

# NIMS

The Department of Homeland  
Security:  
National Incident Management  
System

# What is NIMS?

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## National Incident Management System

Legal Authority: (HSPD-5, *Management of Domestic Incidents*): NIMS developed by DHS to serve as the nation's first standardized management system that unifies Federal, State & local lines of government to handle all hazards and incidents

# National Incident Management System (NIMS)

- Core set of standardized concepts, principles, best practices & lessons learned for incident command and multi-agency coordination.
- Based on highly successful Incident Command System (ICS) developed in response to major wild fires in Southern CA during 1970's
- Already being used by first responders (police, fire, emergency medical, etc.)
- NIMS is basically ICS with "EXTRAS"

# ICS Organization

NIMS/ICS

**INTEL**

Unified Incident Command  
(Fire, Police, EMS, Public Works)

Planning Section

Operations Section

Logistics Section

Finance/Admin Section

# NIMS/ICS: Key Concepts/Ongoing Support

- Standardization: NIMS uses standardization as key to interoperability. Common terminology, standardized organizational structure, resource typing, communications, training, credentialing
- Flexibility: NIMS uses best practices of ICS model as primary method to handle an incident.
- Ongoing Support: NIMS Integration Center (NIC) works to support integration efforts, resolve issues and standardize NIMS procedures/policies

# NIMS Components:

1. COMMAND & MANAGEMENT: – ICS Model
2. PREPAREDNESS – Training and exercises
3. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT – Equipment Standardization, Resource Typing, Mutual Aid Agreements, Credentialing of personnel
4. COMMUNICATIONS/INFORMATION MGT – Joint Information Center (JIC) & Interoperability
5. SUPPORTING TECHNOLOGIES – NIMSCAST, ARMS,
6. ONGOING MANAGEMENT/MAINTENANCE – NIC promotes education, training, performance standards & guidelines for NIMS implementation/compliance

# National Acceptance of NIMS

## Implementation Steps:

### Federal Agencies:

- By Dec 31, 2004, must submit to DHS plans to adopt/implement NIMS;
- By Sep 30, 2005, must have plans that reflect full adoption & implementation
- FY 2005, Federal Agencies start preparing policies requiring NIMS adoption by States as requirement for grants & contracts

# **\*FY 2005 NIMS Implementation**

## **Requirements: States Must Do**

1. Incorporate NIMS into existing training programs & exercises
2. Ensure Federal preparedness funding supports NIMS implementation at State/local levels
3. Incorporate NIMS concepts into Emergency Operations Plans
4. Promote intra-state mutual aid agreements
5. Coordinate & provide technical assistance to local entities regarding NIMS
6. Institutionalize the use of ICS



# **FY 2005 NIMS Implementation**

## **What States Should Do:**

1. Complete IS 700, NIMS Awareness Course:  
“National Incident Management System (NIMS),  
An Introduction”  
(<http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/IS/is700.asp>)
2. Formally recognize NIMS & adopt NIMS  
principles & policies
3. Establish NIMS baseline by determining which  
NIMS requirements already met
4. Establish timeframe & develop strategy/plan for  
full NIMS implementation

# NIMS FY 2006 & FY 2007

## Requirements

- FY2005: Adoption/Implementation highly encouraged, no funding restrictions imposed
- FY 2006: To receive FY 2006 preparedness funding, FY 2005 NIMS requirements must be met (certified as part of FY 2006 grant application)
- FY 2007: Full NIMS compliance condition for Federal preparedness assistance (Hawaii projected to receive \$15-30 million in future funds annually)
- Additional information about NIMS compliance requirements forthcoming from NIC

# Conclusion:

- NIMS is coming; it is a comprehensive, nationwide management system to handle “all hazards”
- Based on ICS model (standardization/flexibility)  
Preparedness, Resource Mgt, Communications & Info Mgt, Technology, Ongoing Mgt/Maintenance via NIC
- Federal Agencies must comply with NIMS; States must implement/comply to receive DHS funds or possibly jeopardize grants (\$15-30 million)

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- Web site: [www.fema.gov/nims](http://www.fema.gov/nims)
- NIMS Awareness Training, IS700 course  
<http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/IS/is700.asp>