



OREGON OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

National Incident Management System (NIMS)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

TRAINING

Q: Who Makes the Decision on “Who Takes What” regarding NIMS training?

Based on the Federal government’s guidance in the *NIMS TRAINING PROGRAM* document, Oregon has developed a “Who Takes What” white paper. **You will determine** who within your agency or department must take the required NIMS courses.

Oregon Emergency Management (OEM) does not make the determination for Oregon jurisdictions. We do, however, offer assistance if you need clarification on the guidance that the Federal government has published, as well as our white papers which abbreviates the Federal guidance documents.

Q: Is my agency or department NIMS compliant?

Only your organization would know the answer to this question. If your organization is NIMS compliant, then someone put some significant effort into compliance. Hopefully, whoever has that information is still with your staff and can provide you with the NIMS compliance history. OEM can assist by looking into NIMSCAST for you and seeing what has been reported in the past (or alternatively, has not been reported on behalf of your organization). Aside from looking in NIMSCAST for what your organization historical reported, we simply would not have this information. The only exception is EMPG funded departments. We do track those on paper. But aside from that, it is incumbent upon each agency or department to maintain NIMS records for their own organization.

Q: Does my agency/department have to be NIMS compliant?

If you are receiving preparedness funds that originate at the Federal level or if you are receiving direct benefit from Federal preparedness funds, then you must be NIMS compliant.

In the case of schools, public health organizations, hospitals, volunteer organizations, et cetera, OEM will defer specific NIMS questions to other POCs in Oregon who are better acquainted with the varying funding streams of those disciplines. Pay close attention to your application for funding and see what is required concerning NIMS.

The agency that is providing funding will know whether or not NIMS compliance is a requirement for you in order to receive those funds. Oregon Emergency Management does not track every grant that is available to Oregon statewide, nor do we have access to all the many funding streams and programs. Check with your funding agency and see what they require. NIMS compliance information should be included with any grant application where that compliance is a requirement.

Q: Volunteers: What training do they need to complete?

The Federal government strongly recommends that volunteers with a direct role in emergency and incident management and response take NIMS and ICS training. The amount of training depends on the person's position level in response operations.

However, each volunteer organization falls under the host or sponsoring agency or department, so those organizations need to check with whatever agency they are tied to with regard to what is required of them. See *"Who Takes What"* on our Oregon NIMS website:

http://www.oregon.gov/OMD/OEM/plans_train/NIMS.shtml#Oregon_NIMS_Requirements

Q: Elected Officials: What training do they need to complete?

Per the NIC: Elected officials who are directly involved in emergency operations should take IS-700a (Introduction to NIMS) and IS-100 (Basic ICS). Otherwise, at the minimum, local chief elected and appointed officials should complete IS-700a to have an awareness of NIMS. Those who might have a more active role in disasters (such as in very rural locations where personnel wear many different hats), you should refer to the guidance of *"What Takes What"* on our website for additional training.

Q: Who issues ICS training certificates?

ICS 100 and ICS 200 are issued by the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) Independent Study Program. However, EMI does not issue training certificates/certificates of attendance for ICS 300 and 400 courses, as these are taught in the field only and cannot be taken online. It is the responsibility of the hosting/sponsoring agency to supply these certificates to participants and maintain a record of who attended the course. Please keep your certificates.

If you are teaching ICS-100, ICS- 200, IS-700a, and/or IS-800b (or an NIMS IS courses) in the field, your students must submit their test answers to the Independent Study Office or they will not receive a certificate from EMI, nor be included in the national database as having completed the course(s). Only an EMI Independent Study completion certificate is acceptable to show proof of completion of IS-100 and IS-200 courses. The EMI Independent Study website is located at: <http://training.fema.gov/IS/>

RESOURCE TYPING

Q: Is a particular format required for resource typing in Oregon?

There is no particular format required. Oregon Emergency Management has resource typing templates available on our Oregon NIMS website at:

http://www.oregon.gov/OMD/OEM/plans_train/NIMS.shtml#Oregon_NIMS_Requirements

Q: Will an inventory list be acceptable to meet the requirements?

An inventory list will suffice, so long as there is some way for you to include the actual “typing” of your assets on the inventory list itself. In case of a specific NIMS audit, you may be required to show that you have, in fact, typed your assets according to FEMA’s requirement regarding resource typing.

NIMSCAST

Q: Is NIMSCAST required in Oregon in order to be considered NIMS compliant?

As the NIMS Compliance Assistance Support Tool (NIMSCAST) has been suspended due to FEMA budget constraints, NIMSCAST is **no longer required** to be considered NIMS compliant. However, if you are receiving preparedness funds that originate at the Federal level or if you are receiving direct benefit from Federal preparedness funds, then you are still required to achieve NIMS compliance. Please reference our supporting documents, such as the *NIMS checklist* on the Oregon OEM website, to ensure NIMS compliance is maintained.

For more information, please contact your local emergency manager or the State of Oregon point of contact (P.O.C.) for NIMS:

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For detailed information on NIMS, please see the Federal NIMS Website: <http://www.fema.gov/national-incident-management-system>