

Mock Incident Management System-Based Rapid Response Exercise

Building on the experiences of recent Asian carp rapid responses in the Chicago Area Waterway System in which the National Incident Management System (NIMS) was utilized, the USEPA Great Lakes National Program Office has developed a training and exercise program to assist agencies in preparing for potential invasive species responses. Utilization of NIMS for incident management allows all federal, state, local, and non-government agencies to efficiently and effectively work together to respond to any incident. A short overview of the one day course that has been developed will be presented at the meeting.

The course is intended for agencies and groups which participate in an AIS specific rapid response and may or may not have previous experience with NIMS. The scenario-based group exercise as part of the class promotes effective communication and collaboration which are essential during rapid response incidents. Team training with multiple agencies is ideal to simulate the complexity of most responses.