

This NIMS Standards Update provides current information on standards development efforts relating to the National Incident Management System (NIMS). Standards noted in this publication may generally support NIMS implementation by providing criteria for measuring preparedness and incident management requirements. They may also provide technical specifications for resources and communications and information management systems. Each edition highlights a standards activity, and its relationship to NIMS and benefit to the field.

The National Preparedness Directorate (NPD) of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is responsible for designating standards appropriate for NIMS users in partnership with recognized standards development organizations (SDOs). Through the work of the Incident Management Systems Integration (IMSI) Division, the NPD monitors the development of standards in partnership with DHS' Science and Technology Directorate, other Federal departments and agencies, and State and local governments.

Information provided in these periodicals is intended for use or reference by the public safety community. The identification of SDO information and activities in these updates is not intended to represent a specific endorsement, promotion or recommendation by FEMA.

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Preparedness

ASTM Developing New guide for Pre-Hospital Medical Response Preparedness

On March 4, 2009, ASTM International initiated development on ASTM WK23266 – *New guide for Pre-Hospital Medical Response Preparedness*. This guide covers concepts, principles, and practices of an all-hazards comprehensive emergency management program for pre-hospital medical response to a major incident.

For updates on this work item, visit <http://www.astm.org>.

FEMA Releases Continuity Guidance for Non-Federal Entities

On January 21, 2009, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Office of National Continuity Programs released *Continuity Guidance Circular 1 (CGC 1) Continuity Guidance for Non-Federal Entities*. This document provides standardized guidance to States, territories, tribal and local government jurisdictions, and private sector organizations for developing continuity plans and programs. The provisions of CGC 1 supersede *Interim Guidance on Continuity of Operations Planning for State and Local Governments*, dated May 2004.

To view this circular, visit: <http://www.fema.gov>.

ANSI-HSSP Plans Workshops for Emergency Preparedness for Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs

The American National Standards Institute's Homeland Security Standards Panel (ANSI-HSSP) in conjunction with the National Organization of Disability (NOD) Emergency Preparedness Initiative (EPI) and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Disability Access Review and Advisory Committee (DARAC) are initiating a series of workshops to examine existing and/or needed standards for emergency preparedness for persons with disabilities and special needs.

Details and updates on this standard development initiative may be found on the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) website at: <http://www.ansi.org>.

Communications and Information Management

OASIS Releases Technical Specifications for Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS)

On March 3, 2009, The Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS) released for public comment a technical specification for creating a federal Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) Version 1.1 Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) Profile.



Spotlight on the National Standardization Process

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) provides a forum for ANSI-accredited standards development organizations in the private and public sectors. These groups work cooperatively to develop voluntary national consensus standards and American National Standards (ANS).

In order to maintain ANSI accreditation, standards developers are required to consistently adhere to a set of procedures known as the “ANSI Essential Requirements: Due process requirements for American National Standards,” which govern the consensus development process. This open and fair due process ensures that ANS are developed in an environment that is equitable, accessible and responsive to the requirements of all interested and affected parties.

ANSI also sponsors the American National Standards Institute’s Homeland Security Standards Panel (ANSI-HSSP) that identifies existing consensus standards, or, if none exist, assists DHS and those sectors requesting assistance to accelerate development and adoption of consensus standards critical to homeland security.

ANSI-HSSP maintains the Homeland Security Standards Database (HSSD) which provides access to standards critical to the jobs of first responders and others charged with keeping America safe.

For more information on standardization activities, visit: <http://www.ansi.org>.

FEMA is working with the public and private sectors to integrate warning systems that allow the President and authorized officials to communicate with the public in times of emergency via television, radio, telephone, email, and other communications technologies. IPAWS will employ the CAP v1.1 Profile to transmit alert and warnings across various systems at the State, local, tribal, and federal levels.

The formal 60-day public review, which is a prerequisite for approval as a ratified OASIS Standard, began March 3, 2009, and ends May 2, 2009. For more information on the OASIS process, and to view a copy of the IPAWS CAP v1.1 Profile Requirements Document, please visit:

<http://www.oasis-open.org>.

This open and fair due process ensures that ANS are developed in an environment that is equitable, accessible and responsive to the requirements of all interested and affected parties.

DHS Releases New Emergency Communications Governance Guide

In December 2008, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) released *Establishing Governance to Achieve Statewide Communications Interoperability: A Guide for SCIP Implementation*. The guide is designed to assist States and localities in developing their governance methodologies and systems that support communications interoperability, the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP), and Statewide Communication Interoperability Plans (SCIP).

For an electronic copy of the guide, go to <http://www.safecomprogram.gov>.

ASTM Search and Rescue Committee Approves Standard for Telecommunicators

In January 2009, ASTM International released ASTM Standard F2662 - 08 Guide for Minimum Training of Dispatchers and Telecommunicators of SAR Incidents. This guide establishes the minimum training standard as it relates to general and specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for dispatchers, 911 operators, and telecommunicators involved in the processing and dispatching of search and rescue (SAR) resources during incidents. A person trained to this guide is a Level I (basic) SAR dispatcher.



To view this standard or obtain a copy, visit: <http://www.astm.org>.



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Update on Standards Development Activities

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Resource Management

APCO International and NENA Developing Standard for Telecommunicator Emergency Response Taskforce (TERT)

The Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO), in partnership with the National Emergency Number Association (NENA), is developing candidate standard *APCO/NENA ANS 1.105.1-200x: Standard for Telecommunicator Emergency Response Taskforce (TERT)* as part of the National Joint TERT Initiative (NJTI).

This candidate standard provides guidance and helpful information regarding the development, maintenance, and deployment of a TERT. It will assist Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) and governing 911 authorities with the information required for developing, training, equipping, and deploying a standardized TERT team, which aims to support mutual aid among PSAPs during emergency situations.



For more information on the progress of this candidate American National Standard (ANS), including public review and comment periods, please visit: <http://www.apcostandards.org>.

Previous Edition

See the December 2008 NIMS Standards Quarterly Brief for news on the following:

- Proposed update to the *NFPA 1600: Standard on Disaster/Emergency Management and Business Continuity*.
- OASIS approval of Emergency Data eXchange Language (EDXL) standards for Resource Messaging (EDXL-RM) and Hospital AVailability Exchange (EDXL-HAVE).
- The APCO International and NENA PSAP Standard receiving ANSI approval.
- The release of the 2008 edition of *ASTM F1339-92(2008) Standard Guide for Organization and Operation of Emergency Medical Services Systems*.
- A spotlight article on the inaugural Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) standard.