

OVERVIEW

Between 2011 and 2013, New York State was impacted by 9 presidentially declared disasters. During these disasters, critical services - including domestic violence services - were impacted. While we don't know when future disasters will occur, but we do know that more will. This document provides a brief explanation of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and Incident Command System (ICS) and learning resources that may assist you in preparing for and responding to future disasters.

WHAT IS NIMS?

The National Incident Management System is a consistent nationwide template that enables effective, efficient and collaborative incident management at all jurisdictional levels regardless of the cause, size or complexity of the incident.

WHY SHOULD WE USE NIMS?

By using NIMS, communities are part of a comprehensive national approach that improves the effectiveness of emergency management and response personnel across the full spectrum of potential threats and hazards (including natural hazards, terrorist activities, and other human-caused disasters) regardless of size or complexity. The use of NIMS can reduce the loss of life and property, and harm to the environment.

WHAT ARE THE COMPONENTS OF NIMS?

The five components of NIMS are: preparedness, communications and information, resource management, command, and ongoing management and maintenance.

HOW DOES NIMS RELATE TO LOCAL INCIDENT COMMAND?

A basic premise of NIMS is that all incidents begin and end locally. NIMS does not take command away from state and local authorities. NIMS simply provides the framework to enhance the ability of responders, including the private sector and NGOs, to work together more effectively. The intention of the federal government in these situations is not to command the response but, rather, to support the affected local, tribal, and/or state governments.

WHAT IS ICS?

The Incident Command System (ICS) is an element of the Command and Management Component of NIMS and is a standardized management tool for meeting the demands of any emergency or nonemergency situation including planned events, natural disasters, and acts of terrorism. ICS represents "best practices" that have become the standard for emergency management across the country. ICS consists of procedures for controlling personnel, facilities, equipment and communications, and is designed to be used or applied from the time an incident occurs until the requirement for management and operations no longer exists.

WHY IS ICS NEEDED?

When an incident requires response from multiple local emergency management and response agencies, effective cross-jurisdictional coordination using common processes and systems is critical. The Incident Command System (ICS) provides a flexible, yet standardized core mechanism for coordinated and collaborative incident management, whether for incidents where additional resources are required or are provided from different organizations within a single jurisdiction or outside the jurisdiction or for complex incidents with national implications.

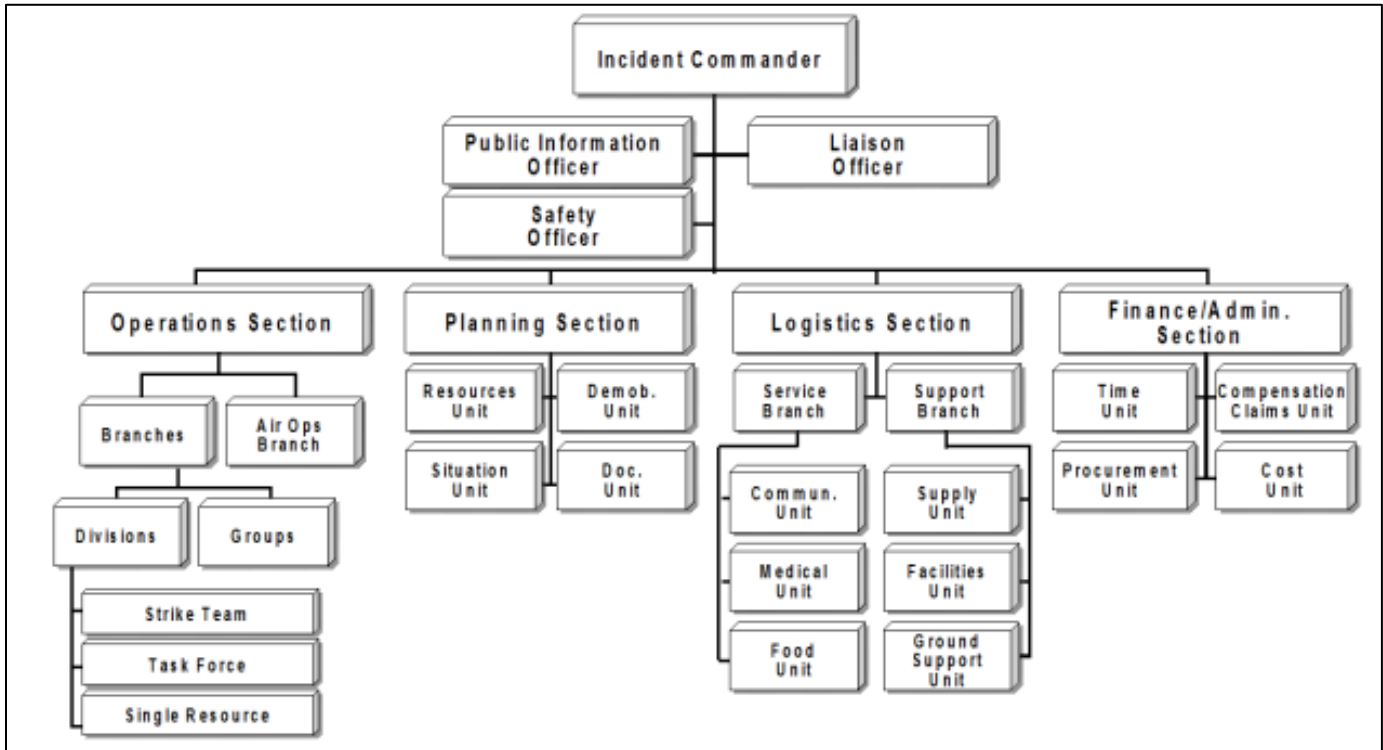
WHAT DOES ICS LOOK LIKE?

ICS is normally structured to facilitate activities in five major functional areas: command, operations, planning, logistics, and finance and administration. However, a key principle of ICS is its flexibility. This allows the ICS organization to be expanded easily from a very small size for routine operations to a larger organization capable of handling catastrophic events. Even though the size of the ICS organization may change, position titles within the system are always the same.

WHO USES NIMS & ICS?

NIMS & ICS are used by all levels of government—federal, state, local, and tribal—as well as by many private sector and nongovernmental organizations. ICS is also applicable across disciplines.

ICS ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



ICS POSITION TITLES

Organizational Level	Title	Support Position
Incident Command	Incident Commander	Deputy
Command Staff	Officer	Assistant
General Staff (Section)	Chief	Deputy
Branch	Director	Deputy
Division/Group	Supervisor	N/A
Unit	Leader	Manager
Strike Team/Task Force	Leader	Single Resource Boss

ONLINE RESOURCES

- **Introduction to ICS On-line Independent Study Course:**
<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/courseOverview.aspx?code=IS-100.b>
- **ICS Glossary:** <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/is/ICSResource/Glossary.htm>
- **ICS Review Document: Provides a summary of key features and principles of Incident Command System**
<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/is/ICSResource/assets/reviewMaterials.pdf>
- **NIMS Introduction On-line Independent Study Course:**
<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/courseOverview.aspx?code=IS-700.a>
- **NIMS Document: Provides a summary of key features of the National Incident Management System, a glossary of terms, and an acronym list:** http://www.fema.gov/pdf/emergency/nims/NIMS_core.pdf