

NIMS IS 700b Outline

NIMS Guiding Principles

NIMS provides these stakeholders across the *whole community* with the shared vocabulary, systems, and processes to successfully deliver the capabilities described in the National Preparedness System. Priorities for incident management include saving lives, stabilizing the incident, and protecting property and the environment. To achieve these priorities, incident management personnel use NIMS components in accordance with three NIMS guiding principles:

- ***Flexibility; Standardization; Unity of Effort***

NIMS Framework - Major Components

Resource Management

Resource Management describes standard mechanisms to systematically manage resources, including personnel, equipment, supplies, teams, and facilities, both before and during incidents in order to allow organizations to more effectively share resources when needed.

Command and Coordination

Command and Coordination describes leadership roles, processes, and recommended organizational structures for incident management at the operational and incident support levels and explains how these structures interact to manage incidents effectively and efficiently.

Communications and Information Management

Communications and Information Management describes systems and methods that help to ensure that incident personnel and other decision makers have the means and information they need to make and communicate decisions.

| NIMS Is | NIMS Is Not |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A comprehensive, nationwide, systematic approach to incident management, including the command and coordination of incidents, resource management, and information management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only the Incident Command System • Only applicable to certain emergency/incident response personnel • A static system |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A set of concepts and principles for all threats, hazards, and events across all mission areas (Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, Recovery) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A response plan |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scalable, flexible, and adaptable; used for all incidents, from day-to-day to large-scale | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Used only during large-scale incidents |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard resource management procedures that enable coordination among different jurisdictions or organizations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A resource ordering system |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essential principles for communications and information management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A communications plan |

Resource Management Key Activities Overview

Resource management preparedness involves four key activities:

- Identifying and typing resources
- Qualifying, certifying, and credentialing personnel
- Planning for resources
- Acquiring, storing, and inventorying resources
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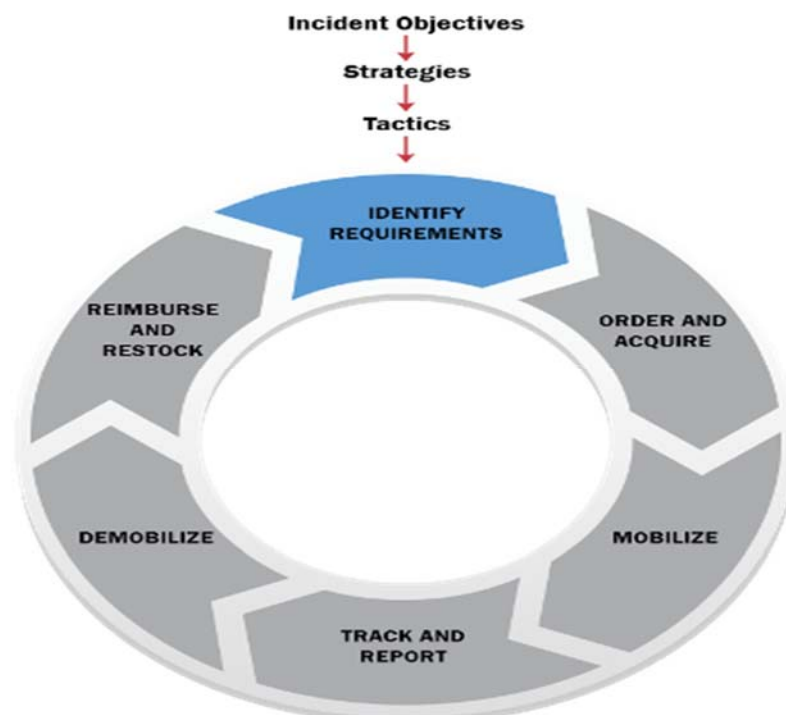
Qualifying, Certifying and Credentialing Personnel

The Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) has the authority and responsibility for qualification, certification, and credentialing within its organization or jurisdiction.

The establishment of national standards provides common, compatible structures for the qualification and certification of emergency management personnel.

Qualification, certification, and credentialing are the essential steps to help ensure that personnel deploying under mutual aid agreements can perform their assigned roles.

- **Qualifying:** Personnel meet the minimum established standards (including training, experience, physical and medical fitness) to fill specific positions.
- **Certification:** recognition from an Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) or a third party that an individual has completed qualification for a position (one example of a third party is an accredited body such as a state licensure board for medical professionals).
- **Credentialing:** documentation – typically an identification card or badge – that identifies personnel and verifies their qualifications for a particular position.



NIMS bases incident command and coordination on fourteen NIMS Management Characteristics.

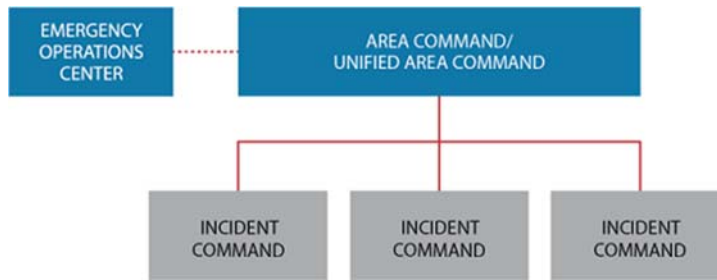


Area Command

An Area Command organization oversees the management of multiple incidents or a very complex incident through establishing multiple ICS organizations.

- An Area Command is activated only if necessary based on the complexity of the incident and span-of-control considerations.
- Area Command is particularly relevant to situations with several ICPs requesting similar, scarce resources.
- Area Commands are frequently established as Unified Area Commands and use the same principles as a Unified Command.

Additional coordination structures, such as EOCs or MAC Groups, may assist with coordinating the resource needs of multiple incidents.



NIMS identifies three common ways of organizing EOC Teams:

ICS or ICS-like EOC Structure

Many jurisdictions/organizations configure their EOCs using the standard ICS organizational structure, either exactly as it is performed in the field or with slight modifications. The structure is familiar and it aligns with the on-scene incident organization.

Incident Support Model (ISM) EOC Structure

Jurisdictions/organizations that focus their EOC team's efforts on information, planning, and resource support may choose to separate the situational awareness function from planning and combine operations and logistics functions into an incident support structure.

Departmental EOC Structure

Jurisdictions/organizations may opt instead to use their day-to-day departmental/agency structure and relationships in their EOC. By operating in the context of their normal relationships, department/agency representatives can function in the EOC with minimal preparation or startup time.

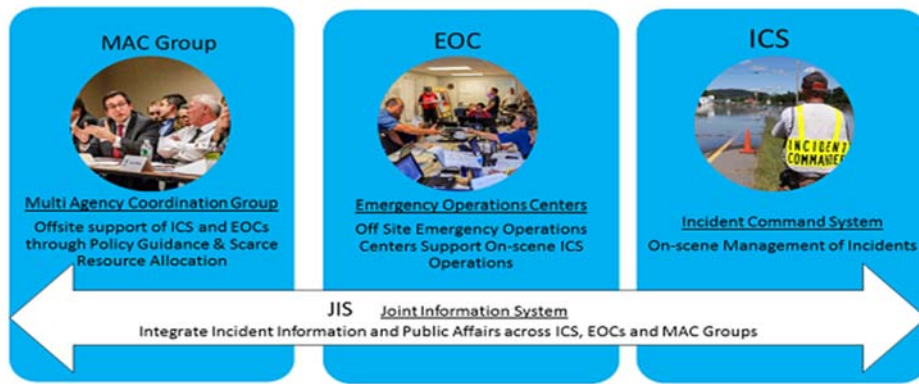
EOC Activation Levels

| Activation Level | Description |
|--|---|
| 3 Normal Operations/ Steady State | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities that are normal for the EOC when no incident or specific risk or hazard has been identified Routine watch and warning activities if the EOC normally houses this function |
| 2 Enhanced Steady-State/ Partial Activation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certain EOC team members/organizations are activated to monitor a credible threat, risk, or hazard and/or to support the response to a new and potentially evolving incident |
| 1 Full Activation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EOC team is activated, including personnel from all assisting agencies, to support the response to a major incident or credible threat |

MAC Group Definition and Composition

Multiagency Coordination Groups (MAC Group) are part of the *off-site* incident management structure of NIMS.

MAC Groups are also sometimes referred to as policy groups. (Agency Administrators and other decision makers.



MAC Group members are typically agency administrators, executives or their designees from stakeholder agencies or organizations impacted by and with resources committed to the incident. The MAC Group may also include representatives from non-governmental organizations such as businesses and volunteer organizations.

When an incident occurs or threatens, local emergency personnel manage response using NIMS principles and ICS. If the incident is or becomes large or complex, local EOCs activate. EOCs receive senior level guidance from MAC Groups.

A Joint Information Center (JIC) manages the Joint Information System (JIS) operations to ensure coordinated and accurate public messaging among all levels: ICS, EOC and MAC Group. If required resources are not available locally, they can be obtained under mutual aid agreements from neighboring jurisdictions, or State, tribal, territorial, and interstate sources (EMAC) Emergency Management Assistance Compact, and assigned to the control of the Incident Commander or Unified Command

Federal Support to Response Activities

The Federal Government has a variety of capabilities and resources to support domestic incidents.

Most incidents are resolved using capabilities available from the local jurisdiction.

Larger incidents are resolved with support from by neighboring jurisdictions, or State, tribal, territorial, and interstate sources.

The Federal Government ***only*** becomes involved with a response:

- 1) When state governors or tribal leaders request Federal assistance and their requests are approved,
- 2) When Federal interests are involved,
- 3) As statute or regulation authorizes or requires.

In most cases the Federal Government plays a supporting role to state, tribal, or territorial governments by providing Federal assistance to the affected jurisdictions.

For example, the Federal Government provides assistance under the **Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act** (Stafford Act) when the President declares an emergency or major disaster. In some cases the Federal Government **may** play a leading role in response, such as when an incident occurs on Federal property or when the Federal Government has primary jurisdiction (such as in a terrorist attack or a major oil spill).

Communications systems need to be . . .

Interoperable—able to communicate within and across agencies and jurisdictions.

Reliable—able to function in the context of any kind of emergency.

Scalable—suitable for use on a small or large scale as the needs of the incident dictate.

Portable—built on standardized radio technologies, protocols, and frequencies.

Resilient—able to perform despite damaged or lost infrastructure. **Redundant**—able to use alternate communications methods when primary systems go out.

Secure—able to protect sensitive or classified information from those without a need to know.

Regardless of the communications hardware being used, standardized procedures, protocols, and formats are necessary to gather, collate, synthesize, and disseminate incident information. And in a crisis, life-and-death decisions depend on the information we receive.

Standardized Communications Types

Strategic Communications: High-level directions, including resource priority decisions, roles and responsibilities determinations, and overall incident management courses of action.

Tactical Communications: Communications among and between on-scene command and tactical personnel and cooperating agencies and organizations.

Support Communications: Coordination of support of strategic and tactical communications (e.g., communications among hospitals concerning resource ordering, dispatching, and tracking; traffic and public works communications).

Public Communications: Alerts and warnings- PSAs, press conferences.

Common Terminology: The use of common terminology helps incident management personnel communicate and coordinate.

Plain Language: Personnel should use plain language and clear text; avoid using organizational acronyms or jargon such as “10-codes” during incidents involving multiple organizations.

Data Interoperability: Common communications protocols enable the dissemination of information among all incident management elements.

| Objectives: | Content: | Graphics: (optional) |
|---|--|----------------------|
| <p>Students will be able to describe the steps and purpose of the Initial Response, or “leg” of the Planning “P.”</p> | <p>The Initial Response</p> <p>The leg of the “P” describes six steps in the initial stages of an incident. The initial stages are meant to gain awareness of the situation and establish the organization for incident management.</p> <p>The initial response is essential to situational awareness and it enables the Incident Commander to request additional resources and/or support, develop, and implement initial tactics.</p> <p>Incident Management</p> <p>Incident personnel perform the steps in the leg of the “P” only one time. Once these steps are accomplished, incident management shifts to the top of the “P,” and begins a cycle of planning and operations.</p> <p>Initial Response Steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Incident 2. Notification 3. Initial Response and Assessment 4. Agency Administrator Briefing (if appropriate) 5. Incident Briefing 6. Initial UC Meeting | |

Alternative Text for Planning “P” graphic:

The graphic depicts the Planning “P” chart. The Planning “P” process begins with the initial response and the information gathering and sharing. The steps in these processes are incident/threat, notification, initial response and assessment, agency administrator briefing (if appropriate), incident briefing ICS 201, initial UC meeting (if Unified Command), IC/UC sets initial incident objectives, and initial strategy meeting and information sharing. After this initial step the process moved to being a cycle of tactics meeting, preparing for planning meeting, planning meeting, IAP preparation and approval, operational period briefing, begin operational period, execute plan and assess progress, IC/UC validate or adjust objectives, strategy meeting if objectives adjusted, and then back to tactics meeting to begin the cycle over again. Information gathering and sharing is happening continuously throughout this process.