



**PENNSYLVANIA EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT AGENCY**  
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### **Additional Information:**

#### **Incorporating NIMS into existing training programs and exercises**

Update all training plans and exercises to include the NIMS and ICS. All training and exercises will use the principles and structure of the NIMS and ICS including the National Goal, Capabilities-Based Planning, Uniform Task Listing and the 15 Planning Scenarios.

The 15 planning scenarios are:

- Scenario 1: Nuclear Detonation – 10-Kiloton Improvised Nuclear Device
- Scenario 2: Biological Attack – Aerosol Anthrax
- Scenario 3: Biological Disease Outbreak – Pandemic Influenza
- Scenario 4: Biological Attack – Plague
- Scenario 5: Chemical Attack – Blister Agent
- Scenario 6: Chemical Attack – Toxic Industrial Chemicals
- Scenario 7: Chemical Attack – Nerve Agent
- Scenario 8: Chemical Attack – Chlorine Tank Explosion
- Scenario 9: Natural Disaster – Major Earthquake
- Scenario 10: Natural Disaster – Major Hurricane
- Scenario 11: Radiological Attack – Radiological Dispersal Devices
- Scenario 12: Explosives Attack – Bombing Using Improvised Explosive Device
- Scenario 13: Biological Attack – Food Contamination
- Scenario 14: Biological Attack – Foreign Animal Disease (Foot and Mouth Disease)
- Scenario 15: Cyber Attack

### **Resource Typing**

Resources are classified by 'Category' which refers to function and 'Kind,' to include; teams, personnel, equipment, and supplies. Information about level of capability is referred to as 'Type,' which is a measure of minimum capabilities to perform the function. Type I implies a higher capability than Type II. The level of capability for each resource is measurements of standards and is applicable to like resources. All resources throughout the Commonwealth will be typed. This includes all resources under the control of all state, county and local governments, agencies, elected officials, departments, law enforcement department, career and volunteer fire, emergency medical and emergency response organizations, personnel that may serve in a position that either directly responds to and/or supports preparation, response, recovery and mitigation of all-hazards operations. Resource typing definitions:

[http://www.fema.gov/nims/mutual\\_aid.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/nims/mutual_aid.shtm)

## **Incident Command System Training Update**

ICS is part of NIMS and therefore all emergency personnel with a direct role in emergency preparedness, incident management or response should take the NIMS Awareness course – IS 700. New courses such as NIMS ICS for EMS and NIMS ICS for the Fire Service, **DO NOT** include IS-700.

A concern raised with the upcoming training is that most responders had some type of ICS training already; do they have to complete it again? Is it comparable to the new ICS training? A training matrix showing which ICS courses meet the IS-100, IS-200, IS-300 and IS-400 requirements is forthcoming. For the time being, it is imperative the emergency response community focus on completing the IS-700 NIMS awareness course and the IS-100 Intro to ICS.

The NIMS ICS is based on NIIMS ICS, Firescope and NWCG ICS, which are therefore, NIMS compliant, for now. However, all ICS curriculums are currently being revised to more accurately reflect the NIMS, including Firescope, NWCG and ICS as taught by the National Fire Academy. Fire Ground Command is not NIMS compliant.

The following courses for the ICS correlate over to the new NIMS-ICS courses:

G190 ICS for Law Enforcement = IS-100.LE

G191 ICS for Public Works = IS-100.PW

G192 ICS for federal workers = IS-100.FW

G193

G194 ICS for Public Officials = IS-100

G195 ICS Intermediate course = IS-300

G196 ICS Advanced Course = IS-400

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August 23, 2005

### Concerning NIMS, ICS and Plain Language...

Recently NIMS, ICS and the use of plain language have been a matter of public discussion within the response community. The NIMS Integration Center wants you to know that it sees the use of plain language in emergency response situations as a matter of public safety, especially the safety of first responders and those affected by the incident.

It is critical that all local responders, as well as those coming into the impacted area from other jurisdictions and other states, know and utilize commonly established operational structures, terminology, policies and procedures. This is what NIMS and the Incident Command System (ICS) are all about. There are larger matters at stake here - achieving interoperability across jurisdictions and disciplines.

The plain language requirement is about the ability of area commanders, state and local EOC personnel, federal operational coordinators, and responders to communicate clearly with each other and effectively coordinate response activities, no matter what the size, scope or complexity of the incident. The ability of responders from different jurisdictions and different disciplines to work together depends greatly on their ability to communicate with each other. Everyone has to speak the same language - plain English.

Although the use of plain language is a requirement for FY06 compliance with NIMS, we understand that the use of 10-codes is not going to be completely eliminated by October 2006. Our goal is that good faith efforts are under way at all levels nationwide to move to plain English for all emergency operations. At the end of FY06, the states will certify to us that "taken as a whole" they and their local jurisdictions are NIMS compliant. Local jurisdictions will be working with their states to achieve compliance. NIMS implementation is a long-term effort and won't end in 2006. NIMS compliance requirements aren't going to go away in 2007 or 2008 either. However, continued resistance to complying with NIMS requirements and using plain language will result in the loss of federal preparedness funding.

The NIMS Integration Center  
DHS/FEMA

NIMS Alert  
August 18, 2005

## NIMS Compliance and Day-to-Day Operations

The NIMS Integration Center has received a number of questions recently asking if organizations must use National Incident Management System (NIMS) concepts and principles in day-to-day emergency operations versus only during major incidents involving federal participation.

The requirement to adopt and implement NIMS and ICS means NIMS and ICS for incident management every day. Those who don't are not NIMS compliant.

The intent of Homeland Security Presidential Directive/HSPD-5, which ordered the development of the NIMS, is clear: "The objective of the United States Government is to ensure that all levels of government across the Nation have the capability to work efficiently and effectively together, using a [single, comprehensive] national approach to domestic incident management."

The point is that all responders at all levels use the same organizational structures, terminology, procedures and systems all the time. The idea is to achieve interoperability among jurisdictions and disciplines. Those who do not train for, exercise and use NIMS and ICS in their day-to-day operations will not be able to integrate their activities into a system they do not know, haven't practiced and don't use.

To underscore the importance of the nationwide adoption of NIMS, the Department of Homeland Security has directed that all federal preparedness assistance to states and local jurisdictions be tied to compliance with the requirements of NIMS. Beginning Oct. 1, 2005, all recipients of federal preparedness funds must adopt and use NIMS as a condition for the receipt of FY06 preparedness assistance funding. This does not just include funds from the Department of Homeland Security; it includes preparedness funds from all federal departments and agencies, although there is no linkage between post disaster assistance funds and NIMS compliance. Specific preparedness grants will outline the requirements for eligibility in the grant language.

A preliminary list of affected federal preparedness grant programs is listed on the NIMS Integration Center's Web page at [www.fema.gov/nims](http://www.fema.gov/nims). The NIMS Integration Center has made this preliminary list available to help state and local entities identify funding streams that may be affected in connection with NIMS implementation requirements. The listing should not be considered a definitive list of federal preparedness grants and agreements.

For more information about NIMS see our Web page at: [www.fema.gov/nims/](http://www.fema.gov/nims/)

Questions? Ask the NIMS Integration Center at [NIMS-Integration-Center@dhs.gov](mailto:NIMS-Integration-Center@dhs.gov) or 202-646-3850.