

1.4 National Incident Management System (NIMS): A Formal Recognition

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline and explain NIMS and its interrelationship with the established Incident Command System (ICS). Federal law mandates that all U.S. law enforcement agencies comply with NIMS national homeland security policies, procedures, and protocols.

By the end of fiscal year 2006, federal funding for state, local, and tribal law enforcement preparedness grants will depend upon compliance with NIMS.

II. Background

NIMS has been endorsed by the U. S. Department of Homeland Security and officially implemented by Presidential Directive on 1 March 2004. NIMS is designed to enable local law enforcement to respond to critical emergency incidents, not necessarily limited to terrorist events, in a standardized manner, in close cooperation with other emergency service and public safety providers.

NIMS represents a core set of doctrine, principles, terminology and organizational processes to enable effective, efficient, and collaborative incident management at all levels.¹

ICS was developed in 1970 in California as an emergency management tool in coordinating fire service response to a devastating wildfire. It has since evolved into the prototype of a public safety process to coordinate incident management for a wide range of disasters and catastrophic events.

NIMS was subsequently adopted in the State of Maryland by Executive Order 01.01.2005.09 signed on 4 March 2005 by Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., which mandated that NIMS was the State standard for incident management, and that all state governmental agencies must adopt this system for command and control of emergency incidents in cooperation with local jurisdictional response partners.

¹ Gil Jamieson, "NIMS and the Incident Command System," *The Police Chief*, Feb. 2005, p. 68.

III. Policy

It is the policy of the Anne Arundel County Sheriff's Office that all members will cooperate fully with NIMS and ICS doctrine and procedures that are compliant with law and agency procedures.

It is the policy of the Anne Arundel County Sheriff's Office that all members will participate in the recommended ICS training programs developed and coordinated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). NIMS records and certifications are maintained by the Training Administrator.