

NIMS Implementation

Tips of the Week



Private Sector Implementing NIMS

Effective and consistent integration of the NIMS across Federal, State, territorial, tribal, and local governments and the private sector results in a strengthened national capability to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from any type of incident.

The Incident Management Systems Division **recommends 12 activities** for the private sector that support NIMS implementation. These activities closely parallel the implementation activities that State, territorial, tribal, and local governments have been required to complete since 2004.

A sample of recommended implementation activities for private sector include:

- **Adopt NIMS** – Work with your corporate leadership, trade associations, and private sector incident management and response teams to inform them of your organization's intent to adopt NIMS.
- **Identify Points of Contact** – Share these names with your local emergency management authority. Keep the list up to date.
- **Use the Incident Command System (ICS)** – If you have an emergency response team (fire brigade) or contract Emergency Medical Services (EMS), security firm or similar response organizations you should manage all emergency incidents and pre-planned (recurring/special) events using ICS organizational structures, doctrine and procedures, as defined in NIMS. ICS implementation must include the consistent application of Incident Action Planning and Common Communications Plans.
- **Support Integrated Multi-Agency Coordination Systems (MACs)** – Ensure your organization has connectivity capability between local Incident Command Posts (ICPs), local 911 Centers, local Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs), the state EOC and regional and/ federal EOCs.
- **Revise Plans** – Organizational plans and SOPs should incorporate NIMS components, principles and policies, to include planning, training, response, exercises, equipment, evaluation and corrective actions.
- **Promote Mutual Aid** – Establish a memorandum of understanding/memorandum of agreement with local government agencies and other private sector organizations to share resources and personnel.

To read the full NIMS Fact Sheet on how the Private Sector can best implement NIMS, visit:
http://www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/compliance/assist_non_govt.shtm



Preparedness Awards Assisting NIMS Implementation

Homeland Security Presidential Directives 5 and 8 require Federal Departments and agencies to make NIMS compliance an eligibility requirement for State, tribal and local awardees and sub-awardees to receive Federal Preparedness Assistance.

Monetary awards can be in the form of grants, cooperative agreements, loans, loan guarantees, training, and/or technical assistance. Such assistance supports State, tribal, and local entities and private sector to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from terrorists attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies.

Federal Departments and Agencies will issue financial assistance awards consistent with applicable awards and regulations and will ensure that program announcements, solicitations, application instructions, and other guidance documents are consistent with other Federal preparedness assistance programs. The primary mechanism of delivery is awards to the States, tribal, or local entity, should be in a form which allows recipients to apply the assistance to the highest priority preparedness requirements at the appropriate level of government. Federal Preparedness Assistance supports State, tribal, and local efforts to include planning, training, exercises, interoperability and equipment acquisition as well as capacity building for prevention activities to include information gathering, detection, deterrence, and collaboration:

- **Planning** – any plans, policies or procedures that establish how an agency/department will prepare for, respond to, and/or recover from an incident/event. Any award to support this effort could be used for the respective agency to hire direct personnel or a vendor to provide this effort.
- **Training** – any training that supports required NIMS courses or supports training for components of NIMS (i.e. response equipment, communications, equipment database management, multi-agency coordination, public information system) whether it be by computer or classroom delivery. Any award to support this effort could be used for the respective agency to hire direct personnel or a vendor to provide this effort. NIMS training provided by a vendor is to adhere to the NIMS National Standard Curriculum Training Development Guidance, published October 2005.
- **Exercises** – any exercises that will enhance the ability to discuss or demonstrate plans, policies, procedures, learned training, and/ or equipment as it pertains to NIMS components.
- **Interoperability and Equipment Acquisition** – any communication equipment, response and/or recovery equipment, or database programs/equipment that will support or enhance an agency/departments ability to prepare for, responds to, and/or recover from an incident or event. Such equipment could be needed for an

agency/department to meet particular resource typing criteria or to improve multi-agency and/or multi-jurisdictional communications.

- **Information gathering, detection, deterrence, and collaboration** – to support information sharing efforts regarding information received by State and local government. These efforts could support the establishment/enhancement of fusion centers, creation of secure websites or database programs for information sharing, equipment, personnel or training to support these efforts.

NIMS compliance is based on the previous fiscal year's activities (i.e. FY 2006 compliance would be a requirement to be eligible for FY 2007 awards).

Note: Federal Departments or agencies reserve the right to require current fiscal year NIMS activities a condition of eligibility if their award cycle is near the end of a fiscal year. Federal Department and agencies may also make NIMS compliance an eligibility requirement for other assistance programs as a method to encourage NIMS implementation and compliance.



Previous *Tips of the Week* include:

June 20

- NIMS IRIS
- NIMS Revision Affect on ICS-700

June 13

- Institutionalizing ICS
- Discipline-specific ICS Courses

June 6

- Unified Command
- NIMS National Credentialing

May 30

- Certifying NIMS Compliant Training Courses
- Incident Action Planning