



The role of the Austrian Fire services in emergency response operations

▶ 9 regions

▶ Appr. 2.000 municipalities



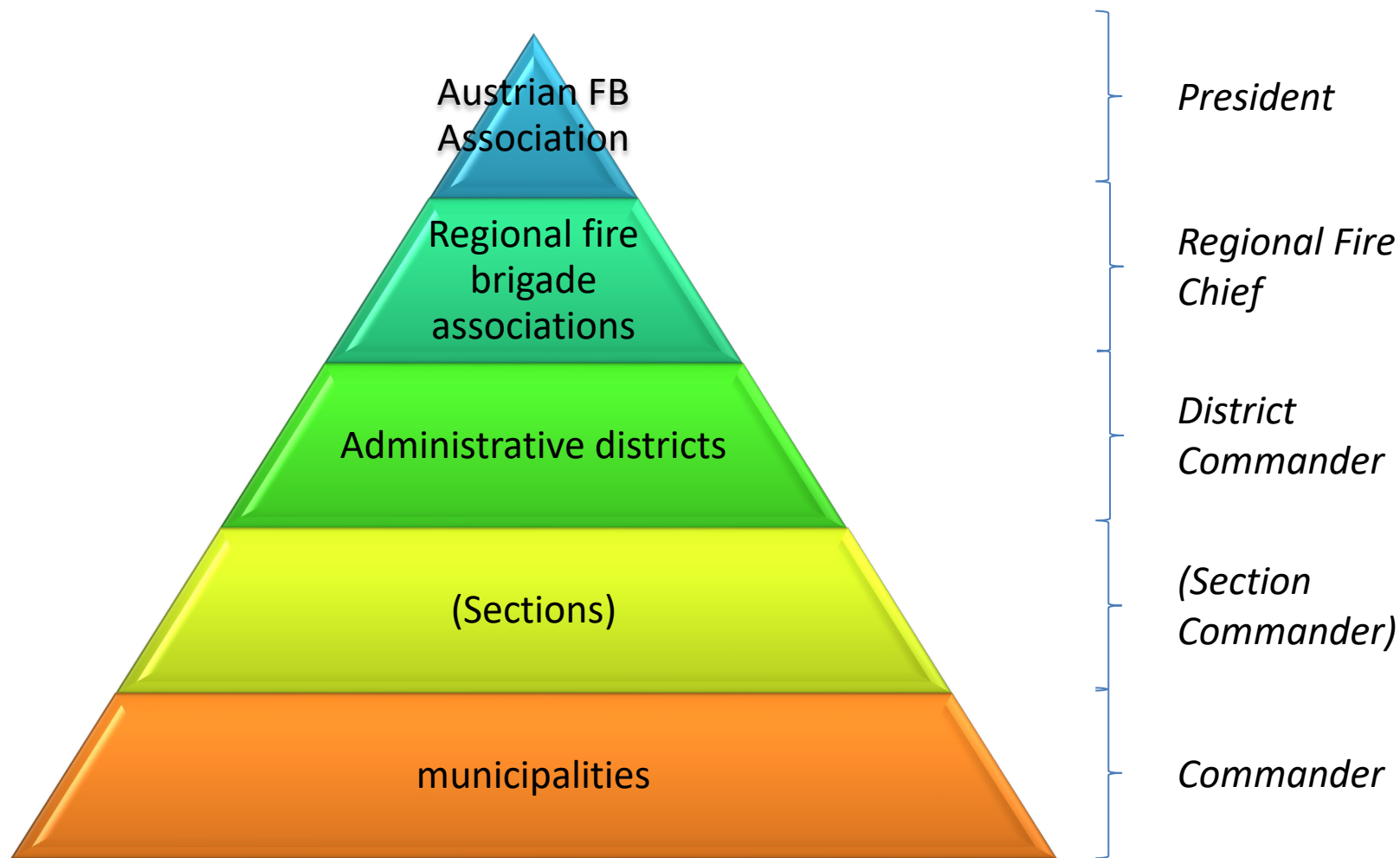
▶ 99 administrative districts

▶ Appr. 9 million inhabitants

- **9** regional fire brigade associations
- Appr. **4.800** fire stations
- Appr. **340.000** members in the fire service
- **99 %** are **volunteer fire brigades** (6 professional in bigger cities > 100.000 inhabitants)



Organisational structure of the fire service in Austria



Legal aspects and tasks

- Constitutional law defines: fire brigades are within the responsibilities of the regions
 - 9 different regional laws which regulate the fire service

Common **tasks** are...

Fire fighting

Fire prevention

Fire investigation

Fire safety

(technical) assistance

Disaster relief

What about the equipment?

The standard equipment is depending on...

- Regional law
- number of inhabitants
- number of objects (houses)
- Special infrastructure



Security standard is guaranteed everywhere

Financing the system...

- Municipality (*has to fund the mandatory equipment*)
- Reimbursement of operation costs (*usually covered by the perpetrator*)
- Fire protection tax (*regional level*)
- Federal stock of disaster management (*at state level*)
- Donations
- Events

Possibilities to specialize...

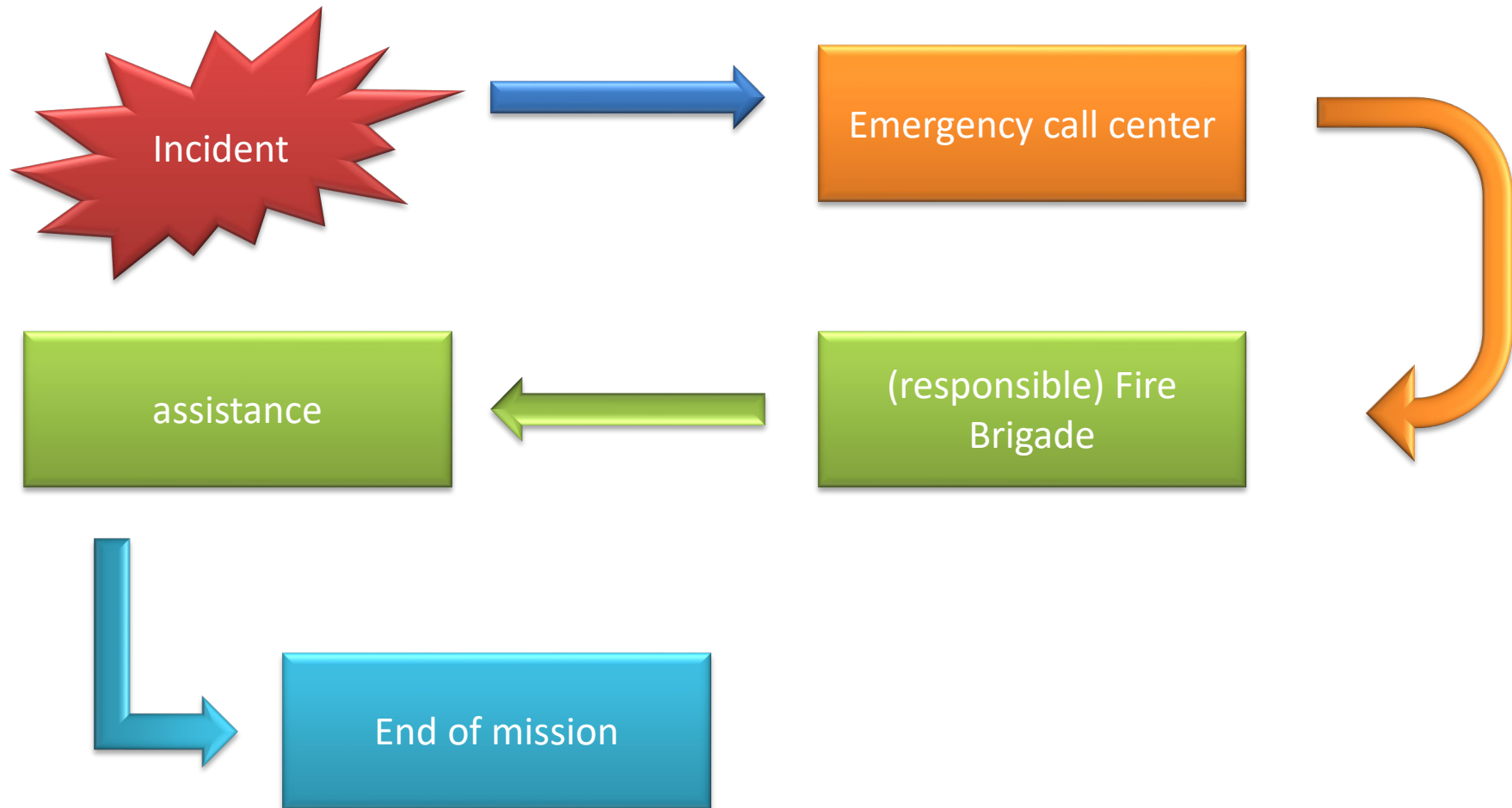
- CBRN Response, Decontamination and Detection
- Diving
- Forest Fire Fighting with helicopters
- Water Rescue
- Rescue from heights



Special training & assignment to specialized units



How does the volunteer system work?

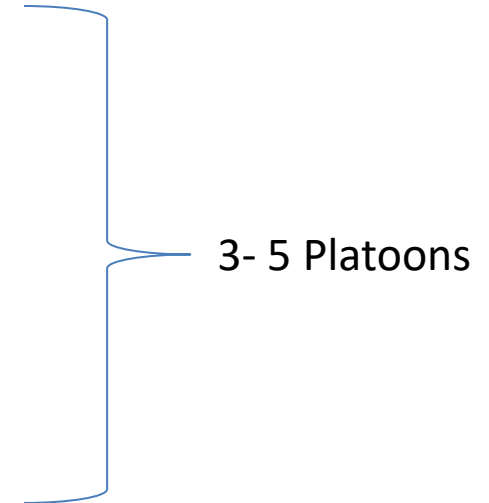
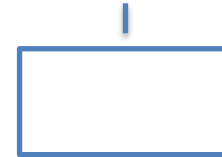


Disaster Response Capacities

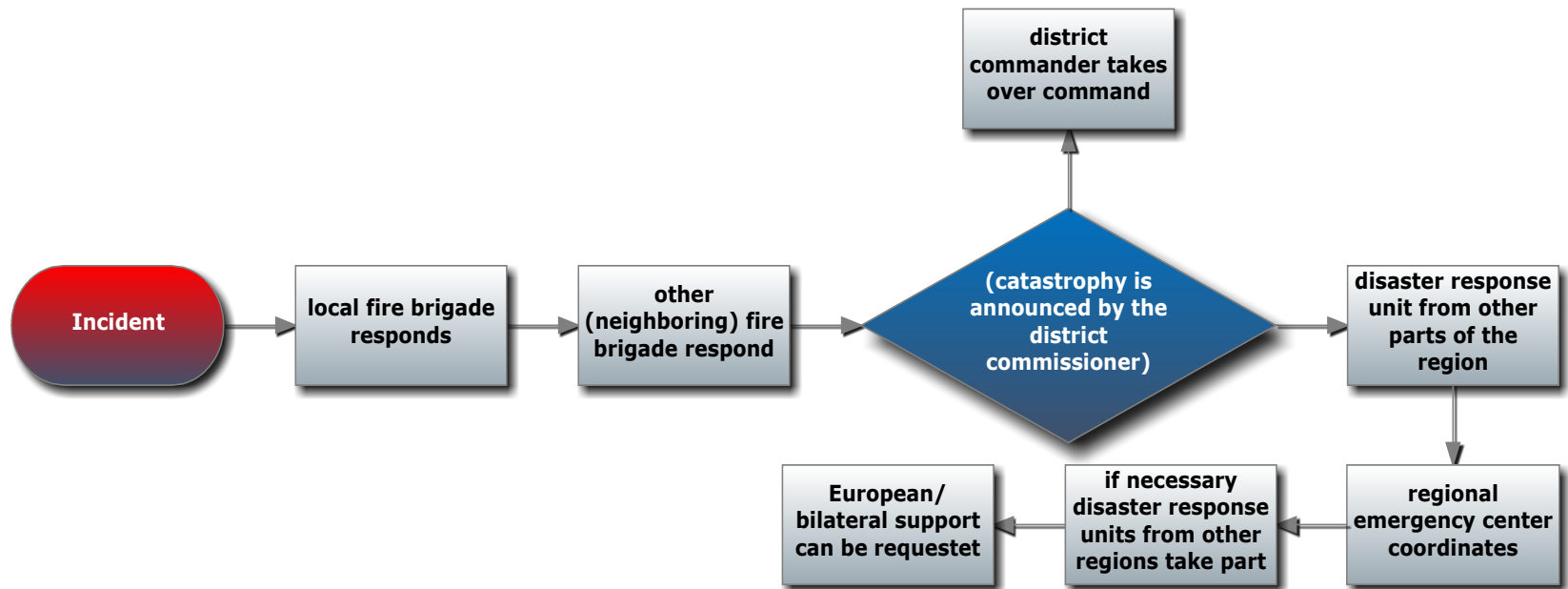
- Fire service has the ability to react and respond to major incidents and catastrophies
- Units are composed of fire trucks and equipment from different fire stations
- In big regions each district has access to a company sized disaster response unit



Composition of disaster response units (company)



Disaster response mechanism



International assistance

- AUT participates in the EUCPM
- Set up modules e.g.
 - TAST (SUA) (Vorarlberg)
 - MUSAR (SARUV) (Vorarlberg)
 - USARCBRN (Upper Austria)
 - GFFF/ V (Styria)



International network

- Participation in exchange of experts programmes
- Providing a pool of experts for international missions

