



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
DIVISION OF TRAINING



## Frequently Asked Questions

Release Date: 12/15/05

**Subject: Certification**

**Question:** When did the requirement for Strategy and Tactics certification prior to obtaining Fire Officer 1 come into play?

**Response:** The Board of Firefighting Personnel Standards and Education adopted the Strategy and Tactics Certification standard in April 2005. One part of that rule is a pre-requisite that requires an individual who desires to attain certification as a Fire Officer I to be certified in Strategy and Tactics and an Instructor I.

**Question:** Has the Basic Firefighter certification been replaced by the mandatory firefighter certification?

**Response:** No.  
The mandatory firefighter certification is law written by the State Legislature. The basic firefighter certification is an OSHA administrative rule. These are two totally separate certifications because they are two totally separate laws.

**Question:** What are the requirements to become a certified Safety Officer.

**Response:** The Board of Firefighting Personnel Standards and Education adopted the rule in April 2005 that requires an applicant for Safety Officer pass a written and practical examination and to be previously certified as a Fire Officer I.

**Question:** What is a Fire Instructor I allowed to teach?

**Response:** Under rules adopted by the Board of Firefighter Personnel Standards and Education a Fire Instructor I shall have authorization in the following areas:

- (1) To teach the requirements for the following:
  - (A) Indiana mandatory training.
  - (B) Basic Firefighter.
  - (C) Firefighter I.
  - (D) Firefighter II.
- (2) To sign the applications for the following:
  - (A) Indiana mandatory training.
  - (B) Basic Firefighter.
  - (C) Firefighter I.
  - (D) Firefighter II.
- (3) To teach from prepared materials.
- (4) To serve as an evaluator for practical skills examinations.

*The Board of Firefighting Personnel Standards and Education are evaluating regulations pertaining to Instructors and other parts of the certification process.*

**Question:** What is the status of the Mandatory Firefighter curriculum development?

**Response:** On January 5, 2006, beginning at 9:00am an open meeting will be conducted at the State Office Building, 402 West Washington Street in Indianapolis on the final draft of the curriculum for mandatory and basic firefighter certification. After the final product is developed the program will be made available to all instructors by request to receive a CD or by downloading on the DHS website.



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
DIVISION OF TRAINING



Question: What is a Fire Instructor II/III allowed to teach?

Response: Under rules adopted by the Board of Firefighting Personnel Standards and Education a Fire Instructor I shall have authorization in the following areas:

- (1) To teach the requirements for the following:
  - (A) Indiana mandatory training.
  - (B) Basic Firefighter.
  - (C) Firefighter I.
  - (D) Firefighter II.
- (2) To sign the applications for the following:
  - (A) Indiana mandatory training.
  - (B) Basic Firefighter.
  - (C) Firefighter I.
  - (D) Firefighter II.
- (3) To teach from prepared materials.
- (4) To teach from personally written lesson plans that are in addition to prepared materials.
- (5) To teach and sign applications for advanced firefighter courses.
- (6) To issue certificates of successful completion to students in the instructor's advanced courses.
- (7) To proctor and grade written tests as required by the board.
- (8) To evaluate all practical skills required by the board as a lead evaluator.
- (9) To teach the six-hour up-date class.

*The Board of Firefighting Personnel Standards and Education are evaluating regulations pertaining to Instructors and other parts of the certification process.*

Question: When does the Board of Firefighting Personnel Standards and Education meet?

Response: There are several meetings in January relating to various certification issues.

**January 5**, Final Draft of Mandatory Firefighter training program presented, Indiana Government Center, 9:00 AM. Contact is John Buckman

**January 18**, Special called meeting of Board of Firefighting Personnel Standards and Education to work on rule changes and NIMS, 9:00 AM, Wayne Twp FD, Indianapolis Very Important Issues will be discussed make plans to attend!

**January 23**, Regular meeting of the Board of Firefighting Personnel Standards and Education, 10:00 AM, Wayne Twp Fire Dept, Indianapolis



## INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY DIVISION OF TRAINING



### **National Incident Management System – Frequently Asked Questions**

*This information is taken directly from the United State Department of Homeland Security National Integration Center (NIC) website. The Division of Training encourages you to visit the NIC website often so that you can stay abreast of questions answered.*

<http://www.fema.gov/nims/nims.shtm>

#### **How long does jurisdictions have to adopt the NIMS?**

The NIC will be developing additional NIMS compliance guidance as time progresses and jurisdictions will be provided resources to help them through the NIMS compliance process. The NIMS should be seen as a living document that will require continuous maintenance by the jurisdictions implementing it.

#### **I've been told that the deadlines for NIMS compliance have been pushed back a year; is this true?**

The deadline for full NIMS compliance is Sept. 30, 2006, the end of FY 2006. There are NIMS implementation requirements that need to be achieved by Sept. 30, 2005, the end of FY 2005. They are outlined in the Secretary's letter to the Governors on the NIMS Web page, <http://www.fema.gov/nims>, under the NIMS Compliance section. NIMS implementation requirements for FY 2006 will be released later this year. The NIMS compliance deadlines have not been extended. Back to top

#### **Is the adoption of the NIMS a requirement for Department of Homeland security funds?**

As mandated by Homeland Security Presidential Directive-5, beginning in FY 2005, adoption of NIMS will be a condition for the receipt of federal preparedness funds, including grants, contracts and other activities.

#### **How will jurisdictions be measured, evaluated and assessed?**

In the short term, jurisdictions will be considered to be in compliance the NIMS by adopting the Incident Command System and NIMS principles and policies. Other aspects of the NIMS will require additional development and refinement to enable compliance at a future date.

#### **How will compliance be measured against NIMS evaluation criteria?**

Compliance protocols, standards and guidelines for determining whether jurisdictions are compliant are currently under development. NIC customers will be notified and these materials are completed and posted on the NIMS Integration Center Web page.

#### **How will jurisdictions be measured against NIMS during the period 2005 to 2009?**

The NIC will be developing additional NIMS compliance guidance as time progresses and jurisdictions will be provided resources to help them through the NIMS compliance process. The NIMS should be seen as a living document that will require continuous maintenance by the jurisdictions implementing it.

#### **Do NIMS standards currently exist?**

Standards are currently being developed specifically for NIMS by the NIC, however, there currently exist several standards for incident command or incident management systems, and these are being reviewed for consideration by the NIC. As NIMS standards are developed they will be posted on the NIC Web page and jurisdictions will be notified through information bulletins.



## INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY DIVISION OF TRAINING



### **What national standards will the NIC develop?**

The NIC will facilitate the development of national standards needed in a range of areas to increase the effectiveness of incident response operations. For example, it will facilitate the development of national standards to ensure interoperability of equipment and communications and the certification of emergency response and incident management personnel. This means it will work on the development of standardized criteria for the qualification, training and certification of response personnel. It will promote compatibility among NIMS national level standards and those developed by other public, private and professional groups. And it will facilitate the development of a system of typed and categorized resources, to include equipment, teams and personnel.

### **Why must organizations conduct National Incident Management System (NIMS) training and exercises?**

HSPD-5 requires federal departments and agencies to make adoption of NIMS by state and local organizations a condition for federal preparedness assistance by FY 2005. Organizations and personnel at all governmental levels and in the private sector must be trained to improve all-hazard incident management capability. These organizations and personnel must also participate in realistic exercises to improve integration and interoperability.

### **How will the NIMS Integration Center (NIC) assist jurisdictions in meeting NIMS training and exercise needs?**

The NIMS Integration Center will:

- Facilitate the development of and the dissemination of national standards, guidelines and protocols for incident management training;
- Facilitate the use of modeling and simulation in training and exercise programs;
- Define general training requirements and approved training courses for all NIMS users, including instructor qualifications and course completion documentation; and
- Review and approve, with the assistance of key stakeholders, discipline-specific training requirements and courses.

### **What role does the NIC have in determining emergency response personnel NIMS qualification and certification?**

Under NIMS, preparedness is based on national standards for qualification and certification of emergency response personnel. Managed by the NIC, standards will help ensure that the participating agencies' and organizations' field personnel possess the minimum knowledge, skills and experience necessary to perform activities safely and effectively.

### **Will NIMS training be one of the NIMS-related standards?**

Yes. The standards will include training, experience, credentialing, currency and physical and medical fitness. Personnel who are certified to support interstate incidents will be required to meet national qualification and certification standards.

### **What NIMS training is currently available to jurisdictions?**

The Emergency Management Institute (A DHS/FEMA component) has developed a Web-based course that is entitled The National Incident Management System, an Introduction. The course is available free of charge to U.S. residents via the FEMA training website <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is700.asp>.



## INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY DIVISION OF TRAINING



The course describes the purpose, principles, key components and benefits of NIMS. Also included in the course are on-line "Planning Activity" tools that help the user to measure how compliant his/her organization is with NIMS.

### **What information does the National Incident Management System, an Introduction course provide?**

After completing the course, participants will be able to:

- Describe the key concepts and principles underlying NIMS;
- Identify the benefits of using ICS as the national incident management model;
- Describe when it is appropriate to institute an Area Command;
- Describe when it is appropriate to institute a Multiagency Coordination System;
- Describe the benefits of using a Joint Information system (JIS) for public information;
- Identify the ways in which NIMS affects preparedness;
- Describe how NIMS affects how resources are managed;
- Describe the advantages of common communication and information management systems;
- Explain how NIMS influences technology and technology systems; and
- Describe the purpose of the NIMS Integration Center.

### **Who should take the IS-700 NIMS, An Introduction course?**

#### **IS-700 The NIMS Introductory Course - Who Needs to Take It?**

Last September when the Secretary of Homeland Security sent a letter to the nation's governors, he outlined a series of steps that must be taken and actions that should be taken in FY 2005 to become compliant with the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

Specifically the letter said that state, territorial, tribal and local level jurisdictions should support NIMS implementation by completing the NIMS awareness course National Incident Management System, An Introduction - IS 700. This independent study course explains the purpose, principles, key components and benefits of NIMS.

The Secretary clearly intended to provide discretion to state, territorial, tribal and local governments in deciding which and what level emergency personnel should take the course. As further guidance, the NIMS Integration Center encourages all emergency personnel with a direct role in emergency preparedness, incident management or response take the NIMS course by Oct. 1, 2005. It is offered free-of-charge through the Emergency Management Institute at <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/crslist.asp>.

#### **The NIMS Integration Center suggests that the following take the course in FY'05:**

Executive Level – Political and government leaders, agency and organization administrators and department heads; personnel that fill ICS roles as Unified Commanders, Incident Commanders, Command Staff, General Staff in either Area Command or single incidents; senior level Multi-Agency Coordination System personnel; senior emergency managers; and Emergency Operations Center Command or General Staff.

Managerial Level – Agency and organization management between the executive level and first level supervision; personnel who fill ICS roles as Branch Directors, Division/Group Supervisors, Unit Leaders, technical specialists, strike team and task force leaders, single resource leaders and field supervisors; midlevel Multi-Agency Coordination System personnel; EOC Section Chiefs, Branch Directors, Unit Leaders; and other emergency management/response personnel who require a higher level of ICS/NIMS Training.



## INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY DIVISION OF TRAINING



Responder Level – Emergency response providers and disaster workers, entry level to managerial level including Emergency Medical Service personnel; firefighters; medical personnel; police officers; public health personnel;

public works/utility personnel; and other emergency management response personnel.

The NIMS introductory course very likely will be a requirement in FY'06 for state, territorial, tribal and local personnel who have emergency assignments at any level of government. Full NIMS compliance is required by Oct. 1, 2006, (FY 2007).

### **Are school districts required to be NIMS compliant? Has there been any clarification as to the need for public school district personnel to take any NIMS courses?**

Since school districts are an integral part of local government, their use of NIMS should be achieved in close coordination with other components of the local government. School districts are not traditional response organizations and more typically are recipients of first responder services provided by fire and rescue, emergency medical and law enforcement agencies. This traditional relationship should be acknowledged in achieving NIMS compliance within an integrated local government plan for NIMS compliance. School district participation in local government's NIMS preparedness program is essential to ensure that first responder services are delivered to schools in a timely and effective manner. It would be useful for staff and teachers to take the IS-700 NIMS introductory course, but not required by the NIMS Integration Center.

### **Do all elected officials in city or county government need to take NIMS training?**

The NIMS Integration Center recommends that state, local and tribal political and government leaders, agency and organization administrators and department heads all take IS-700 NIMS, An Introduction. This independent study course explains the purpose, principles, key components and benefits of NIMS. It also briefly covers ICS, which is of particular benefit for those who are less familiar with it. The Center encourages also all emergency personnel with a direct role in emergency preparedness, incident management or response take the NIMS course. It is offered free-of-charge through the Emergency Management Institute at <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/crslist.asp>.

### **IS 700: Do responders already ICS trained have to take it?**

Personnel who have already had ICS training should also take the NIMS awareness course. It will help them understand the NIMS, its principles and underlying components. IS-700 is basically an introduction to the NIMS. It's true that the course also focuses on ICS basics, however the course places ICS within the context of NIMS.

It is up to local jurisdictions to determine who in their jurisdictions should have the training, but we are urging that all emergency response/emergency management personnel take the introductory NIMS training. It is provided free of charge through the Emergency Management Institute Virtual Campus, at <http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/IS/is700.asp> . It is an independent online study course that takes about three hours to complete.

### **Our 911 center, which receives and dispatches all emergency and non-emergency calls has told us that we may not use 10-codes at all. I gather we must use plain language when using NIMS ICS. Is that correct?**

According to the NIMS: "Incident communications are facilitated through the development and use of a common communications plan and interoperable communications processes and architectures. This integrated approach links the operational and support units of the various agencies involved and is necessary to maintain communications connectivity and discipline and enable common situational awareness and interaction."



## INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY DIVISION OF TRAINING



The ability to communicate within ICS is absolutely critical and using standard or common terminology is essential to ensuring efficient, clear communication. ICS requires the use of common terminology; that is, the use of plain English. Common terminology in communications is necessary to support mutual aid and the infusion of new responders coming to an event so they will be able to communicate with one another. All exercises that responders participate in should feature plain English commands so they can function in a multi-jurisdiction environment. Field manuals and training should also be revised to reflect the plain English standard. That said, it is the intention of the NIMS Integration Center to take a practical common sense approach to this, and not cut off funding to a city because we hear of first responder who happens use ten codes.

**What constitutes "full NIMS implementation" or "full NIMS compliance" in FY2007, starting 10/1/06? We've seen that phrase used in NIMS documents, but we can't find a specific description of what it means. Is it just completion of the activities begun in FY2005, or is it something more than that? What is "full NIMS implementation" supposed to look like at the state, local and tribal government levels?**

Specific NIMS requirements for "full NIMS compliance" to be completed during FY 2006 have not yet been released. Everything that is required for FY 2005 compliance activities is outlined on the NIMS page on the FEMA.GOV Web site, in a summary document that is derived from the Secretary's letter to the governors, and the letter itself.



**INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**  
**DIVISION OF TRAINING**



Frequently asked questions

Release Date: 10/14/05

**Subject: State Firefighter Training System**

Question: How is a district training council formed?

Response: A meeting will be held within a district in which an election will be conducted. Each Fire Department that files their NFIRS reports has one vote in the election process. The final rules on when, where, how, who and requirements for the election are being developed at this time.

Question: Who can serve on a district training council?

Response: The document provides for a cross sectional representation. The following are the positions that make up a district training council.

- 1 career fire chief
- 1 volunteer fire chief
- 1 career instructor
- 1 volunteer instructor
- 2 citizens
- 1 career firefighter
- 1 volunteer firefighter
- 1 university member

Question: I heard an unconfirmed report (rumor) that the proposed training system would jeopardize Indiana's IFSAC accreditation. Is that true?

Response: Not true. The Board of Firefighter Personnel Standards and Education is the body that received the IFSAC accreditation. The development of a State Training system will enhance the BFFPSE accreditation standing because the system will ensure consistency in the delivery of certification training.

Question: Will a fire department still be able to present certification training at their individual station when the State Training System is in place?

Response: Yes. The State is not requiring that all training take place under the State Training System.

Question: Will the State Training System change the certification requirements?

Response: No.

**Subject: Firefighter Certification**

Question: How are changes to the Certification proposed or made?

Response: The Board of Firefighter Personnel Standards and Education makes changes and monitors the certification system. The Board is appointed by the Governor and is comprised of firefighters, officers and members of the public. The Board meet every 6 weeks.

Question: What is the status of the mandatory training program outline?

Response: The outlines along with learning objectives and PowerPoint are being developed. The entire document should be complete by 12/01/05.



**INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**  
**DIVISION OF TRAINING**



**Subject: Fire and Building Codes**

Question: What NFPA codes are being updated?

Response: The following NFPA codes are being updated. The official announcement will be made in the Indiana Register within weeks. The NFPA codes are adopted by reference and used in the enforcement of the Indiana fire and building codes. To obtain copies of the NFPA standards contact NFPA at [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)

- NFPA 10 2002 Portable Fire Extinguishers
- NFPA 11 2002 Low-, Medium-, and High-Expansion Foam
- NFPA 12 2000 Carbon Dioxide Extinguishing Systems
- NFPA 15 2001 Water Spray Fixed Systems
- NFPA 17 2002 Dry Chemical Extinguishing Systems
- NFPA 17A 2002 Wet Chemical Extinguishing Systems
- NFPA 25 2002 Inspection, Testing and Maintenance of Water Based Fire Protection Systems
- NFPA 33 2003 Spray Application Using Flammable and Combustible Materials
- NFPA 34 2003 Dipping and Coating Processes Using Flammable or Combustible Liquids
- NFPA 37 2002 Installation and Use of Stationary Combustion Engines and Gas Turbines
- NFPA 50 2001 Bulk Oxygen Systems and Consumer Sites
- NFPA 50B 1999 Liquefied Hydrogen Systems at Consumer Sites
- NFPA 51 2002 Design and Installation of Oxygen-Fuel Systems for Welding, Cutting and Allied Processes
- NFPA 51B 2003 Fire Prevention in Use of Cutting and Welding Processes
- NFPA 52 2002 Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Vehicular Fuel Systems
- NFPA 59 2004 Storage and Handling of Liquefied Petroleum Gases at Utility Gas Plants
- NFPA 59A 2001 Production and Storage and Handling of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)
- NFPA 70 2005 National Electrical Code
- NFPA 72 2002 National Fire Alarm Code
- NFPA 82 2004 Incinerators, Waste and Linen Handling Systems and Equipment
- NFPA 86 2003 Ovens and Furnaces - Design, Location and Equipment
- NFPA 385 2000 Tank Vehicles for Flammable and Combustible Liquids
- NFPA 407 2001 Aircraft Fuel Servicing
- NFPA 704 2001 Identification of the Fire Hazards of Materials
- NFPA1123 2000 Outdoor Display of Fireworks
- NFPA 2001 2004 Clean Agent Fire Extinguishing Systems



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
DIVISION OF TRAINING



**Subject: National Incident Management System**

Release Date: 10/14/05

Question: I've been told that the deadlines for NIMS compliance have been pushed back a year; is this true?

Response: The deadline for NIMS compliance is Sept. 30, 2006, the end of FY 2006. However, full NIMS implementation is a dynamic process and changes should be expected to the NIMS as technical and policy issues are further refined at the national level. More information on this will be forthcoming. There are NIMS implementation requirements that need to be achieved by Sept. 30, 2005, the end of FY 2005. They are outlined in the Secretary's letter to the Governors on the NIMS Web page, <http://www.fema.gov/nims>, under the NIMS Compliance section. NIMS implementation requirements for FY 2006 will be released later this year. The NIMS compliance deadlines have not been extended.

Question: The NIMS document mentions a credentialing system tied to training and certification standards. Is there a national credentialing system in place that we need to follow?

Response: The development of a nationwide credentialing system is a fundamental component of NIMS. The NIMS Integration Center has launched an effort to develop a National Emergency Responder Credentialing System that will provide incident commanders and supporting multi-agency coordination systems with the means to verify, quickly and accurately, the identity and qualifications of emergency personnel responding to an incident. A national credentialing system can document minimum professional qualifications, certifications, training and education requirements that define baseline criteria expected of emergency response professionals and volunteers. While such a system is meant to verify the identity and qualifications of emergency responders, it does not provide automatic access to an incident site. The NIMS Integration Center's credentialing system can help prevent unauthorized, i.e., self-dispatched or unqualified personnel, access to an incident site.

Question: We know that NIMS emphasizes resource management and resource typing. Does that mean we are supposed to do our own resource typing, or what?

Response: No, you should not start 'typing' your resources. Communities and jurisdictions should begin to use the resource typing definitions to *describe or inventory* their resources using the NIMS Resource Typing Definitions. State and local jurisdictions may use Homeland Security grant funds to create or update an *inventory* of their resources in accordance with the 120 Resource Typing Definitions.

Question: What is resource typing?

Response: Resource typing is the categorization and description of response resources that are commonly exchanged in disasters through mutual aid agreements. FEMA and the NIMS Integration Center have developed and published 120 Resource Typing Definitions. The Center is continuing resource-typing work and has established new working groups for the ongoing initiative. Resource typing definitions can give emergency responders the information they need to make sure they request and receive the appropriate resources for their needs during an emergency or disaster, and help to make the resource request and dispatch process more accurate and efficient. Federal, state, territory and local officials should use the 120 Resource Typing Definitions to help them develop and update their inventories of response assets.



## INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY DIVISION OF TRAINING



Question: What is the purpose of resource typing?

Response: Resource typing enhances emergency readiness and response at all levels of government through a system that allows an already overwhelmed jurisdiction to augment its response resources during an incident. Standard resource typing definitions help responders request and deploy the resources they need through the use of common terminology. They allow emergency management personnel to identify, locate, request, order and track outside resources quickly and effectively and facilitate the movement of these resources to the jurisdiction that needs them.

Question: Could you please discuss the relationship between NIMS and the Emergency Support Functions?

Response: NIMS provides a consistent nationwide approach that allows federal, state, local and tribal governments as well as private-sector and nongovernmental organizations to work together manage incidents and disasters of all kinds. The National Response Plan is an all-discipline, all-hazards plan that provides the structure and mechanisms for coordinating federal support to state and local jurisdictions.

Emergency Support Functions are the way that the NRP groups the capabilities and functional expertise of federal departments and agencies and the American Red Cross. This helps them provide the resources and emergency services needed during a major disaster. Each ESF is composed of primary and support agencies.

While NIMS and NRP are closely related, ESFs are associated only with the NRP. They are NRP coordinating mechanisms for providing federal assistance to states and local and tribal governments in an emergency or disaster.



**INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**  
**DIVISION OF TRAINING**



Frequently asked questions

Release Date: 09/29/05

**Subject: State Firefighter training system**

Question: Will the state training system require all firefighters to attend a state training program?

Response: No. Local fire departments will continue to have the options to deliver training with their own instructors at their departments.

Question: Will this proposal increase training requirements on firefighters?

Response: No. There is no proposal to increase training requirements in the state training system briefing document.

Question: When will the state training system start?

Response: Governor Daniels has endorsed the plan. The staff at the Indiana Department of Homeland Security are researching funding mechanisms to begin operations. The plan will be phased in over a period of time. The largest hurdle to immediate implementation is the securing of a long term funding source(s) that can sustain the training plan for years.

Question: What is the purpose of the State Training Council?

Response: The primary purpose of the State Training Council is to administer the District Training and District Infrastructure grant programs.

Question: What is the purpose of the district training council?

Response: The primary purpose is to develop a training needs analysis and report the results to the State Training Council along with a funding request. This needs analysis will include an assessment of current delivery systems within a district, training needs of that district and an infrastructure assessment. The infrastructure assessment may include a grant request. When the district plan has been approved by the State the district will manage the funds to ensure that the plan is followed, training occurs in accordance with the rules and develop schedules.



**INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**  
**DIVISION OF TRAINING**



Frequently asked questions

Release Date: 09/29/05

**Subject: National Incident Management System Training Requirements**

Question: Does the state have training requirements for NIMS?

Response: No. The federal government established the training requirements for the National Incident Management System. The State of Indiana has not and does not plan to develop additional training requirements for NIMS.

Question: There is a state certification through the Board of Firefighting Personnel standards and education. Am I required to take the State certification course in addition to the Federal course?

Response: No, if you have taken the federal on-line training and successfully completed the training material and passed the test you DO NOT have to acquire the State certification in addition to the Federal.

Question: Who needs NIMS training?

Response: According to the NIMS Integration Center – anyone who is likely to be requested to respond to an emergency should complete the NIMS training.

The NIMS Integration Center suggests that the following take the course as soon as possible:

Executive Level – Political and government leaders, agency and organization administrators and department heads; personnel that fill ICS roles as Unified Commanders, Incident Commanders, Command Staff, General Staff in either Area Command or single incidents; senior level Multi-Agency Coordination System personnel; senior emergency managers; and Emergency Operations Center Command or General Staff.

Managerial Level – Agency and organization management between the executive level and first level supervision; personnel who fill ICS roles as Branch Directors, Division/Group Supervisors, Unit Leaders, technical specialists, strike team and task force leaders, single resource leaders and field supervisors; midlevel Multi-Agency Coordination System personnel; EOC Section Chiefs, Branch Directors, Unit Leaders; and other emergency management/response personnel who require a higher level of ICS/NIMS Training.

Responder Level – Emergency response providers and disaster workers, entry level to managerial level including Emergency Medical Service personnel; firefighters; medical personnel; police officers; public health personnel; public works/utility personnel; and other emergency management response personnel.