

NIMS IS-800 Study Guide

The FEMA Website

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The National Response Framework, An Introduction

Course Objectives: At the end of this course, you will be able to describe:

- The purpose of the National Response Framework.
- The response doctrine established by the National Response Framework.

- The roles and responsibilities of response partners.
- The actions that support national response.
- The response organizations used for multiagency coordination.
- The relationship between planning and national preparedness.

The National Response Framework presents the guiding principles that enable all response partners to prepare for and provide a unified national response to all incidents.

The Framework establishes a response vision through five key principles.

- Engaged partnership means that leaders at all levels develop shared response goals and align capabilities so that no one is overwhelmed in times of crisis.
- The next principle is tiered response. Incidents must be managed at the lowest possible jurisdictional level and supported by additional capabilities when needed.
- The third principle is scalable, flexible, and adaptable operational capabilities. As incidents change in size, scope, and complexity, the response must adapt to meet requirements.
- The fourth principle is unity of effort through unified command. Unity of effort respects the chain of command of each participating organization while harnessing seamless coordination across jurisdictions in support of common objectives.
- The last principle is readiness to act. It is our collective duty to provide the best response possible. From individuals, households, and communities to local, tribal, State, and Federal governments, national response depends on our readiness to act.

The National Response Framework is part of the larger National Strategy of Homeland Security.

This strategy:

- Serves to guide, organize, and unify our Nation's homeland security efforts.
- Reflects our increased understanding of the threats confronting the United States.
- Incorporates lessons learned from exercises and real-world catastrophes.
- Articulates how we should ensure our long-term success by strengthening the homeland security foundation we have built.

Engaged partnership means that leaders at all levels develop shared response goals and align capabilities so that no one is overwhelmed in times of crisis.

A basic premise of the National Response Framework is that incidents should be managed at the lowest jurisdictional level possible.

As incidents change in size, scope, and complexity, the response must adapt to meet requirements.

If an incident grows beyond the capability of a local jurisdiction, then the State activates its emergency plan, provides needed resources, and requests assistance from other States using existing mutual aid agreements.

As a team effort, unified command allows all agencies with jurisdictional authority and/or functional responsibility for the incident to provide joint support through mutually developed incident objectives and strategies. Each participating agency maintains its own authority, responsibility, and accountability.

Readiness is a collective responsibility. Effective national response depends on our readiness to act.

The National Response Framework is a compendium of resources, not just a single document.

Local jurisdictions are responsible for ensuring the public safety and welfare of their residents.

Tribal governments are responsible for the public safety and welfare of the people of that tribe.

Nongovernmental and voluntary organizations are essential partners in responding to incidents. To engage these key partners most effectively, all levels of governments coordinate with voluntary agencies, existing Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOADs), community and faith-based organizations, and other entities.

The private sector is responsible for most of the critical infrastructure and key resources in the Nation and thus may require assistance in the wake of a disaster or emergency. They are NOT, however, mandated to develop and exercise contingency plans.

States play a key role coordinating resources and capabilities throughout the State and obtaining resources and capabilities from other States.

When an incident occurs that exceeds or is anticipated to exceed State, tribal, or local resources, the Federal Government may provide resources and capabilities to support the State response. The principal Federal official for domestic incident management is the Secretary of Homeland Security.

Preparedness is essential for effective response.

Planning makes it possible to manage the entire life cycle of a potential crisis, determine capability requirements, and help response partners learn their roles.

Organize: Executing response activities includes developing an overall organizational structure, strengthening leadership at each level, and assembling well-qualified teams of paid and volunteer staff for essential response and recovery tasks.

Train: Building essential response capabilities nationwide requires a systematic program to train

individual teams and organizations – to include governmental, nongovernmental, private-sector, and voluntary organizations – to meet a common baseline of performance and certification standards.

Equip: It is critical to acquire equipment that will perform to established standards, including the capability to be interoperable with equipment used by other jurisdictions and/or participating organizations.

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) provides a comprehensive framework to ensure that responders from across the country are organized, trained, and equipped in a manner that allows them to work together seamlessly.

Exercises should:

- Include multidisciplinary, multijurisdictional incidents.
- Include participation of private-sector and nongovernmental organizations.
- Cover aspects of preparedness plans, particularly the processes and procedures for activating local, intrastate, or interstate mutual aid and assistance agreements.
- Contain a mechanism for incorporating corrective actions.

There are four key actions that typically occur in support of a response:

1. Gain and maintain situational awareness;
2. Activate and deploy key resources and capabilities;
3. Coordinate response actions; and
4. Demobilize.

When developing protocols that promote situational awareness, priority should be given to:

- Providing the right information at the right time.
- Improving and integrating national reporting.
- Linking operations centers and tapping subject-matter experts.
- Standardizing reporting.

At the onset of an incident or planned event, responders:

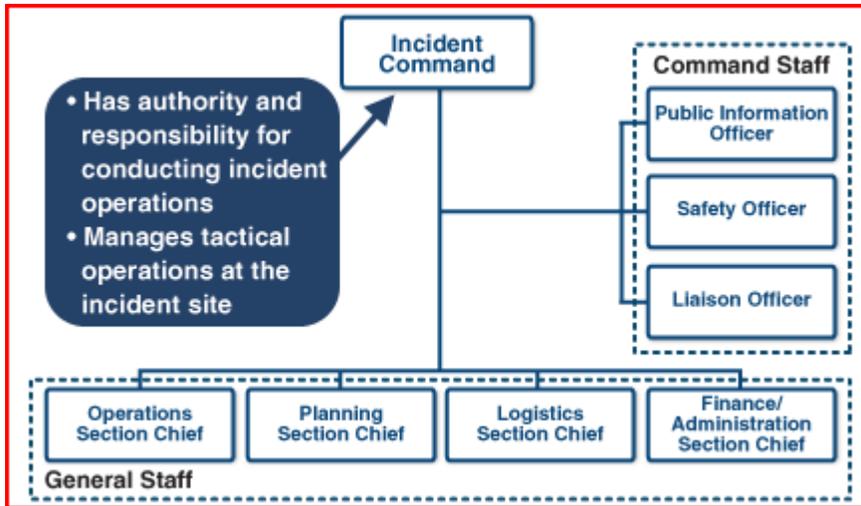
- Assess the situation.
- Identify and prioritize requirements.
- Establish incident objectives.
- Activate available resources and capabilities to save lives, protect property and the environment, and meet basic human needs.

Incident managers should plan and prepare for the demobilization process at the same time that they begin the resource mobilization process.

After immediate lifesaving activities are complete, the focus shifts to assisting individuals, households, critical infrastructure, and businesses in meeting basic needs and returning to self-sufficiency.

Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) 5 called for a single, comprehensive system to enhance the ability of the United States to manage domestic incidents.

Local responders use the Incident Command System (ICS) to establish standardized organizational structures.



In a Unified Command, individuals designated by their jurisdictional or organizational authorities (or by departments within a single jurisdiction) work together to:

- Determine objectives, strategies, plans, resource allocations, and priorities.
- Develops a single Incident Action Plan.
- Execute integrated incident operations and maximize the use of assigned resources.

Area Command is an organization that oversees the management of multiple incidents that are each being handled by a separate command organization.



The Incident Command and management organization is located at the Incident Command Post. The Incident Command directs operations from the Incident Command Post, which is generally located at or in the immediate vicinity of the incident site.

An emergency operations center (EOC) is the physical location at which the coordination of information and resources to support incident management (on-scene operations) activities normally takes place. During an incident, the local EOC supports the on-scene response by relieving the burden of external coordination and securing additional resources.

State emergency operations centers (EOCs) are activated as necessary to support local EOCs. The key function of State EOC personnel is to ensure that those who are located at the scene have the resources (e.g., personnel, tools, and equipment) they need for the response.

The JIC serves as a focal point for coordinated and timely release of incident-related information to the public and the media. Information about where to receive assistance is communicated directly to victims and their families in an accessible format and in appropriate languages for those with limited English proficiency.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) coordinates Federal incident management activities in support of our State and local partners.

- The Secretary serves as the principal Federal official for domestic incident management, which includes coordinating both Federal operations within the United States and Federal resources used in response to or recovery from terrorist attacks, major disasters, or other emergencies.
- The FEMA Administrator's duties include operation of the National Response Coordination Center, the effective support of all Emergency Support Functions, and, more generally, preparation for, protection against, response to, and recovery from all-hazards incidents.

To ensure integration of Federal response efforts, the National Operations Center (NOC) serves as FEMA's primary operations management center, as well as the focal point for national resource coordination.

The National Response Coordination Center (NRCC):

- Is FEMA's focal point for national resource coordination.
- Provides overall emergency management coordination.
- Conducts operational planning.
- Deploys national-level teams.
- Builds and maintains a common operating picture.

Each of FEMA's regional offices maintains a Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC). The RRCCs are coordination centers that expand to become an interagency facility in anticipation of a serious incident or immediately following an incident.

The Joint Field Office (JFO) provides a central location for the coordination of Federal, State, tribal, and local governments and private-sector and nongovernmental organizations with primary responsibility for response and recovery.

Regional Response Coordination Centers (RRCCs) coordinate Federal regional response until the Joint Field Office (JFO) is established.

The Unified Coordination Group provides leadership within the Joint Field Office. This group is comprised of senior leaders representing State and Federal interests, and in certain circumstances tribal governments, local jurisdictions, the private sector, or nongovernmental organizations.

For catastrophic or unusually complex incidents, the Secretary of Homeland Security may designate a single Principal Federal Official (PFO) to:

- Serve in the field as his or her primary representative to ensure consistency and effectiveness of Federal support and incident management.
- Interface with Federal, State, tribal, and local jurisdictional officials regarding the overall Federal incident management strategy.
- Provide a primary point of contact and situational awareness locally.
- Act as the primary Federal spokesperson for coordinated media and public communications.

As a member of the Unified Coordination Group, the Principal Federal Official promotes collaboration and works to resolve any Federal interagency conflict that may arise.

The State Coordinating Officer is appointed by the Governor to coordinate State disaster assistance efforts with those of the Federal Government.

Planning across the full range of homeland security operations is an inherent responsibility of every level of government and should include stakeholders from the private sector and nongovernmental organizations.

Emergency planning is a national priority. To address this priority, the National Preparedness Guidelines have been developed. These Guidelines are comprised of four critical elements:

- The National Preparedness Vision
- The National Planning Scenarios
- The Universal Task List
- The Target Capabilities List