



FEMA

NIMS *Alert*

April 8, 2016
NA: 01-16
National Integration Center

National Incident Management System Refresh: National Engagement Period

FEMA's National Integration Center is currently soliciting public feedback for the National Incident Management System (NIMS) refresh. This National Engagement Period will conclude at 5:00 pm EDT on May 9, 2016. National engagement provides an opportunity for interested parties to comment on the draft of the refreshed NIMS, so that it reflects the collective expertise and experience of the whole community.

NIMS provides a consistent and common approach and vocabulary to enable the whole community to work together seamlessly and manage all threats and hazards. NIMS applies to all incidents, regardless of cause, size, location or complexity.

The draft NIMS:

- Reiterates the concepts and principles of the original 2004 version and the updated 2008 version;
- Reflects and incorporates lessons learned from exercises and real world incidents and policy updates, such as the [National Preparedness System](#) and the 2013 [NIMS Intelligence/Investigation Function Guidance and Field Operations Guide](#);
- Reflects progress in resource typing and mutual aid and builds a foundation for the development of a national qualification system;
- Clarifies that NIMS is more than just the Incident Command System (ICS) and that it applies to all stakeholders with roles in incident management across all five mission areas (Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response and Recovery);
- Provides guidance on a common structure and activation levels for operations and coordination centers, including Emergency Operations Centers (EOC), through new Center Management System (CMS) guidance;
 - Note that while we will continue to track NIMS implementation, the adoption of CMS is not mandatory as part of preparedness grants;
- Explains the relationship among ICS, CMS, and Multiagency Coordination Groups (MAC Groups); and
- Enhances guidance on information management processes to improve data collection plans, social media integration and the use of geographic information systems (GIS).

To review the draft of the refreshed NIMS, visit: <https://www.fema.gov/national-incident-management-system/national-engagement>. To provide input, complete the feedback matrix and submit it to FEMA-NIMS@fema.dhs.gov.

FEMA is hosting a series of 60-minute engagement webinars to highlight key proposed changes to NIMS and answer participant questions about submitting feedback. All webinars are open to the whole community, including individuals and communities, the private and nonprofit sectors, faith-based organizations and all governments (local, regional/metropolitan, state, tribal, territorial, insular area and federal). For more information on the webinars, visit: <https://www.fema.gov/national-incident-management-system/national-engagement>.

Thank you for your input and continued support. Together, we can make the nation more secure and resilient.