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Emergencies occur every day somewhere in the United States. These emergencies are large and small and range from fires to hazardous materials incident to natural and technological disasters.


Each incident requires a response. Whether from different departments within the same jurisdiction, from mutual aid partners or from State and Federal agencies, responders need to be able to work together, communicate with each other, and depend on each other.

The events of September 11, 2001 have underscored the need for and importance of national standards for incident operations, incident communications, personnel qualification, resource management, and information management and supporting technology.


IS700 NIMS Course, pg. 1

The Ten Disciplines

- Law Enforcement
- Fire Service
- Emergency Medical Services
- Emergency Management
- Health Care
- Hazardous Materials
- Public Safety Communications
- Public Health
- Public Works
- Government Administrative



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Until now, there have been no standards for domestic incident response that reach across all levels of government and all emergency response agencies.

Under Homeland Security Presidential Directive #8, a first responder is one who may be directly involved with an incident at the local level. It is the goal of the federal government to have first responders and state and federal government support agencies interoperate during a domestic incident. Therefore, it will be necessary to have an understanding of incident command organization, common terminology, span of control, incident action planning, and function responsibilities. Consequently, training and exercises related to incident management is considered a high priority for first responders.

The disciplines are law enforcement, the fire service, emergency medical services, emergency management, health care providers, hazardous material personnel, public safety communicators, public health, public works, and governmental administrators.

HSPD-8

The National Incident Management System



- Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 ordered the establishment of a National Incident Management System (NIMS)
- NIMS provides a consistent nationwide approach for responding to all kinds of incidents – no matter what the size, scope, cause or complexity
- The NIMS Integration Center was established to manage and maintain the NIMS and to facilitate its adoption nationwide



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On February 28, 2003, President Bush issued Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5. HSPD-5 directed the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop and administer a National Incident Management System. NIMS provides a consistent nationwide template to enable all government, private-sector, and nongovernmental organizations to work together during domestic incidents.

NIMS is a comprehensive, national approach to incident management that is applicable at all jurisdictional levels and across functional disciplines. The intent of NIMS is to:
Be applicable across a full spectrum of potential incidents and hazard scenarios, regardless of size or complexity.

Improve coordination and cooperation between public and private entities in a variety of domestic incident management activities.

IS700 NIMS Course, pg. 1

The National Incident Management System

NIMS provides and establishes standard incident management processes, protocols and procedures for:

- Command and Management
- Preparedness
- Resource Management/Mutual Aid
- Communications and Information Management
- Supporting Technologies
- Ongoing NIMS Management and Maintenance



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NIMS is the nation's first-ever standardized approach to incident management and response. NIMS unifies Federal, State, territorial, tribal, and local lines of government into one coordinated effort. This integrated system makes America safer by establishing a uniform set of processes, protocols, and procedures that all emergency responders, at every level of government, will use to conduct response actions.


September 8, 2004, Ridge letter to Governors

The National Incident Management System




NIMS Benefits ...

- Standardized organizational structures, processes and procedures
- Standards for planning, training and exercising
- Personnel qualification standards
- Equipment acquisition and certification standards
- Interoperable communications processes, procedures and systems
- Information management systems with a commonly accepted architecture
- Supporting technologies – voice and data communications systems, information systems, data display systems, specialized technologies



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NIMS benefits:

Standardized organizational processes

Planning

Training

Personnel qualifications

Equipment certification

Interoperable

Information management

Technical support

NIMS and the National Response Plan

- The NRP is based on the NIMS – together they provide the structure that integrates response capabilities and resources into a unified, coordinated national approach to incident management
- The NRP provides a concept of operations, incident management actions and responsibilities of incident management partners



- The NRP forms the basis of how the federal government interfaces with state, local and tribal governments and the private sector
- Applies to incidents of national significance – those requiring a coordinated response by federal, state, local tribal and nongovernmental entities
- Finalized in December 2004



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Directive-5 requires the creation of a National Response Plan (NRP) to integrate federal Government prevention, preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation plans into one all-discipline, all-hazard approach to domestic incident management.

NIMS is intended to provide the core organizational structure and operational mechanisms for Federal support to State and local authorities, implementation of direct Federal incident management authorities and responsibilities under the law, and full coordination of resources among federal departments and agencies.


The NRP will incorporate the best practices and procedures from various incident management components, providing a cohesive approach for pro-active response to catastrophic events.

National Response Plan, February 25, 2004, Draft #1

Key NIMS Information



- One of the most fundamental NIMS requirements is that jurisdictions utilize the Incident Command System;
- For NIMS, ICS is the standard incident management organization for managing all incidents;
- NIMS incorporates the principle of unified command for incidents involving multiple jurisdictions or agencies



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NIMS standard incident command structures are based on three key organizational systems: They define the operating characteristics, interactive management components, and structure of incident management and emergency response organizations engaged throughout the life cycle of any incident;

They define the operating characteristics, interactive management components, and organizational structure of supporting incident management entities engaged at the Federal, State, local, tribal, and regional levels through mutual-aid agreements and other assistance arrangements; and

They refer to processes, procedures, and systems for communicating timely and accurate information to the public during crisis or emergency situations.

National Incident Management System, March 1, 2004, pg. 3

NIMS Implementation and Compliance



- Compliance requirements will be phased in over time
- Guidance for minimum FY 2005 compliance is under review within DHS
- FY 2005 is a NIMS ramp-up year. Full NIMS compliance will not be required until the end of FY 2006
- All ten disciplines are encouraged to familiarize themselves with NIMS concepts take steps to institutionalize the Incident Command System



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HSPD-5 requires Federal departments and agencies to make the adoption of NIMS by State and local organizations a condition for Federal preparedness assistance (grants, contracts, and other activities) by FY 2006.

Jurisdictions can comply in the short term by adopting the Incident Command System. Other aspects of NIMS require additional development and refinement to enable compliance at a future date.

NIMS provides a **flexible** framework that facilitates government and private entities at all levels working together to manage domestic incidents. This flexibility applies to all phases of incident management, regardless of cause, size, location or complexity.

NIMS provides a set of **standardized** organizational structures, as well as requirements for processes, procedures, and systems designed to improve interoperability.

IS700 NIMS Course, pg. 1 & 2

NIMS Products and Resources



- NIMS Online Introductory Training Course
- ICS training through the states, US Fire Administration, and the Emergency Management Institute;
- Model state and local Intrastate mutual aid agreements – www.emacweb.org;
- Methodology for typing, inventorying resources;
- Glossary of response assets, including federal:
www.fema.gov/preparedness/mutual_aid.shtml



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Training, products and resources will be available on-line from NIMS, USFA, and EMI along with model state and local mutual aid agreements, methodology for typing, inventorying resources, and a glossary of response assets.

NIMS Initiatives

- A nationwide system for the qualification, certification and credentialing of incident management personnel and organizations;
- Typing of the 120 resources was released in September 2004



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Qualification and certification activities are undertaken to identify and publish national-level standards and measure performance against these standards to ensure that incident management and emergency responder personnel are appropriately qualified and officially certified to perform NIMS-related functions.

Incident management organizations and emergency responders at all levels rely on various types of equipment to perform mission essential tasks. A critical component of operational preparedness is the acquisition of equipment that will perform to certain standards, including the capability to be interoperable with similar equipment used by other jurisdictions.

National Incident Management System, March 1, 2004, pg. 4

The NIMS Integration Center



Mission ...
"To provide strategic direction for and oversight of the NIMS, supporting ... routine maintenance and the continuous refinement of the system and its components over the long term."

-HSPD-5



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The organization of the NIMS Integration Center (NIC) reflects its critical focus on functions necessary for the nationwide implementation of the NIMS by incident managers and responders at all levels – federal, state, local and tribal.

Its job is to manage and maintain the NIMS and to oversee the development of tools and resources that will help incident managers use the NIMS system to respond effectively to events, no matter what the size or scope.

http://www.fema.gov/nims/nims_about.shtml, FAQ

The NIMS Integration Center



- Initial NIC staff consists of detailees from DHS – Emergency Preparedness & Response, Office of Domestic Preparedness and the Science & Technology Directorate
- The NIC is designed to be a multi-disciplinary, multi-jurisdictional Office NIC staffing will expand to include interagency detailees as well as state and local government representatives



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The NIC is working with Federal departments and agencies to ensure that they develop a plan to adopt NIMS and that all fiscal year (FY) 2005 Federal preparedness assistance program documents begin the process of addressing State, territorial, tribal, and local NIMS implementation.

This part of the NIMS Integration Center will focus on the development of a national system of guidelines, protocols and standards for the implementation of the NIMS system.

To this end, the NIMS Integration Center (NIC) was established to support both routine maintenance and the continuous refinement of the NIMS.

September 8, 2004, Ridge Letter to Governors and http://www.fema.gov/nims/nims_about.shtml, FAQ

The NIMS Integration Center (con't)



- A NIC Advisory Committee will be established shortly within the existing Homeland Security Advisory Council structure
- NIC continues to develop tools to support NIMS implementation including:
 - NIMS Capability Assessment Support Tool (NIMSCAST)
 - NIMS Awareness Training
 - Executive Order Template
 - Sample Language for Grants Guidance
 - Series of "How To" Guides



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NIMS Awareness Training

An Executive Order Template

Sample Language for Grants Guidance and

A Series of "How To" Guides

NIMS Overview National TRADE Conference, November 2004

The NIMS Integration Center

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web page: www.fema.gov/nims

NIMS Awareness Training
<http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/IS/is700.asp>

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The NIMS Integration Center may be contacted via U.S. mail, telephone, through the internet, at the address, phone number or web address on the screen before you.

Massachusetts Point of Contact

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Massachusetts Point of Contact, Chuck Smiarowski (Smor-ow-ski), Homeland Security Training and Exercise Coordinator can be contacted at Charles.Smiarowski@state.ma.us or by contacting the Executive Office of Public Safety.

NIMS FY 2005 - Compliance Requirements State Level

- Incorporating NIMS into existing training programs and exercises
- Ensuring that Federal preparedness funding [including DHS Homeland Security Grant Program, Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) funds] support NIMS implementation at the State and local levels
- Incorporating NIMS into the Emergency Operations Plans (EOP)
- Promotion of intrastate mutual aid agreements
- Coordinating and providing technical assistance to local entities regarding NIMS
- Institutionalizing the use of the Incident Command System (ICS)

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The NIMS ensures that they will have the same preparation, the same goals and expectations, and most importantly, they will be speaking the same language.

At the State Level disciplines will be encouraged to:

Incorporate NIMS into existing training programs and exercises;

Ensure that Federal preparedness funding [including DHS Homeland Security Grant Program, Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) funds] support NIMS implementation at the State and local levels;

Incorporate NIMS into the Emergency Operations Plans (EOP);

Promote intrastate mutual aid agreements;


Coordinate and providing technical assistance to local entities regarding NIMS; and


Institutionalize the use of the Incident Command System (ICS)

September 8, 2004, Ridge Letter to Governors

NIMS FY 2005 - Compliance Requirements State, Tribal and Local Level

- Completing the NIMS Awareness Course: National Incident Management System (NIMS), An Introduction (IS 700)
- Formally recognizing the NIMS and adopting the NIMS principles and policies
- Establish a NIMS baseline by determining which NIMS requirements you already meet
- Establishing a timeframe and developing a strategy for full NIMS implementation
- Institutionalizing the use of the Incident Command System (ICS)

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Additionally, the State, Tribal and Local Level disciplines will be encouraged to again:
Complete the NIMS Awareness Course: National Incident Management System (NIMS), An Introduction (IS 700);
Formally recognize the NIMS and adopting the NIMS principles and policies;
Establish a NIMS baseline by determining which NIMS requirements you already meet;
Establish a timeframe and developing a strategy for full NIMS implementation; and
Institutionalize the use of the Incident Command System (ICS)


September 8, 2004, Ridge Letter to Governors

State and Local Training Challenges

- 2005**
 - IS 700
 - ICS 100
- Mid-Year 2005**
 - ICS 200
 - ICS 300
- 2006 and Beyond**
 - Intro to C.G.S.
 - C.G.S.
 - U.C.



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Personnel inside each of the ten disciplines depending upon their emergency response status, are urged to complete the online offerings including IS700 Introduction to NIMS, and Incident Command System 100 before the end of 2005.

State level training agencies including: Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, Department of Fire Services and Municipal Police Training Council will be offering courses in Incident Command System 200 and Incident Command System 300 as they become available from the Federal government.

Depending upon your organization's command structure, personnel will be required to attend course offerings in Introduction to Command and General Staff, Command and General Staff, and Unified Command.



Please check the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety website at www.mass.gov/eops to keep informed with the latest updates on NIMS course offerings.