

NIMS Implementation

Tips of the Week



Certifying NIMS Compliant Training Courses

The *NIMS National Standard Curriculum Training Development Guidance* (March 2007) (http://www.fema.gov/pdf/emergency/nims/nims_tsctdg_0307v2.pdf) outlines the objectives that must be met for ICS- 100, 200, 300, and 400 for any vendor-created courses. As long as a course meets all objectives then it is considered NIMS compliant.

It is the responsibility of the organization sponsoring the ICS training to determine whether the course meets the objectives as outlined in the NIMS National Standard Curriculum Training Development Guidance. The National Integration Center does *not* certify ICS courses as NIMS compliant.



Incident Action Planning

Centralized, coordinated incident action planning should guide all response activities. An Incident Action Plan (IAP) provides a concise and coherent means of capturing and communicating the overall incident priorities, objectives, and strategies in the contexts of both operational and support activities.

Though a series of standard forms and supporting documents, IAPs provide clear objectives and actions (for a given operation period) that can serve as a basis for measuring work and cost effectiveness, as well as documentation for post-incident fiscal and legal activities.

Every incident must have an action plan. However, not all incidents require written plans. The need for written plans and attachments is based on the requirements of the incident and the decision of the Incident Commander (IC) or Unified Command (UC). Most initial response operations are not captured with a formal IAP. However, if an incident is likely to extend beyond one operational period, become more complex, or involve multiple jurisdictions and/or agencies, preparing a written IAP will become increasingly important to maintain effective, efficient, and safe operations.

Written IAPs must be considered when:

- Two or more jurisdictions are dedicated to a response,
- The incident continues into the next operational period, or
- A HAZMAT incident is involved.



Previous *Tips of the Week* include:

May 23

- NIMSCAST Corrective Action Plan Reports
- NIMSCAST User and Account History Tracking and Reporting

May 16

- ICS 400
- New NIMS e-mail

May 9

- ICS 300
- NIMS Self-certification in FY2007?

May 2

- NIMSCAST Passwords
- Establishing a NIMSCAST Account

