NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NIMS)

Overview

FEMA
What Is NIMS?

- NIMS is a comprehensive, national approach to incident management
- NIMS provides the template for incident management, regardless of cause, size, location, or complexity
- NIMS is applicable at all jurisdictional levels and across functional disciplines
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What NIMS is:</th>
<th>What NIMS is NOT:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A comprehensive, nationwide, systematic approach to Incident Management</td>
<td>A response plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>A set of preparedness concepts and principles for all hazards</td>
<td>Only the Incident Command System or an organization chart</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essential principles for a common operating picture and interoperability of communications and information management</td>
<td>A communications plan</td>
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<td>Standardized resource management procedures</td>
<td>Only applicable to certain emergency management incident response personnel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scalable, so it may be used for all incidents</td>
<td>Only used during large-scale incidents</td>
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<tr>
<td>A dynamic system that promotes ongoing management and maintenance</td>
<td>A static system</td>
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Benefits of NIMS

- Standardized approach to incident management that is scalable and flexible
- Enhanced cooperation and interoperability among responders
- Comprehensive all-hazards preparedness
- Efficient resource coordination among jurisdictions or organizations
- Reflects best practices and lessons learned
To integrate the practice of emergency management and incident response throughout the country, NIMS focuses on five key areas, or components:

I. Preparedness
II. Communications and Information Management
III. Resource Management
IV. Command and Management
V. Ongoing Management and Maintenance
I. Preparedness

- NIMS preparedness focuses on the following elements:
  - Planning
  - Procedures and Protocols
  - Training and Exercises
  - Personnel Qualifications and Certification
  - Equipment Certification

- Enhanced through partnerships at all levels of government, the private sector, and nongovernmental organizations
I. Preparedness

Preparedness Cycle: Illustrates the essential activities for responding to an incident
II. Communications and Information Management

- NIMS promotes the use of flexible communications and information systems

- Built on the concepts of:
  - Common Operating Picture
  - Interoperability
  - Reliability, Scalability, and Portability
  - Resiliency and Redundancy
III. Resource Management

- NIMS describes standardized resource management practices such as typing, inventorying, organizing, and tracking.
- Allows for effective sharing and integration of critical resources across jurisdictions.
- Activating, Dispatching, and Deactivating those systems prior to, during, and after an incident.
Resource Management during an incident is a finite process with a distinct beginning and ending specific to the needs of the particular incident.
IV. Command and Management

- NIMS enables effective and efficient incident management and coordination by providing a flexible, standardized incident management structure.

- This structure integrates three key organizational constructs:
  - Incident Command System
  - Multi-Agency Coordination System
  - Public Information
IV. Command and Management

Incident Command System: Command and General Staffs

![Diagram of Incident Command System](image_url)
IV. Command and Management

Multi-Agency Coordination System

- Is a process that allows all levels of government to work together more effectively
- Occurs across different disciplines
- Can occur on a regular basis whenever personnel from different agencies interact
IV. Command and Management

Public Information

- Consists of processes, procedures, and systems for communicating timely, accurate, and accessible information related to an incident

- Public information functions must be coordinated and integrated across jurisdictions and across functional agencies
IV. Ongoing Management and Maintenance

- The FEMA National Integration Center (NIC) provides strategic direction, oversight, and coordination of NIMS
  - NIC coordinates ongoing maintenance and continuous refinement of NIMS concepts and principles

- Committed to science and technology. Research and development results in continual improvement and refinement of NIMS
NIMS Audience

NIMS is applicable to all incidents and all levels of stakeholders who assume a role in emergency management, including:

- All Levels of Government
  - Elected and appointed officials
- Private Sector Organizations
- Critical Infrastructure/Key Resources Owners and Operators
- Nongovernmental Organizations
NIMS Training Program

- Supersedes *Five-Year NIMS Training Plan*
- Current State of NIMS Training
  - Existing training efforts
- NIMS Curriculum: Goals, Objectives, and Action Items
- Simplified categories for level of training:
  - *Five-Year NIMS Training Plan*: Awareness, Advanced, or Practicum
  - *NIMS Training Program*: Baseline and Advanced
- Training recommendations based upon Incident Complexity: Type 1-5
Roles and Responsibilities
Federal Departments and Agencies

- HSPD-5 requires all Federal departments and agencies to adopt NIMS

- To be used in individual incident management programs and activities
- HSPD-5 requires adoption of NIMS by States, tribal, and local organizations as a condition for Federal preparedness awards

- NIMS is based on the concept that local jurisdictions retain command, control, and authority over response activities
Roles and Responsibilities
Private Sector and Nongovernmental Organizations

- All entities involved in response operations are strongly encouraged to have their response personnel receive NIMS training
The NIMS Resource Center (www.fema.gov/nims) provides online resources to implement and maintain NIMS concepts and principles.
The National Integration Center (NIC) provides NIMS-related:

- Administration
- Standards and Credentialing
- Training and Exercise Support
- Publication Management

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