# **NIMS and ICS Overview**

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#### **Purpose of This Presentation:**

 Provide an overview of NIMS and ICS
Relate the concepts to the NEI Workshop and Threat-Based Drill Development



## What is NIMS/ICS?

Homeland Security Presidential Directive/HSPD-5 was issued on February 28, 2005

- Directs a single, comprehensive national management system to manage domestic incidents. Objective is to ensure all levels of government have the capability to work efficiently and effectively together
- Employs the premise that incidents are typically handled at the lowest jurisdictional level



# What is NIMS/ICS?

- Takes a national approach to domestic incident management
- Treats Crisis Management (predominately law enforcement) and Consequence Management (predominately emergency management) as a single, integrated function, rather than two separate functions



# What is NIMS/ICS?

- HSPD-5 recognizes the role that private and nongovernmental sectors play in preventing, preparing for, responding to, and recovering from terrorist acts, major disasters, and other emergencies
- Represents the cornerstone of the Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program (HSEEP) which employs a "building block" approach to exercise development

**\*Tabletops/Drills/Functional and Full-Scale Exercises** 



## **Core Concepts of NIMS:**

- Terminology and Technologies of the Incident Command System (ICS)
  - Universal Understanding (nationwide)
  - Scaleable to your jurisdiction's capabilities
  - Standard "simple" Communication (no radio codes, signals, etc)



# **Core Concepts of NIMS:**

- Multi-Agency Coordination and Integration
- Unified Command
- Training
- Standardized Identification, Tracking and Management of Resources (120 NIMS Resource Categories)
- Qualifications and Certifications (Credentialing of responders-IDs)
- Homeland Security funding eligibility is tied to compliance, reporting and performance metrics (NIMSCAST)



#### **Threat-Based Exercise Applications:**

- Under the ICS, why does a Threat-Based Exercise differ from traditional RERP exercises?
  - Information flow may be altered or reversed
    - The On-site (or near-site) Incident Command Post becomes a critical source of information and coordination
    - Must initially be supported by on-site assets (Control Room/Security/Fire) in order to:



#### **Threat-Based Exercise Applications:**

- Ensure safety of first responders and plant personnel (relay known threats and hazards/security breaches)
- Direct initial response activities (safe staging areas/establish initial communications paths)
- Provide initial damage assessments (tactical priorities/protection of critical assets)



#### **Threat-Based Exercise Applications:**

The EOC becomes a Multi-Agency **Coordination facility (or MAC under NIMS)** Still performs its off-site emergency support functions (Public Notification/Warning, Evacuation, etc) but is now tied to the ICP or Unified Command for direction and coordination.



### **Transition to Unified Command**

- In most cases, the Incident Command Post will initially perform the U/C role. Complexity (and logistical requirements) of the event may drive the U/C to another location that better provides:
  - Enhanced communications capabilities (phones, radios)
  - More room for integration of state and federal resources (Joint Operations Center)
  - Better Communication and Coordination paths with the EOC
  - Some jurisdictions may have mobile command vehicles capable of performing the U/C function. Others will require a physical location



### **Transition to Unified Command**

- Under the Unified Command concept, the Incident Command Post becomes a forward operating base that performs onscene (tactical) command functions and feeds-up through U/C for off-site coordination and resources
- This transition keeps the Incident Command Post from becoming overwhelmed or separated into individual components (law enforcement/fire-state/local) that lack coordination and integration
- Unified Command also enhances the release of Public Information by providing an environment where all involved agencies can coordinate press releases and "speak with one voice" about the event



## **Transition to Unified Command**

- Depending on the jurisdiction, transition to the Unified Command concept may pose the most difficult challenge to exercise design and conduct. Planning considerations should include:
  - Off-site authorities, roles and responsibilities vary by jurisdiction nationwide (who will be the Incident Commander?)
  - What are your off-site jurisdiction's true capabilities? (must scale and apply them to your exercise)
  - Communications paths between the ICP, U/C and the EOC can falter creating disconnects and information gaps. Must choose appropriate facility for demonstration purposes or enhance through technology (radio patching equipment/vehicles)
  - Important to have off-site representation in exercise planning and design



# **To Learn More About NIMS and ICS:**

- Read the National Response Framework (formerly the National Response Plan) http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/NRP baseplan.pdf
- Log onto the EMI-FEMA Independent Study Program website at: http://training.fema.gov/IS/





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