

NIMS FY05 Certification

State of Nebraska

22 September 2005

The following document outlines how Nebraska has implemented compliance with NIMS FY2005 certification requirements contained in the September 8, 2004 letter from DHS Secretary in accordance with ODP's Homeland Security Grant Program.

The State of Nebraska in coordination with local governmental and tribal entities has successfully implemented and complied with the following minimum requirements:

- **Incorporate NIMS into existing training programs and exercises:** The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has incorporated NIMS into all existing training programs including; exercise planning, exercise development, NeHSEEP (Nebraska Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program), and Basic & Advanced Academy's. NEMA develops exercises consistent with the NIMS structure as demonstrated in TEREX 2005, 2005.5. & 2006. All State agencies supporting the State Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP) and having emergency response functions are incorporating NIMS into their planning, training and exercising programs. NEMA encourages exercise participants at the local/tribal level to train and exercise in a manner that is consistent with the State NIMS implementation plan.
- **Ensure that Federal preparedness funding, including the DHS Homeland Security Grant Program and the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI), support NIMS implementation at the state and local levels:** The Governor's Homeland Security Policy Group developed and approved grant guidance requiring all State and local jurisdictions applying for and being granted UASI/DHS funds will be NIMS compliant.
- **Incorporated NIMS into Emergency Operations Plans (EOP):** As identified in the NIMS Implementation Plan, NEMA has updated the State Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP) to include NIMS; effective date of 4-26-05. The SEOP is in the final approval stages and will be approved by the Governor's Homeland Security Policy Group; effective date of 9-22-2005. Per the Nebraska NIMS implementation plan, the Local Emergency Managers' Handbook and the Generic Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP) were updated to become NIMS compliant and reflect current NIMS terminology; effective date of 4-26-2005. NEMA has statutory authority through the rules and regulations process and has set the format and content of LEOP's which includes NIMS.

- Promoted intrastate mutual aid agreements:** The State of Nebraska has granted broad authority in statute to the Governor to control State and local assets for mutual aid in times of emergencies and disasters. Reference the Nebraska Emergency Management Act, section 81-829.48, states “the director of each city, village, county or inter-jurisdictional emergency management organization shall, in collaboration with other public and private entities within the state, develop or cause to be developed mutual aid arrangements for reciprocal emergency management aid and assistance in case of disaster, emergency, or civil defense emergency too great to be dealt with unassisted.” In conjunction with section 81-829.40 of the Emergency Management Act, the Governor shall be responsible for meeting the dangers to the state and the people in the event of a disaster beyond local control. At the time of a State disaster declaration, all assets of State and local government fall under the control of the Governor and are commanded and controlled under the response principles outlined in NIMS.
- Coordinated and provided technical assistance to local entities regarding NIMS:** In order to assist the local entities with being NIMS compliant, NEMA has developed a NIMS link on the agency web site. Within the NIMS link there is a direct connection to the FEMA NIC, IS 100 & 700 courses, a PDF version of Nebraska’s NIMS Implementation Plan, and a copy of the Governor’s Executive Order 05-02 mandating NIMS as the emergency response standard for State and local government. Local emergency managers work with the three tribal nations, Santee Sioux, Omaha and the Winnebago tribes, to comply with NIMS. NEMA has established a NIMS point of contact for any related questions. Direct training is provided through the NEMA training division to assist State and local jurisdictions with becoming NIMS compliant.
- Institutionalized the use of the Incident Command System (ICS):** Nebraska has demonstrated the institutionalization of ICS at the State and local jurisdiction level through the adoption of NIMS into activities to include planning, training and exercises.
- Formally recognizing the National Incident Management System and adopting the NIMS principles and policies:** The State of Nebraska has formally recognized NIMS through the Governor’s Executive Order, 05-02 signed by Governor Dave Heineman dated March 4th, 2005.
- Completing the NIMS Awareness Course: “National Incident Management System, An Introduction” – IS700:** As identified in the implementation plan all SEOC staff will be compliant with NIMS in taking the IS100, 200, 700 & 800. During the EPW (exercise planning workshop) in July 2005, representatives from the county jurisdictions received planning and training guidance on NIMS and the State NIMS Implementation Plan.
- Establishing a NIMS baseline by determining which NIMS requirements have been accomplished:** NEMA staff attended a NIMCAST workshop at FEMA Region 7 in February 2005. A NIMS POC was designated within NEMA to coordinate state-wide NIMS activities. The POC is working with Nebraska Health and Human Services (HHSS) to be the pilot agency in the implementation of the NIMCAST tool and to assist with the state-wide implementation at the local jurisdictional level.

- **Establishing a timeframe and developing a strategy for full NIMS implementation:** Nebraska has identified a timeline, FY06, for full NIMS compliance as demonstrated in the NIMS Implementation plan. A state-wide baseline of IS100 & 700 were set and the baseline standard set requiring each local jurisdiction to be responsible for implementing and reporting on NIMS compliance.