

# NIMS Compliance for U.S. Hospitals

# Emergency Management Program vs. Incident Command System

- An organization's Emergency Management Program involves activities across four phases:
  - Mitigation
  - Preparedness
  - Response, and
  - Recovery
- The National Incident Management System (NIMS), Incident Command System (ICS) primarily focuses on the response and recovery phases.

# Why is a National Incident Management System Necessary?

- VHA operates health care facilities across the U.S. and its territories. Hazard-related damage will create internal requirements and VHA will be asked to provide support under the National Response Plan.
- The President mandated that the Incident Command System (ICS) will be used by Federal, State, local, tribal and private sector organizations.

# Homeland Security

## Presidential Directive #5: Management of Domestic Incidents

- “To enhance the ability of the United States to manage domestic incidents by establishing a single, comprehensive national incident management system ...
- ... (T)he objective of the United States Government is to ensure that all levels of government across the Nation have the capability to work efficiently and effectively together.”

# National Incident Management System (NIMS)

“To provide for interoperability and compatibility among Federal, State, and local capabilities, the NIMS will include a core set of concepts, principles, terminology, and technologies covering the incident command system; multi-agency coordination systems; unified command; training; identification and management of resources (including systems for classifying types of resources); qualifications and certification; and the collection, tracking, and reporting of incident information and incident resources.”

# Use of NIMS by Federal Agencies

- “The heads of Federal departments and agencies shall adopt the NIMS within their departments and agencies and shall provide support and assistance to the Secretary in the development and maintenance of the NIMS...
- ... All Federal departments and agencies will use the NIMS in their domestic incident management and emergency prevention, preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation activities, as well as those actions taken in support of State or local entities.”

# NIMS Compliance Requirements

# NIMS Compliance

- FY05-06 Emergency Management Program-level requirements for State, local and tribal governments
  - 23 elements for State governments
  - 17 elements for local and tribal governments
- FY06 Federal requirements released
  - 4 elements
  - Apply to VHA Central Office and VISN offices
- FY07 U.S. Hospital requirements to be released
  - 17 elements
  - Will apply to VA Medical Centers

# Current NIMS Requirements: Federal Agencies

- Incorporate NIMS into existing training and exercise programs.
- Ensure that Federal preparedness grant programs require the use of NIMS by grantees.
- Incorporate NIMS into Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs).
- Institutionalize the use of the Incident Command System (ICS).

# NIMS Requirements: U.S. Hospitals

- 17 elements of compliance
- 5 categories:
  - Organizational Adoption
  - Command and Management
  - Preparedness Planning
  - Preparedness Training
  - Preparedness Exercises
  - Resource Management
  - Communications and Information Management

# NIMS Compliance and the VHA Emergency Management Program Guidebook

- The 2005 EMP Guidebook provides additional information on NIMS in Sections 2 and 3.
- The 17 elements can be accomplished through the Nine-Step Process described in Section 3.

# NIMS – EMP Guidebook Crosswalk

<u>NIMS Element</u>	<u>VHA EMPG Step</u>
1, Adopt ICS	1, EM Committee, Policy
2, Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)	2, EOP, Basic Plan
3, Multi-agency coordination	2, EOP, Management Annex
4, Joint public information	2, EOP, Management Annex
5, Track implementation of NIMS	1, EM Committee, Work plan
6, Track grant funding	1, EM Committee, Work plan
7, Update EOP and incident specific guidance to reflect NIMS	5, Review/revise guidance
8, Develop mutual-aid agreements	6, External coordination
9, Complete NIMS training course	7, Train staff
10, Complete NRP training course	7, Train staff

# NIMS – EMPG Crosswalk (con't)

<u>NIMS Element</u>	<u>VHA EMPG Step</u>
11, Complete ICS 100 and 200 training courses	7, Train staff
12, Incorporate ICS into training and exercises	7, Train staff & 8, Implement
13, Participate in an all-hazards exercise program	8, Implement EOP
14, Incorporate corrective actions	9, Conduct on-going reviews
15, Maintain a resource inventory	5, Implement preparedness
16, Purchase interoperable Communications/IT equipment	1, EM Committee, Work plan
17, Use plain English in emergencies	1, EM Committee, Policy

Draft

# NIMS Requirements: U.S. Hospitals (FY07)

## Organizational Adoption

- **Element 1:** Adopt NIMS at the organizational level for all departments and business units, as well as promote and encourage NIMS adoption by associations, utilities and partners and suppliers.
- *Example of compliance: The elements included in this document are addressed in the organization's emergency management program documentation.*

Draft

# NIMS Requirements: U.S. Hospitals (FY07)

## Command and Management

- **Element 2:** Incident Command System (ICS). Manage all emergency incidents and preplanned (recurring/special) events in accordance with ICS organizational structures, doctrine, and procedures, as defined in NIMS. ICS implementation must include consistent application of Incident Action Planning and Common Communications Plans.
- *Example of compliance: The organization's Emergency Operations Plan explains the use of ICS, particularly incident action planning and a common communications plan.*

Draft

# NIMS Requirements: U.S. Hospitals (FY07)

## Command and Management (con't)

- **Element 3: Multi-agency Coordination System.** Coordinate and support emergency incident and event management through the development and use of integrated multi-agency coordination systems, i.e., develop and maintain connectivity capability between local Incident Command Posts (ICPs), local 911 centers, local Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) and the state EOC.
- *Example of compliance: The organization's Emergency Operations Plan explains the management and coordination linkage between the organization's emergency operations center and other, similar, external centers.*

Draft

# NIMS Requirements: U.S. Hospitals (FY07)

## Command and Management (con't)

- **Element 4:** Public Information System (PIS).  
Implement processes and/or plans to communicate timely, accurate information through a Joint Information System and Joint Information Center.
- *Example of compliance: The organization's Emergency Operations Plan explains the management and coordination of public information with health care partners and jurisdictional authorities, such as local public health, emergency management, and so on.*

Draft

# NIMS Requirements: U.S. Hospitals (FY07)

## Preparedness Planning

- **Element 5.** Health care organizations will track NIMS implementation on a yearly basis as part of the organization's emergency management program.
- *Example of compliance: NIMS organizational adoption; command and management; preparedness planning, training and exercising; resource management; and communications and information management activities will be tracked from year-to-year with the goal of improving overall emergency management capabilities.*

Draft

# NIMS Requirements: U.S. Hospitals (FY07)

## Preparedness Planning (con't)

- **Element 6.** Develop and implement a system to coordinate appropriate hospital preparedness funding to employ NIMS across the organization.
- *Example of compliance: The organization's emergency management program documentation includes information on local, state and federal preparedness grants that have been received and work progress.*

Draft

# NIMS Requirements: U.S. Hospitals (FY07)

## Preparedness Planning (con't)

- **Element 7.** Revise and update plans and SOPs to incorporate NIMS components, principles and policies, to include planning, training, response, exercises, equipment, evaluation and corrective action.
- *Example of compliance: The organization's emergency management program work plan reflects status of any revisions to the Emergency Operations Plan, training materials, response procedures, exercise procedures, equipment changes and/or purchases, evaluation and corrective action processes.*

Draft

# NIMS Requirements: U.S. Hospitals (FY07)

## Preparedness Planning (con't)

- **Element 8.** Participate in and promote interagency mutual aid agreements, to include agreements with the public and private sector and non-governmental organizations.
- *Example of compliance: The organization's emergency management program documentation includes information on mutual aid agreements.*

Draft

# NIMS Requirements: U.S. Hospitals (FY07)

## Preparedness Training

- **Element 9.** Complete IS-700: NIMS, An Introduction.
- *Example of compliance: The organization's emergency management program training records track completion of IS 700 by targeted staff.*
- **Element 10.** Complete IS 800: NRP, An Introduction.
- *Example of compliance: The organization's emergency management program training records track completion of IS 800 by targeted staff.*

Draft

# NIMS Requirements: U.S. Hospitals (FY07)

## Preparedness Training (con't)

- **Element 11.** Complete ICS 100 and ICS 200 training.
- *Example of compliance: The organization's emergency management program training records track completion of ICS 100 and 200 by targeted staff.*

Draft

# NIMS Requirements: U.S. Hospitals (FY07)

## Preparedness Exercises

- **Element 12.** Incorporate NIMS ICS into all internal and external local and regional emergency management training and exercises.
- *Example of compliance: The organization's emergency management program training and exercise documentation reflects use of NIMS ICS.*

Draft

# NIMS Requirements: U.S. Hospitals (FY07)

## Preparedness Exercises (con't)

- **Element 13.** Participate in an all-hazard exercise program based on NIMS that involves responders multiple disciplines and multiple agencies and organizations.
- *Example of compliance: The organization's emergency management program training and exercise documentation reflects the organization's participation with various external entities.*

Draft

# NIMS Requirements: U.S. Hospitals (FY07)

## Preparedness Exercises (con't)

- **Element 14.** Incorporate corrective actions into preparedness and response plans and procedures.
- *Example of compliance: The organization's emergency management program documentation reflects a corrective action process.*

Draft

# NIMS Requirements: U.S. Hospitals (FY07)

## Resource Management

- **Element 15.** Maintain an inventory of organizational response assets.
- *Example of compliance: The organization's emergency management program documentation includes a resource inventory.*

Draft

# NIMS Requirements: U.S. Hospitals (FY07)

## Resource Management (con't)

- Element 16. To the extent permissible by law, ensure that relevant national standards and guidance to achieve equipment, communication, and data interoperability are incorporated into acquisition programs.
- *Example of compliance: The organization's emergency management program documentation includes emphasis on the interoperability of response equipment, communications and data systems with external entities.*

Draft

# NIMS Requirements: U.S. Hospitals (FY07)

## Communications and Information Management

- **Element 17.** Apply standardized and consistent terminology, including the establishment of plain English communications standards across the public safety sector.
- *Example of compliance: The organization's emergency management program documentation reflects an emphasis on the use of plain English by staff during emergencies.*

# Questions?

Contact your  
EMSHG Area Emergency Manager, or  
Pete Brewster, EMSHG Headquarters  
[Peter.Brewster2@med.va.gov](mailto:Peter.Brewster2@med.va.gov)