Taken from
ADEM-PUB2

Ice storm damage in Jefferson County, 2000

Inside this issue:

What is NIMS?
NIMS Integration Center (NIC)
NIMS Implementation Timeline/ICS
NIMCAST
National Mutual Aid and Resource Management Initiative
Sample Executive Order for Local Government
Helpful Links for NIMS

Arkansas Department of Emergency Management

Arkansas' Homeland Security and Preparedness Agency

N. Wayne Ruthven, Director

To contact us:

Phone: 501-730-9750
Fax: 501-730-9754

P.O. Box 758
Conway, AR 72033

www.adem.state.ar.us

The Arkansas Department of Emergency Management, or ADEM, provides effective state level leadership and coordination in a comprehensive all-hazards approach to natural and man-caused emergencies and disasters impacting Arkansas. The agency originated in the Civil Defense era and celebrated fifty years of Emergency Management last year. It's mission is primarily driven by Act 511 of 1973, which established the Office of Emergency Services (OES) and took the agency into the all-hazards era. We became a department of the state government in 1999 with the passage of Act 646. ADEM works closely with FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security as the state contact for those agencies. By state law, ADEM supports the emergency management efforts of our 77 jurisdictions, which consists of Arkansas' 75 counties and the cities of Little Rock and North Little Rock.

What is NIMS?

NIMS is short for National Incident Management System. As the Department of Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said in a recent letter to state governors, "The NIMS is the nation's first-ever standardized approach to incident management and response. The 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." The Incident Command System (ICS) is a major component, but there other aspects to NIMS:

- **standards for planning, training, and exercising**
- **personnel qualification standards**
- **interoperable communication processes and standards**
- **commonly accepted standards in information management**
- **better resource acquisition and management**

In short, it will give all our responders a common basis to better respond to incidents, no matter what the size or complexity.

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What can you do now?

- Formally adopt NIMS
- Institutionalize ICS
- Complete the course, "NIMS, An Introduction" (IS-700)
- Ensure your employees have ICS training

NIMS Timeline

- FY 2005 - "Ramp-up" year; state and local governments institutionalize ICS and formally adopt NIMS; NIMS Integration Center becomes fully operational
- FY 2006 - Remaining compliance issues are addressed
- FY 2007 - Full compliance required to receive preparedness assistance

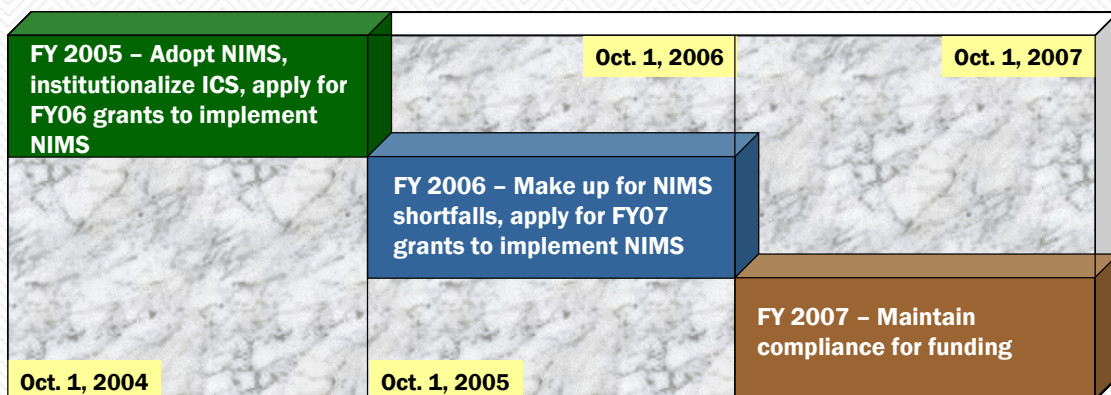# NIMS Implementation Timeline/ICS

States and local governments are required by presidential directive to implement NIMS as soon as possible, including official adoption of NIMS during FY 2005 (which began October 1, 2004). Implementation will continue throughout FY 2006 as other NIMS standards are passed down from the federal government.   Federal preparedness assistance will be leveraged by the level of implementation that year. By FY 2007, any preparedness assistance from the federal government is conditional on full compliance with NIMS. One of the key components of compliance this year is institutionalization of the Incident Command System, or ICS. This means that ICS must be used for all incidents by all response elements in your jurisdiction. The 9/11 commission recommended strongly that ICS be adopted nationally to enhance command, control, and communication capabilities. ICS has long been required by federal law for all HazMat incidents, and many fire departments nationwide have implemented it. Classes are available through ADEM at all levels of expertise. Contact us to arrange for classes.

General Timeline for NIMS Implementation

FY 2005 – Adopt NIMS, institutionalize ICS, apply for FY06 grants to implement NIMS

Oct. 1, 2006

Oct. 1, 2007

FY 2006 – Make up for NIMS shortfalls, apply for FY07 grants to implement NIMS

FY 2007 – Maintain compliance for funding

Oct. 1, 2004

Oct. 1, 2005

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NIMCAST

The NIMS Capability Assessment Tool, or NIMCAST, is a web-based self-assessment that can be used by the states, territories, tribes, and local governments to determine their compliance with NIMS. It evaluates the jurisdiction's incident response and management capabilities within the NIMS structure. NIMCAST then identifies to what extent the jurisdiction is compliant, and what the gaps are. When these gaps in compliance are identified, existing initiatives should be used to correct those shortfalls. This includes using Office of Domestic Preparedness (ODP) Homeland Security grant programs. Additional funds to correct these gaps should be forthcoming.

Presently the tool is in testing in ten states, but should be available on a voluntary basis within the next several months. The NIMS Integration Center (NIC) will provide more information later this year.

The NIMCAST will likely be a checklist, and users will simply check "Yes" or "No."

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NIMS Integration Center (NIC)

The National Incident Management System Integration Center, or NIC, was created to provide "strategic direction for and oversight of the National Incident Management System… supporting both routine maintenance and the continuous refinement of the system and its components over the long term." It is responsible for creating the standards and guidelines within NIMS, along with guidance and support to responder organizations as the system is implemented. The center will be organized into branches: 1) Standards and Resources, 2) Training and Exercises, 3) System Evaluation and Compliance, 4) Technology, Research and Development, and 5) Publications Management. The NIC is still in an early phase of development, but should go fully online in the near future.

"This system ensures that those involved in emergency response operations understand what their roles are and have the tools they need to be effective."

Tom Ridge,
DHS Secretary,
September 2004

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National Mutual Aid and Resource Management Initiative

The National Mutual Aid & Resource Management Initiative supports the National Incident Management System (NIMS) by establishing a comprehensive, integrated national mutual aid and resource management system that provides the basis to type, order, and track all (Federal, State, and local) response assets. The initial typing of 60 response resources has been completed. They have been broken out into eight disciplines, which are Fire/HazMat, Law Enforcement, EMS, Emergency Management, Health & Medical, Public Works, and Search & Rescue. Within the disciplines, there are divisions by category, kind, and type. A resource glossary is available on the NIC website (see last page).

Tornado in Oil Trough

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Sample Executive Order for Local Government

☐ Home Page

Arkansas State Capitol Building, Little Rock

RESOLUTION NO. _____

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF XXXXX COUNTY, ARKANSAS, A RESOLUTION ENTITLED:

"A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGE-
MENT SYSTEM ESTABLISHED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPART-
MENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FOR ALL EMERGENCY RESPONSE
BY ALL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES OF XXXXXX COUNTY,
ARKANSAS"

WHEREAS, XXXXX County has heretofore utilized Incident Commands Systems for response to all emergencies, and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Homeland Security has adopted the National Incident Management System, and all federal emergency funding and grants are conditioned upon adoption of such system,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

1. That XXXXX County hereby adopts the National Incident Management System established by the United States Department of Homeland Security for all emergency responses by all departments and agencies of XXXXX County, Arkansas.

PASSED this _____ day of _____, 2004.

_____
XXXXXXX XXXXXX,
XXXXX COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST:

_____
XXXXX XXXX, XXXXX COUNTY CLERK

ATTEST DATE:_____

Sponsor: XXXXXXX

Helpful Links for NIMS

☐ Home Page

Official website for NIMS:
http://www.fema.gov/nims/

Official website for NIMS Integration Center (NIC)
http://www.fema.gov/nims/nims.shtm

Website for the online course *NIMS, An Introduction* (IS-700)
http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is700.asp
This course is also taught by ADEM in a four-hour block
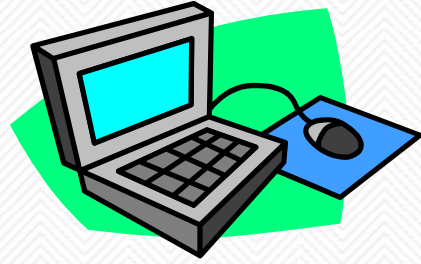
Website for the National Mutual Aid and Resource Management Initiative
http://www.fema.gov/nims/mutual_aid.shtm
Downloadable and web-based lists of typed resources, along with an evolving glossary of resources are available here

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