



OREGON OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

National Incident Management System (NIMS) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Updated 02/05/2019

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](#), Oregon has developed a “[Who Takes What](#)” white paper. **Organizations will determine** who within their agency or department must take the required NIMS courses.

Oregon Emergency Management (OEM) does not make the determination for Oregon jurisdictions. OEM can offer assistance and clarification on the guidance that the Federal government has published.

Q: Is my agency or department NIMS compliant?

Only the organization can answer this question. It is incumbent upon each agency or department to maintain NIMS records for their own organization. OEM has a [checklist](#) to assess an organization’s level of compliance with NIMS standards.

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

If the organization is or will be applying to receive preparedness funds that originate at the Federal level or if the organization receives direct benefit from Federal preparedness funds, then they must be NIMS compliant.

Check with your funding agency and see what is required. NIMS compliance information should be included with any grant application where compliance is a requirement.

In the case of schools, public health organizations, hospitals, and volunteer organizations, OEM will defer specific NIMS questions to other [NIMS Point Of Contact \(POC\)s in Oregon](#). These specific POCs are better acquainted with the various funding streams of those disciplines. Pay close attention to your application for funding and see what is required concerning NIMS.

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 Incident Command System (ICS) training. The amount of training depends on the person's position level in response operations.

Each volunteer organization falls under the host or sponsoring agency or department. Organizations need to check with the sponsoring agency or department they report to with regard to what is required of them. See "[Who Takes What](#)" on our Oregon NIMS website.

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

Elected officials who are directly involved in emergency operations should take IS-700 (NIMS, an Introduction) and IS-100 (Introduction to the Incident Command System). Otherwise, at the minimum, local chief elected and appointed officials should complete IS-700 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), refer to the guidance of "[Who Takes What](#)" on our website for additional training.

Q: Who issues ICS training certificates?

IS 100 and IS 200 are issued by the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) Independent Study Program. 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 IS-100, IS- 200, IS-700, and/or IS-800 (or a NIMS course) in the field, 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 certificate is acceptable proof of completion of NIMS courses. For additional information refer to the EMI [Independent Study website](#).

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](#).

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

An inventory list will suffice, as long as the actual “typing” of assets on the inventory list is included. In case of a specific NIMS audit, it may be required to show assets are typed according to FEMA’s requirements.

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 the organization is or will be applying to receive preparedness funds that originate at the federal level or if the organization receives direct benefit from federal preparedness funds, then they must be NIMS compliant. 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 POC for NIMS:

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For detailed information on NIMS, please see the [FEMA NIMS Website](#).