

Why is NIMS important?

The jurisdictions and organizations involved in managing incidents vary in their authorities, management structures, communication capabilities and protocols, and many other factors. **NIMS** provides a common framework to integrate these diverse capabilities and achieve common goals.

On March 1, 2004, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) published the first National Incident Management System (NIMS) document. NIMS provides a consistent template enabling Federal, State, tribal, and local governments, the private sector, and nongovernmental organizations to work together to prepare for, prevent, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of incidents regardless of cause, size, location, or complexity. This consistency provides the foundation for nationwide use of NIMS for all incidents, ranging from daily occurrences to more complex incidents requiring a coordinated, Federal response. In December 2008, after considering input from stakeholders at every level within the Nation's emergency management community and lessons learned during recent incidents, DHS released a revised NIMS document. As a result, NIMS better represents preparedness concepts, including communications and resource management, as well as the Incident Command System (ICS). Implementing the NIMS Training Program is a critical component of a National Training Program, mandated by the Post - Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006. A well developed NIMS training program that both guides and promotes NIMS training is vital to a successful nationwide implementation of NIMS. However, NIMS training is just one component of a comprehensive emergency management program, which requires a continuous cycle of planning, organizing, equipping, exercising, evaluating, and taking corrective action. The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Integration Center (NIC) maintains the NIMS Training Program. FEMA recognizes that the NIMS national training program must be more than a plan to train emergency management personnel on the ICS. As a result, the NIC is releasing this NIMS Training Program document to define a national NIMS training curriculum and personnel qualifications and to assemble and update the training guidance for available NIMS courses (organized as a core curriculum).

The **Incident Command System (ICS)** is a standardized approach to the command, control, and coordination of emergency response and management providing a common hierarchy within which responders from multiple agencies can be effective.

ICS was initially developed to address problems of inter-agency responses to wildfires in California and Arizona but is now a component of the **National Incident Management System (NIMS)** in the US, where it has evolved into use in All-Hazards situations, ranging from active shootings to HazMat scenes. In addition, ICS has acted as a pattern for similar approaches internationally.

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Command Staff Functions

Command Staff carry out staff functions needed to support the Incident Commander. These functions include interagency liaison, incident safety, and public information. The following Command Staff positions are established to assign responsibility for key activities not specifically identified in the General Staff functional elements.

Command Staff	Responsibilities
Public Information Officer (PIO)	The PIO is responsible for interfacing with the public and media and/or with other agencies with incident-related information requirements. The PIO develops accurate and complete information on the incident's cause, size, and current situation; resources committed; and other matters of general interest for both internal and external consumption. The PIO may also perform a key public information-monitoring role. Only one incident PIO should be designated. Assistants may be assigned from other agencies or departments involved. The Incident Commander must approve the release of all incident-related information.
Safety Officer (SO)	The SO monitors incident operations and advises the Incident Commander on all matters relating to operational safety, including the health and safety of emergency responder personnel. The ultimate responsibility for the safe conduct of incident management operations rests with the Incident Commander or Unified Command and supervisors at all levels of incident management. The SO is, in turn, responsible to the Incident Commander for the set of systems and procedures necessary to ensure ongoing assessment of hazardous environments, coordination of multiagency safety efforts, and implementation of measures to promote emergency responder safety, as well as the general safety of incident operations. The SO has emergency authority to stop and/or prevent unsafe acts during incident operations. In a Unified Command structure, a single SO should be designated, in spite of the fact that multiple jurisdictions and/or functional agencies may be involved. The SO must also ensure the coordination of safety management functions and issues across jurisdictions, across functional agencies, and with private-sector and nongovernmental organizations.
Liaison Officer (LNO)	The LNO is the point of contact for representatives of other governmental agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and/or private entities. In either a single or Unified Command structure,

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	<p>representatives from assisting or cooperating agencies and organizations coordinate through the LNO. Agency and/or organizational representatives assigned to an incident must have the authority to speak for their parent agencies and/or organizations on all matters, following appropriate consultations with their agency leadership. Assistants and personnel from other agencies or organizations (public or private) involved in incident management activities may be assigned to the LNO to facilitate coordination.</p>
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General Staff Functions

General Staff: A group of incident **management** personnel organized according to function and reporting to the Incident Commander. The General Staff normally consists of the Operations Section Chief, Planning Section Chief, **Logistics** Section Chief, and Finance/**Administration** Section Chief.

General Staff	Responsibilities
Operation Section Chief	Operations: The Section responsible for all tactical operations at the incident.
Planning Section Chief	Responsible for the collection, evaluation, and dissemination of information related to the incident, and for the preparation and documentation of Incident Action Plans. The Section also maintains information on the current and forecasted situation, and on the status of resources assigned to the incident. Includes the Situation, Resources, Documentation, and Demobilization Units, as well as Technical Specialists.
Logistics section Chief	Providing resources and other services to support incident management
Finance/Administration Chief	The Section responsible for all incident costs and financial considerations. Includes the Time Unit, Procurement Unit, Compensation/Claims Unit, and Cost Unit.

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NIMS Core Curriculum Components Training Completion Guidelines

The heart of the NIMS Training Plan is to develop the complete foundation of required training under the NIMS National Training Program, which consists of:

- Core competencies for typical positions;
- A national core curriculum for NIMS;
- Training guidance for specific courses within the core curriculum; and
- Personnel qualification guidelines.

2019

- Start IS-700.B, An Introduction – on-line
- Start IS-800.C, National Response Framework – on-line
- Start IS-100 C, Introduction to the Incident Command System– on-line
- Start - IS-200.B, ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents – on-line
- Start- E300, Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents -24 hour classroom
- Start ICS-402: Overview for Executives/Senior Officials/Policy Group – 3 hour classroom
- SAT-2-AWR-WMD/Terrorism Awareness for Emergency Responders - 4 hour classroom

2020

- Complete IS-700B, An Introduction – on-line (New members)
- Complete IS-800C, National Response Framework – on-line (New members)
- Complete ICS-100C, Introduction to the Incident Command System– on-line (New members)
- Complete ICS-200B, ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents – on-line (New members)
- Complete ICS-300, Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents)
- Complete ICS-400 – Advanced Training – 24 hour classroom
- Continue ICS Position-Specific Training – Practicum
- Complete ICS-402: Overview for Executives/Senior Officials/Policy Group – 4 hour classroom, (New members)
- Complete G-191 Incident Command System/Emergency Operations Center Interface– 8 hour classroom
- Continue EOC Position-Specific Training – Practicum, Stakeholders are not required to complete ICS Position-Specific Training or EOC Position-Specific for NIMS compliance. However, the completion of ICS Position-Specific Training is required for those stakeholders who desire to be credentialed as part of the national credentialing system.
- Offer a FEMA/DHS certified University specific training course

NIMS Classes to Take for the Command and General Staff Members

IS-100.C: Introduction to the Incident Command System, ICS 100

Course Overview

ICS 100, Introduction to the Incident Command System, introduces the Incident Command System (ICS) and provides the foundation for higher level ICS training. This course describes the history, features and principles, and organizational structure of the Incident Command System. It also explains the relationship between ICS and the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

Course Objectives:

At the completion of this course, you should be able to:

- Explain the principles and basic structure of the Incident Command System (ICS).
- Describe the NIMS management characteristics that are the foundation of the ICS.
- Describe the ICS functional areas and the roles of the Incident Commander and Command Staff.
- Describe the General Staff roles within ICS.
- Identify how NIMS management characteristics apply to ICS for a variety of roles and discipline areas.

<https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-100.c>

IS-200.B: ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents

Course Overview

ICS 200 is designed to enable personnel to operate efficiently during an incident or event within the Incident Command System (ICS). ICS-200 provides training on and resources for personnel who are likely to assume a supervisory position within the ICS.

<https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-200.b>

IS-700.B: An Introduction to the National Incident Management System

Course Overview

This course provides an overview of the National Incident Management System (NIMS). The National Incident Management System defines the comprehensive approach guiding the whole community - all levels of government, nongovernmental organizations (NGO), and the private sector - to work together seamlessly to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from the effects of incidents. The course provides learners with a basic understanding of NIMS concepts, principles, and components.

Course Objectives:

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Describe and identify the key concepts, principles, scope, and applicability underlying NIMS.
- Describe activities and methods for managing resources.
- Describe the NIMS Management Characteristics.
- Identify and describe Incident Command System (ICS) organizational structures.
- Explain Emergency Operations Center (EOC) functions, common models for staff organization, and activation levels.
- Explain the interconnectivity within the NIMS Management and Coordination structures: ICS, EOC, Joint Information System (JIS), and Multiagency Coordination Groups (MAC Groups).
- Identify and describe the characteristics of communications and information systems, effective communication, incident information, and communication standards and formats.

<https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-700.b>

IS-800.C: National Response Framework, an Introduction

Course Overview

This course introduces participants to the concepts and principles of the National Response Framework. The goal of this course is to familiarize participants with the National Response Framework and the ways it is applied in actual response situations.

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Course Objectives:

At the end of this course, the students will be able to describe how the National Response Framework is applied to manage all-hazards response.

At the end of this course, participants will be able to describe:

- the purpose, scope, organization, and underlying doctrine of the National Response Framework (NRF).
- the Response roles and responsibilities of all elements of the whole community.
- core capabilities for Response and the actions required to deliver those capabilities.
- coordinating structures and operational planning used to support emergency response.

<https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-800.c>

Registration for FEMA Classes

FEMA Student Identification Number

What is a FEMA SID?

FEMA Student Identification (SID) number is a unique number generated and assigned to anyone who needs or is required to take training provided by a FEMA organization. Your FEMA SID uniquely identifies you throughout the FEMA organization and all of its agencies. The goal is for your FEMA SID to serve as your personal identification number instead of your Social Security Number (SSN) in support of FEMA's effort to decrease/cease the use of SSN for identifying and tracking individuals.

Why do I need a FEMA SID?

A FEMA SID is required to register for and participate in any training provided by FEMA. All FEMA training providers' registration systems and enrollment procedures require a valid FEMA SID. The FEMA SID will serve as your unique identifier and be used to maintain the record of FEMA training you attended.

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Who needs a FEMA SID?

A FEMA SID is required to register for and participate in any training provided by FEMA. Anyone that is to attend training provided by FEMA will be required to obtain a FEMA SID prior to registering for the training.

How to get a FEMA Number

<https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid/register>