The National Incident Management System and the NIMS Integration Center

The National Incident Management System and the NIMS Integration Center

- 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 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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The National Incident Management System

The six components of NIMS …

- **Command and Management** – NIMS incident command and management systems

- **Preparedness** – Necessary components of operational preparedness systems

- **Resource Management/Mutual Aid** – Standardized procedures for NIMS resource management processes

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The National Incident Management System

The six components of NIMS
cont. …

- ▪ **Communications and Information Management** – Establishing common operating framework; accessibility, interoperability

- ▪ **Supporting Technologies** – Research and development; technology supporting interoperability and compatibility

- ▪ **Ongoing Management and Maintenance** – NIMS Integration Center

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The National Incident Management System
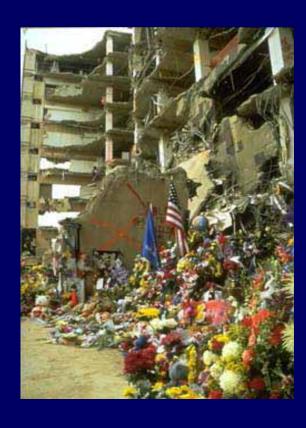

NIMS Benefits …

- 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 and the National Response Plan

- The National Response Plan 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 is a prevention, preparedness, response and recovery plan that 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.

- It applies to incidents of national significance – high impact events that require a coordinated response by federal, state, local tribal and nongovernmental entities.

- Not yet finalized

NIMS Implementation and Compliance

- Compliance requirements will be phased in over time.

- Guidance for minimum FY 2005 compliance is under review within DHS and will be released soon.

- FY 2005 is a NIMS ramp-up year. Full NIMS compliance will not be required until the end of FY 2006.

- Everyone is encouraged to familiarize themselves with NIMS concepts take steps to institutionalize the Incident Command System.

- ICS training is available in the states; contact the state emergency management training office.

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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 NIMS Integration Center – Functions

Director's Office Establishes:

- Team priorities

- NIC Advisory Committee coordination lines

- Functional Working Group roles

- Coordination lines for other parts of USDHS and external partners (NEMA, IAEM, etc.)

- Coordination line for FEMA management of publications until Publications Management Branch is established

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The NIMS Integration Center –

Standards and Resources Branch

- Identifies and promulgates standards
- Identifies and types resources

- Provides phased bases for jurisdictions to review/revise plans to achieve initial NIMS compliance

- Reviews/updates standards and typed resources to ensure use of new technologies and concepts for periodic jurisdiction plan review/revision

- Assists with internal process review

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The NIMS Integration Center –

Training and Exercises Branch

- Develops criteria for training curricula and classes

- Develops exercise scenarios and methodologies for incident management

- Assists with performance validation

- Assists with remediation

- Assists with internal process review

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The NIMS Integration Center –

System Evaluation and Compliance Branch

- Identifies, evaluates and promulgates systems to be used in NIMS execution

- Develops and manages compliance verification activities

- Recommend, direct and monitor remediation as required – for both jurisdictions/constituents and the NIC

- Assists with remediation portion of process

- Assists with internal process review to ensure relevance of the process

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The NIMS Integration Center –

Technology, Research and Development Branch

- Identifies, evaluates and promulgates technologies to be used in NIMS execution

- Works with Standards and Resources Branch to ensure maximum use of relevant technologies

- Assists with remediation process

- Assists with internal process review to ensure relevance of the process

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The NIMS Integration Center – Implementation

Phase I

- Broker initial feedback and questions on NIMS

- Facilitate development and delivery of NIMS awareness training, education, publications

- Coordinate training, provide guidance and tools on understanding, implementing and complying with the NIMS

- Identify existing capabilities, initiatives, and resources that support the NIMS and the NIC

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The NIMS Integration Center – Implementation

Phase I *cont.*

- Further define the organizational structure, collaborative processes, outreach mechanisms, and support requirements of the full NIC

- Establish the NIC Advisory Committee, functional working groups – and program and product input, review, vetting and approval processes

- Develop internal operating guidance and procedures, bring on additional staff

- NIC Director to coordinate all activities with other affected DHS elements or offices as they relate to applicable statutes, HSPD or other relevant authorities as deemed necessary

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NIMS Integration Center Resources – NIMS Online Introductory Course

Emergency Management Institute

- NIMS Introductory Course went live online on May 4, 2004 – Paper copy coming soon

- 250 students per week being certified by EMI

- For more information – http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/, click on NETC Virtual Campus

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NIMS Integration Center Initiatives – Mutual Aid Products and Activities

FEMA in collaboration with the NIC…

- Developed a model Intrastate mutual aid agreement for use by states and local jurisdictions – www.emacweb.org

- Supports existing mutual aid efforts through National Emergency Management Agency;

- Funds enhancements to Emergency Management Assistance Compact;

- Supports enhancements to EMAC on-line system; and

- Supports development of an EMAC training program.

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NIMS Integration Center Initiatives – Resource Typing

- Developed methodology for resource typing and inventorying of resources

- Identified subject matter experts by discipline

- Compiled glossary of response assets, including federal response assets

- Initial 60 resources typed and available at www.fema.gov/preparedness/mutual_aid.shtm

- Typing of an additional 120 resources under way, scheduled for release Sept. '04

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NIMS Integration Center Initiatives – Standards

Standards Project Components:

- Utilize subject matter experts from all emergency responder communities

- Work with organizations involved in standards development

- Identify and analyze existing standards and critical gaps

- Develop plan to address standards shortfalls

- Develop performance-based standards

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NIMS Integration Center Initiatives – Credentialing

FEMA in collaboration with the NIC is working to establish a nationwide credentialing system by:

- Developing a documentation and database system for qualification, certification and credentialing of incident management personnel and organizations;

- Specifying and standardizing roles and responsibilities of first responders operating in emergencies;

- Ensuring that personnel responding to an incident are properly trained and qualified;

- Ensuring the proper identification of responder personnel;

- Providing uniform certification programs so responders can provide mutual aid assistance nationwide;

- Working with existing entities to establish national recognition for multi-jurisdictional response under mutual aid agreements; and

- Circulating a draft concept paper for a credentialing system within DHS.

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The NIMS Integration Center Resources – NIMCAST

- The NIMS Compliance Assurance Support Tool is a Web-based self-assessment system that state and local governments can use to evaluate their incident response and management capabilities and comply with NIMS requirements.

- A field test of the the NIMCAST system will be conducted with states.

- Based on field test results, the instrument will be available for voluntary use nationwide.

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The NIMS Integration Center Resources – NIMCAST

NIMS Compliance Assurance Support Tool

- NIMCAST covers the same functional areas as the NIMS.

- NIMCAST spells out the NIMS language concerning a particular requirement and then poses a series of questions about compliance with the requirement.

- NIMCAST is a useful tool in helping to understand the NIMS

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The NIMS Integration Center

- Gil Jamieson, Acting Director

- Web Page: www.fema.gov/nims

- E-Mail: NIMS-Integration-Center@dhs.gov

- NIMS Training: http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/IS/is700.asp

- Main Number: 202-646-4090 (Temporary)

- Mailing Address: NIMS Integration Center, 500 C Street SW, Suite 832, Washington, DC 20472

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