NIMS and ICS Overview

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Purpose of This Presentation:

- Provide an overview of NIMS and ICS
- Relate the concepts to the NEI Workshop and Threat-Based Drill Development



What is NIMS/ICS?

Homeland Security Presidential Directive/HSPD-5 was issued on February 28, 2005

- Directs a single, comprehensive national management system to manage domestic incidents. Objective is to ensure all levels of government have the capability to work efficiently and effectively together
- Employs the premise that incidents are typically handled at the lowest jurisdictional level



What is NIMS/ICS?

- Takes a national approach to domestic incident management
- Treats Crisis Management (predominately law enforcement) and Consequence Management (predominately emergency management) as a single, integrated function, rather than two separate functions



What is NIMS/ICS?

- HSPD-5 recognizes the role that private and nongovernmental sectors play in preventing, preparing for, responding to, and recovering from terrorist acts, major disasters, and other emergencies
- Represents the cornerstone of the Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program (HSEEP) which employs a "building block" approach to exercise development

*Tabletops/Drills/Functional and Full-Scale Exercises



Core Concepts of NIMS:

- Terminology and Technologies of the Incident Command System (ICS)
 - Universal Understanding (nationwide)
 - Scaleable to your jurisdiction's capabilities
 - Standard "simple" Communication (no radio codes, signals, etc)



Core Concepts of NIMS:

- Multi-Agency Coordination and Integration
- Unified Command
- Training
- Standardized Identification, Tracking and Management of Resources (120 NIMS Resource Categories)
- Qualifications and Certifications (Credentialing of responders-IDs)
- Homeland Security funding eligibility is tied to compliance, reporting and performance metrics (NIMSCAST)



Threat-Based Exercise Applications:

- Under the ICS, why does a Threat-Based Exercise differ from traditional RERP exercises?
 - Information flow may be altered or reversed
 - The On-site (or near-site) Incident Command Post becomes a critical source of information and coordination
 - Must initially be supported by on-site assets (Control Room/Security/Fire) in order to:



Threat-Based Exercise Applications:

- Ensure safety of first responders and plant personnel (relay known threats and hazards/security breaches)
- Direct initial response activities (safe staging areas/establish initial communications paths)
- Provide initial damage assessments (tactical priorities/protection of critical assets)



Threat-Based Exercise Applications:

- The EOC becomes a Multi-Agency
 Coordination facility (or MAC under NIMS)
- Still performs its off-site emergency support functions (Public Notification/Warning, Evacuation, etc) but is now tied to the ICP or Unified Command for direction and coordination.



Transition to Unified Command

- In most cases, the Incident Command Post will initially perform the U/C role. Complexity (and logistical requirements) of the event may drive the U/C to another location that better provides:
 - Enhanced communications capabilities (phones, radios)
 - More room for integration of state and federal resources (Joint Operations Center)
 - Better Communication and Coordination paths with the EOC
 - Some jurisdictions may have mobile command vehicles capable of performing the U/C function. Others will require a physical location



Transition to Unified Command

- Under the Unified Command concept, the Incident Command Post becomes a forward operating base that performs onscene (tactical) command functions and feeds-up through U/C for off-site coordination and resources
- This transition keeps the Incident Command Post from becoming overwhelmed or separated into individual components (law enforcement/fire-state/local) that lack coordination and integration
- Unified Command also enhances the release of Public Information by providing an environment where all involved agencies can coordinate press releases and "speak with one voice" about the event



Transition to Unified Command

- Depending on the jurisdiction, transition to the Unified Command concept may pose the most difficult challenge to exercise design and conduct. Planning considerations should include:
 - Off-site authorities, roles and responsibilities vary by jurisdiction nationwide (who will be the Incident Commander?)
 - What are your off-site jurisdiction's true capabilities? (must scale and apply them to your exercise)
 - Communications paths between the ICP, U/C and the EOC can falter creating disconnects and information gaps. Must choose appropriate facility for demonstration purposes or enhance through technology (radio patching equipment/vehicles)
 - Important to have off-site representation in exercise planning and design



To Learn More About NIMS and ICS:

- Read the National Response Framework (formerly the National Response Plan) http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/NRP baseplan.pdf
- Log onto the EMI-FEMA Independent Study Program website at: http://training.fema.gov/IS/





