


MRC Incident Command An Introduction to NIMS

This Training Module Meets MRC Core Competency 3



Objectives


- Describe the intent of NIMS.
- Describe the key concepts and principles underlying NIMS.
- Describe the purpose of the NIMS Components including: Preparedness, Communications and Information Management, Resource Management, and Command and Management.
- Describe the purpose of the National Integration Center.




MRC Incident Command

Welcome to the MRC Incident Command Module. At the end of this training module, you will be directed to access the FEMA website to take the IS-700.a course.

Please click on the page to your right and print out the test questions. Pay close attention to the information written in blue in the following slides as it will help you answer the questions on the test. Good Luck!



Double Click on the Document above to open and print



Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5

Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 (HSPD-5) enacted February 28, 2003

- Established the National Incident Management System
- Developed National Response Framework
- **Made adoption of NIMS by State, tribal and local organizations a condition for Federal preparedness assistance.**



National Incident Management System



Key Concepts

- Establishes standardized organizational structures that improve integration among jurisdictions and disciplines.
- Based on best practices from all levels of responders and integrated into a comprehensive, standardized framework.
- Applicable in any potential incident regardless of size, location or complexity.



National Response Framework

- Provides structure and mechanisms to ensure effective Federal support of State, tribal and local related activities.
- Explains the operating structures and tools used routinely by first responders and emergency managers at all levels of government.
- Guides the conduct of an All-Hazards approach
- Both NIMS and NRF are designed to ensure local jurisdictions retain command, control and authority over response activities.(at the lowest jurisdictional level possible.)

NIMS Components

- Preparedness
- Communications
- Information Management
- Resource Management
- Command and Management



Resource Management

- NIMS establishes a standardized approach for managing resources before, during, and after an incident.
- Standardized Approach:
 - Consistency
 - Standardization
 - Coordination
 - Use
 - Information Management
 - Credentialing




Resource Cycle

Step 1: Identify Requirements

- What and how much is needed.
- Where and when it is needed.
- Who will be receiving or using it

Step 2: Order and Acquire

- When requests cannot be filled locally, order goes to local EOC, then to State EOC.
- Mutual aid and assistance agreements mobilized

Resource Cycle

Step 3: Mobilize

- Incident resources mobilize as soon as they are notified through established channels.
- Arriving Resources must be checked in.

Step 4: Track and Report

- Standardized, integrated process conducted prior to, during and after an incident.
- Resources are tracked using established procedures consistently from mobilization through demobilization.

Resource Cycle

Step 5: Recover/Demobilize

- In recovery, resources are rehabilitated, replenished, disposed of, and/or retrograded.
- In demobilization, resources are returned to their original location in a safe, orderly and efficient manner.
- **Managers should plan and prepare for the demobilization process as soon as possible to facilitate accountability of the resources.**

Step 6: Reimburse

- Collecting bills and documentation.
- Validating costs against the scope of the work.
- Ensuring that proper authorities are secured.
- Using proper procedures/forms and accessing any reimbursement software programs.

Resource Cycle

Step 7: Inventory

- Inventory and maintain current data on available resources.
- Share updated resource data.
- Identify and type resources.

- ✓ Category: identifies the function
- ✓ Kind: Describes the resource (eg. Tractor)
- ✓ Type: Describes the size, capability, and staffing requirement (eg. 6 ton, backhoe, experienced operator)

Certification and Credentialing

NIMS establishes certification and credentialing standards for key personnel to ensure all key responders possess the minimum capability required for their ICS position.

- Current certification, license or degree
- Training and experience
- **Competence or proficiency.**






NIMS Command and Management

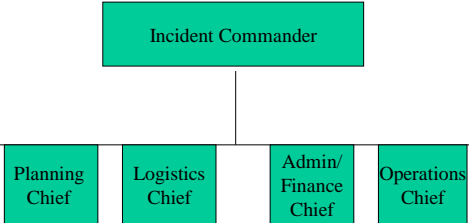
Who is the “BOSS”?

3 organizational systems

- Incident Command System (ICS)
- Multiagency Coordination Systems
- Public Information Systems




Incident Command System (ICS)





```
graph TD; IC[Incident Commander] --- PC[Planning Chief]; IC --- LC[Logistics Chief]; IC --- AFC[Admin/Finance Chief]; IC --- OC[Operations Chief];
```

Proven (used over 30 years) on-scene, all-hazard concept based on organizational structures. Creates an integrated series of command chains similar to an organizational chart for a business.



Public Information for Domestic Incidents



- The Public Information Officer (PIO) establishes and operates within the parameters established for the Joint Information System.
- Advises Incident Commander (IC) on all public info matters.
- **Joint Information System (JIS) = Plans, protocols, and structures used to provide information to the public.**



Public Information


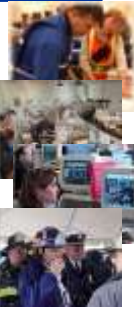
Public Information Officer interfaces with the public, media and other agencies regarding incident related information

- The PIO advises the Incident Commander (IC) on all public info matters.
- Operates within the Joint Information System to develop plans, protocols, and structures used to provide information to the public.
- During a unified or area command the PIO reports to the Joint Information Center (JIC). The Joint Information Center provides a structure for developing and delivering incident related coordinated messages by developing, recommending, and executing public information plans and strategies.



Communication and Information Management


- **Common Operating Picture**
Allows on-scene and off-scene personnel—such as those at the Incident Command Post, Emergency Operations Center, or within a Multiagency Coordination Group—to have the same information about the incident
- **Interoperability**
Interoperability is the ability of emergency management/response personnel to interact and work well together.



Communications Systems must be:

Communications



- Interoperable
Communicate within and across jurisdictions
- Reliable
Usable in any kind of emergency
- Portable
Built on standardized technologies, and frequencies
- Scalable
Usable in small or large incidents
- Resilient
Can perform despite damaged infrastructure
- Redundant
Able to use alternate methods when primary systems fail.



What is ICS?

Incident Command System:

- Allows for the integration of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications operating within a common organizational structure.
- Enables a coordinated response among various jurisdictions and functional agencies, both public and private.
- Establishes common processes for planning and managing resources.



Command vs Coordination

- **Command** is the act of directing, ordering, or controlling by virtue of explicit statutory, regulatory, or delegated authority at the field level. Occurs in the Incident Command Post
- **Coordination** is the process of providing support to the command structure and may include incident prioritization, critical resource allocation, communications systems integration, and information exchange. Normally takes place in the Emergency Operations Center.



Common Terminology

ICS requires:

- Plain English
- Clear “text”

Resources, including people and equipment, are given common designations to avoid confusion.



Example:
We are going to provide prophylaxis to the community in order to prevent the spread of this disease. (Confusing Term)

Or



We are going to give out pills to the community in order to prevent the spread of this disease. (Simpler Term)



Encryption or Tactical Language

- When necessary, information may need to be encrypted so security can be maintained.
- Tactical language is occasionally warranted due to the nature of an incident (e.g., during an ongoing terrorist event)
- Protocols for specialized encryption and tactical language must be addressed in the incident action plan or incident management communications plan.



Span of Control

ICS span of control for any supervisor:



- Is between **3 and 7** subordinates.
- Optimally does not exceed 5 subordinates.



Accountability



- Orderly chain of command
- Check-in for all responders
- Assignment of only one supervisor per individual (**unity of command**)

Chain of Command



Incident Commander

- Incident Commander is the only ICS position that is always staffed.
- **The Incident Commander is responsible for overall management of the incident and develops the incident objectives that direct all subsequent incident planning.**
- A single incident commander is designated when an incident occurs within a single jurisdiction and there is no functional agency overlap.



Elected and Appointed Officials

Should:

- Ensure agency/jurisdiction policies for emergency management and incident response are clearly stated.
- Evaluate effectiveness and correct any deficiencies.
- Support a coordinated, multiagency approach.

Should Not:

- **Assume the role of incident commander and direct technical operations**



Unified Command

In a Unified Command, **individuals designated by their jurisdictional or organizational authorities** (or by departments within a single jurisdiction) **work together** to:

- Determine objectives, strategies, plans, resource allocations, and priorities.
- Execute integrated incident operations and maximize the use of assigned resources.



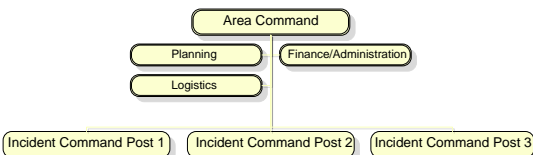
Unified Commander

| Type of Incident | Lead Agency |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Crisis/Pre-hazard Impact | Law Enforcement |
| Hostage Stand-offs | Law Enforcement |
| Fire/Explosions | Fire/EMS |
| Hazardous Materials Release | Fire/EMS |
| Infectious Disease | Public Health |
| Utility Disruption | Public Health |






Area Command Organization



- An **Area Command** may be established to oversee the management of:
 - Multiple incidents that are each being managed by an ICS organization
 - Large incidents that cross jurisdictional boundaries



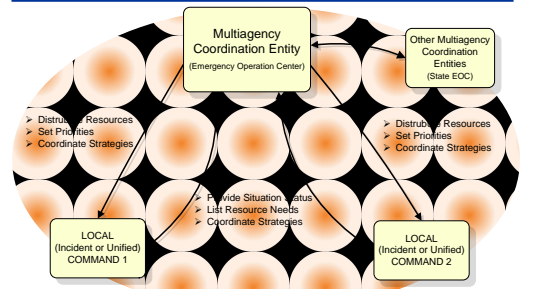
Multiagency Coordination Systems

- A combination of resources
- Integrated into a common framework
- Used to coordinate and support incident management activities






Multiagency Coordination Systems




EOCs support multiagency coordination and joint information activities.



Multiagency Coordination Systems (MCS)

- High level resource management
- A combination of resources
- Used to coordinate and support incident management activities
- Support incident management policies and priorities
- Facilitate logistics support and resource tracking
- Make resource allocation decisions based on incident management priorities
- Coordinate incident-related information
- Coordinate interagency and intergovernmental issues regarding incident management policies, priorities, and strategies
- EOC (Emergency Operations Centers) are local "unified" commands. Resources, planning, logistics can all take place at an EOC.
- **EOC's may support multiagency coordination and joint information activities.**



Use of Agreements

Mutual Aid Agreements and assistance agreements:

Mechanisms to quickly obtain emergency assistance in the form of personnel, equipment, materials, and other associated services.

Allow burden of acquiring resources over multiple agencies and organizations.




Exercises

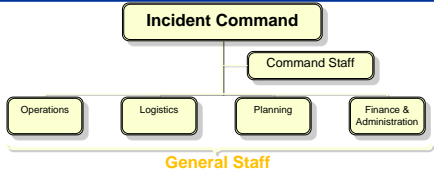
All facets of an emergency response should be exercised to evaluate and modify response plans and ensure proper communications and resources are available in a timely manner.

Exercises should:


- Include multidisciplinary, multijurisdictional incidents.
- Include participation of private-sector and nongovernmental organizations.
- Cover aspects of preparedness plans, including activating mutual aid and assistance agreements.
- **Contain a mechanism for incorporating corrective actions**



Incident Command Structure





The General Staff includes a group of incident management personnel **organized according to function** and reporting to the Incident Commander.





General Staff

- Operational Section – is **responsible for all tactical activities** focused on reducing the immediate hazard, saving lives and property, establishing situational control, and restoring normal operations. Lifesaving and responder safety will always be the highest priorities and the first objectives in the Incident Action Plan.





General Staff

- Planning Section - collects, evaluates, and disseminates incident information for the Incident Commander and management personnel. This Section then prepares reports, displays situation information, maintains resource status, and prepares the Incident Action Plan, based on Operations Section input and guidance from the Incident Commander.



Incident Action Plan

- Communicate incident objectives
- Are based on operational periods (generally 12 hours)
- Are disseminated throughout the incident organization (may or may not be written).
- Establishes the overall incident objectives, strategies and tactics.**





General Staff

- Logistics Section – provides service support requirements to facilitate effective and efficient incident management. This Section also provides facilities, security (of ICS facilities), transportation, supplies, equipment maintenance and fuel, food services, communications and information technology support, and emergency responder medical services.




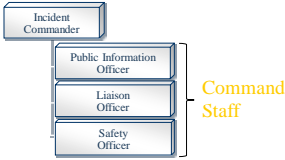
General Staff

- **Finance/Administration** - is established when incident management activities require on-scene or incident-specific finance and other administrative support services. Other functions include recording personnel time, maintaining vendor contracts, compensation/claims, and overall cost analysis.




Command Staff

The command staff are individuals or staffed units that report directly to the incident commander.




Command Staff

The **Safety Officer** monitors incident operations and advises the Incident Commander/Unified Command on all matters relating to operational safety, including the health and safety of emergency responder personnel.





The **Liaison Officer** is the point of contact for representatives of other governmental agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector.



NIMS Integration Center (NIC)

- Maintains and manages national-level preparedness standards.
- Develops national standards and protocols.
- Facilitates the use of modeling / simulation
- Defines general training requirements and approves training courses for all NIMS users.
- Reviews and approves lists of equipment meeting national standards.



You are now ready to take the IS-700a National Incident Management System (NIMS), Test. Click on the Link below and it will take you to the FEMA website. Scroll to the bottom of the page and go to where it says "Take Final Exam" and take the test using the answers you marked on the "Test Questions" that you printed out at the beginning of this module. Don't forget to print a copy of your FEMA Certificate and give it to your MRC Coordinator. Good Luck!

<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/IS700a.asp>

