.

Organizational Levels & Functions

Five organizational levels:

State	Statewide resource coordination integrated with federal agencies.
Regional	Manages and coordinates information and resources among operational areas.
Operational Area	Manages and coordinates all local governments within the geographic boundary of a county.
Local	County, city, or special district.
Field	On-Scene Responders

Five functions:

Management	Provides the overall direction and sets the priorities for an emergency.
Operations	Implements priorities established by management.
Planning/Intelligence	Gathers and assesses information.
Logistics	Obtains the resources to support the operations.
Finance/Administration	Tracks all the costs related to the operations.

System Maintenance

Cal OES developed a SEMS Maintenance System to address the need for changes. The three-tiered system encompasses an Advisory Board, Technical Group, and Mutual Aid Regional Advisory Board Committees (MARACs).

Collectively, these multi-agency groups ensure changes are made to the system when necessary. They include representatives from all disciplines involved in emergency response.

Compliance

All state government agencies must use SEMS when responding to multi-jurisdictional or multi-agency emergencies. All local government agencies must use SEMS in multi-jurisdictional or multi-agency emergency responses to be eligible for state reimbursement of response related personnel costs.

Compliance regulations were completed in December 1995.

Training

SEMS Introduction (G-606) – Online Course

This course provides a comprehensive discussion of SEMS components and how SEMS is used in California. Content includes mutual aid, multiagency coordination, the operational area concept, and how the five levels of government communicate, interact, and share resources.

SEMS G-606 is a required course for Type III EOC Position Credentialing.

The course meets the requirements of CCR Title 19 §2446 (Training) and §2428 (Minimum Performance Objectives).

Additional courses available through CSTI's Learning Management System at CSTI.org.