

NIMS is **flexible** because it is applicable to any incident regardless of cause, size, location, or complexity and its components can also be utilized to develop all-hazards plans, processes, procedures, agreements, and roles.

Additionally, NIMS provides an organized set of **scalable** and **standardized** operational structures, which is critical for allowing various organizations and agencies to work together in a predictable, coordinated manner.

In summary, NIMS is:

- A comprehensive, nationwide systematic approach to incident management.
- A core set of doctrine, concepts, principles, terminology, and organizational processes for all hazards. It is not a detailed operational or resource plan.
- Scalable, so it may be used for all incidents (from day-to-day to large-scale).
- Essential principles for a common operating picture and communications interoperability.
- Standardized resource management procedures for coordination among different jurisdictions and organizations.

The NIMS Resource Center (www.fema.gov/nims) provides online resources to implement and maintain NIMS concepts and principles, including:

- **NIMS Information & Related Documents.** Provides access to the NIMS document and other related annexes, guides, materials, and documents.
- **NIMS Components.** Presents information, guidance, and resources on critical elements such as resource typing definitions, mutual aid and assistance agreements, interoperability, credentialing, and training and exercises.
- **NIMS Implementation Guidance.** Offers stakeholders implementation guidance and assistance. Also includes information about Federal preparedness awards.
- **Briefings, Training & Other Resources.** Provides valuable resources such as NIMS briefings, training requirements and opportunities, alerts, frequently asked questions, lessons learned, forms, and job aids.



FEMA

National Integration Center
500 C Street, SW
Washington, DC 20472
(202) 646-3850

www.fema.gov/nims

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NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

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Working together to prevent, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of incidents.

Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 (HSPD-5), "Management of Domestic Incidents," directed the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop and administer a National Incident Management System (NIMS).

NIMS is a comprehensive, national approach to incident management that is applicable at all jurisdictional levels and across functional disciplines. NIMS enables us to work together to prevent, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of incidents, regardless of cause, size, location, or complexity, in order to reduce the loss of life and property and harm to the environment.

NIMS works hand in hand with the National Response Framework (NRF). NIMS provides the template for the management of incidents, while the NRF provides the structure and mechanisms for national-level policy for incident management.

The benefits of NIMS include:

- A standardized approach to incident management that is scalable and flexible.
- Enhanced cooperation and interoperability among responders.
- Comprehensive all-hazards preparedness.
- Efficient resource coordination among jurisdictions or organizations.
- Integration of best practices and lessons learned for continuous improvement.

