



Preparedness-Technology, Analysis, and Coordination (P-TAC) Center



FEMA

December 2011

Discussion Topics

- P-TAC Center Overview
- Products & Services Description
- STEP updates
- Q&A



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Mission

- Provide the response community with a suite of products & services to offer a comprehensive, nationwide, systematic approach to incident management through technology integration & preparedness activities.



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Mission Support Projects

- Five overarching projects:
 - *P-TAC Center Website*
 - *Outreach*
 - *Incident Resource Inventory System*
 - *Technical Assistance*
 - *Supporting Technology Evaluation Project (STEP)*



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P-TAC Center Facility



Simulated Emergency Operations Center



Simulation Cell



Breakout Areas



Communications Area



Remote Multi-Use Platform



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Branding Change

- Prior NIMS Support Center brand generated questions regarding NIMS implementation and doctrine
- The Center's mission changed to more of a technology implementation/enabling function; limited focus on doctrine/policy
- A new PMO office within FEMA NPD was formed to:
 - *Manage the Center*
 - *Communicate products & services*
 - *Implement a new brand "P-TAC Center"*
 - *Integrate all functions under the former NIMS Support Center under this new brand and expand upon the capabilities of the Center*



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P-TAC Center Website & Outreach

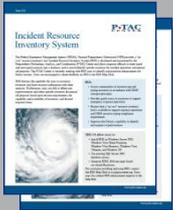
- A consolidated site for critical information related to P-TAC Center products and services.





IRIS Downloads

Fact Sheets & Brochures



STEP Registration

Vendor Registration

Fill out the following form to register as a vendor. Upon verification of your registration, you will be able to submit your product for evaluation consideration.

* Username

* Password

* Verify Password

* Your Name

Company

* Email

Phone

Fax



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Preparedness-Technology, Analysis, and Coordination (P-TAC) Center

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P-TAC Center

The Preparedness-Technology, Analysis, and Coordination (P-TAC) Center is operated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Preparedness Directorate (NPD), P-TAC Office. The Center is located in Somerset, KY, and expands upon the mission of the former National Incident Management System (NIMS) Support Center. The Center includes an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) based environment, complete with supporting technologies, and a fully accredited laboratory for technology evaluations. The P-TAC mission space for both the FEMA program office and the Center is to be an enabler of preparedness and technology activities across the FEMA enterprise.



The P-TAC Center conducts quick reaction studies, analysis, test and evaluation, and other critical functions to identify, assess, and close preparedness/technology gaps in the response community. The Center has a diverse and flexible design that serves as a great location for hosting training events, workshops, and seminars and for conducting exercises. Such venues are available on-site or virtually to remote locations. The Center also has a fully integrated test and evaluation laboratory that is accredited for user acceptance and conformance testing.



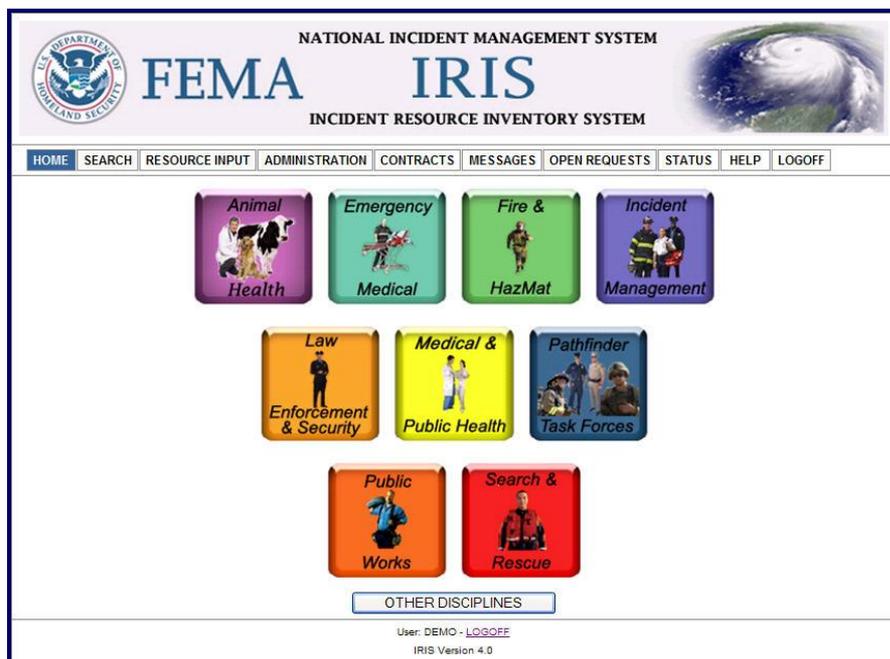
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IRIS - Overview

- A “no cost” resource inventory tool for the response community which allows users to enter FEMA typed & non-typed (user defined) resources



Supported Platforms:

- 32 or 64 bit configurations
- Windows XP SP3
- Windows Server 2003 R2
- Windows Vista (Home Premium, Business, Ultimate)
- Windows 7 (Home Premium, Professional, Ultimate) SP1



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Facility & Technical Assistance Support

Capacity

- 72 persons for onsite or offsite exercises and training events

- SEOC – 51
- SIMCELL – 7
- RMP – 14



- Expanded configuration: 98 persons

- SEOC – 69
- SIMCELL – 15
- RMP – 14



Modes of Operation

- Exercises
 - FS, FE, TTX
 - Onsite or virtual
 - Simulate multiple roles (White Cell, SIMCELL, etc.)
 - Simulate multiple levels (local, State, federal)
- Training
 - Onsite or virtual
 - Distribution of pre-recorded sessions
- Workshops/Working Groups
- Live EOC

Technology

- Full connectivity** – LCD/plasma displays, VTC/presentation equipment & Codec, workstations/laptops, etc
- Servers/Network** – mixed environment UNIX/LINUX/Windows, raw (firewalled) internet feed, Gigabit CISCO Internal Network
- IC Technologies** – WebEOC, E-Team, UICDS, GOTS modeling tools, etc.

Recent Major Activities

- KY Pandemic Exercise (Full Scale, 5 day, White Cell support)
- Colorado TTX
- CSEPP Sponsored MEPP L131 Course
- CSEPP Sponsored MEPP L132 Course
- CSEPP Sponsored MEPP L136 Course
- CSEPP Sponsored MEPP L131 Course
- CSEPP Sponsored MEPP L132 Course
- CSEPP Sponsored MEPP L136 Course
- NLE-11 KY EM Simulation Cell Node
- Test Events Monthly (STEP /IPAWS)

STEP - Overview



- Test and Evaluation (T&E)
 - FY 2011 SAFECOM Guidance on Emergency Communications Grants
 - Leverages SAIC IMTEL Accredited laboratory
 - Evaluations of software and supporting hardware
 - Aids procurement officials when purchasing incident management and response-related products
 - Evaluations include test engineers and emergency response subject matter experts (referred to as assessors)

- Community has access to STEP reports through the Responder Knowledge Base (RKB) website.



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STEP - Website and Application

1) Go to: www.ptaccenter.org/step

FEMA Preparedness-Technology, Analysis, and Coordination (P-TAC) Center

Home Preparedness IRIS **STEP** Whole Community References

STEP

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Preparedness Directorate (NPD) offers a project to assist the response community with interoperability Test and Evaluation (T&E). The Preparedness-Technology, Analysis, and Coordination (P-TAC) Center manages the Supporting Technology Evaluation Project (STEP), which conducts T&E of technologies relating to incident management and response. T&E activities verify interoperability of commercial and government software and hardware products and provide the response community with reports to support purchasing decisions.

STEP uses the Incident Management Test and Evaluation Laboratory (MTEL) located in Somerset, KY for conducting T&E activities. MTEL is managed and operated by Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) and is accredited through the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA). MTEL leverages the P-TAC Center infrastructure to evaluate the following:

- Incorporation of NIMS concepts and principles
- Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS) Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) version 1.1 and 1.2 standards
- OASIS Emergency Data Exchange Language - Distribution Element (EDXL-DE) 1.0 standard
- OASIS EDXL - Hospital Availability Exchange (EDXL-HAVE) 1.0 standard
- OASIS EDXL - Resource Messaging (EDXL-RM) 1.0 standard

Results from each evaluation may be accessed at www.fkib.us (keyword STEP).

STEP Literature

- [Fact Sheet \(PDF, 1.45 MB\)](#)
- [STEP Guide \(PDF, 1.57 MB\)](#)

You may need [Adobe Reader](#) to view PDF documents.

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This website may be unavailable Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to noon Eastern Time in order to perform system updates and maintenance activities.
Version Number: 2.2.2

Note: Anyone using the old www.nimsstep.org URL will be automatically re-directed.

Supporting Technology Evaluation Project (STEP) Guide

November 2011



NEW (Nov 2011 Guide available on/or about Dec 17th 2011)



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STEP - Testing Components

- User Acceptance Testing
 - *Concepts and principles of NIMS*
 - *Target Capabilities List*
- Conformance Tests

| Standard | Purpose | Versions |
|---|--|-----------|
| Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) | All-hazard emergency alerts and public warnings | 1.1 & 1.2 |
| IPAWS Profile | Alert & warning (include accompany EAS Guide) | 1.0 |
| EDXL-Distribution Element (DE) | Message distribution framework | 1.0 |
| EDXL- Hospital Availability Exchange (HAVE) | Communication of the status of a hospital, its services, and its resources. | 1.0 |
| EDXL- Resource Messaging (RM) | Communication for allocation of resources across the emergency incident life-cycle | 1.0 |

NEW



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STEP – Report Downloads

The screenshot shows the FEMA Responder Knowledge Base search results for the query "NIMS AND STEP". The page displays a search bar, a navigation menu, and a list of search results. A red arrow points to the search bar, and another red arrow points to the search results list. A third red arrow points to the "Other Content" menu item in the navigation bar.

Address: <https://www.rkb.us/search.cfm?query=NIMS+STEP>

Search:

Results for Search String: "NIMS" AND "STEP"

(ALL - 90)

- News (11)
 - Archived News Item (11)
- Operational Assessments (59)
 - NIMS SC - STEP Evaluations (59)**
 - Analytical Tools (2)
 - Communications, Alert and Warning (18)
 - Geographic Information System (GIS) (3)
 - Incident and Resource Management (36)
- Product (11)
 - Information Technology (9)
 - Uncategorized Products (2)
- Publications & References (4)
 - Government (3)
 - Non-Government (1)

Result(s) 1 - 20 of 59

| Title | Description | Display: |
|---|--|----------|
| CommandAware NIMS STEP Evaluation Report | This report presents the results from an evaluation of Concerro's CommandAware 5.1. This evaluation was sponsored by the FEMA and was conducted from 24 through 26 August 2009 as part of the NIMS STEP. | |
| CommandAware NIMS STEP Summary Report | This summary presents an evaluation of Concerro's system CommandAware 5.1. The evaluation was conducted from 24 through 26 August 2009 as part of the NIMS STEP. | |
| CommSHOP NIMS STEP Evaluation Report | This report presents the results from an evaluation of MCM Technology LLC system CommSHOP 360 5.0. This evaluation was managed by the FEMA and was conducted from 10-13 August 2010 as part of the NIMS STEP. | |
| CommSHOP NIMS STEP Summary Report | This summary presents an evaluation of MCM Technology Limited Liability Corporation's (LLC) system CommSHOP 360 5.0. The evaluation was conducted from 10 through 13 August 2010 as part of NIMS STEP. | |
| Druze NIMS STEP Summary Report | This summary presents an evaluation of Xpect Software Limited Liability Corporations' systems Druze Net 1.0.3 and Druze Mobile 1.4.25. The evaluation was conducted from 27 through 30 July 2010 as part of NIMS STEP. | |
| FEMS NIMS STEP Summary Report | This summary presents the results from an evaluation of Elliott Data Systems' Emergency Event Manager Solution. The evaluation was conducted from 2 through 5 March 2009 as part of the NIMS STEP. | |
| FirePrograms RMS NIMS STEP Summary Report | This summary presents an evaluation of FirePrograms's system FirePrograms RMS version X.3 (1.0.3.8.35). | |

NIMS SC to P-TAC Center branding changes take effect Feb 2012 on RKB



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<https://www.rkb.us/>

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STEP - Updates

- www.nimsstep.org transitioned to www.ptaccenter.org and integrated with other products and services offered by the Center
- Revised STEP Guide available Dec 17th
 - IPAWS Profile Testing (same IMTEL lab used under IPAWS CA is used for STEP)
 - Option for Vendors to test only to NIMS or any of the technical standards or to both
 - SDoCs available for vendors for standards based testing
 - Streamlined reporting processes to improve efficiencies and reduce timeline
 - Immediate vendor out-brief on technical standards results; window for updates and re-tests



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For More Information

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