



The Criminal Justice Institute's
Management Quarterly

Fall 2004

NIMS:

Defining Your Agency's Role in Homeland Security

Recently, the Department of Homeland Security announced the development of the **National Incident Management System (NIMS)**, a system that provides the framework for locals, tribes, territories, States and the Federal government to work together for domestic preparedness.

NIMS, the Nation's first-ever standardized approach to incident management and response, encompasses much more than the traditional Incident Command System (ICS). It additionally provides a common foundation for training and other preparedness efforts, communicating and sharing information with other responders and with the public, ordering resources to assist with a response, and integrating new technologies and standards to support incident management.

To ensure the success of NIMS, all state, county and local agencies in Arkansas are being encouraged to achieve full NIMS implementation during fiscal year 2005 (October 1, 2005 – September 30, 2005). **By fiscal year 2007, all federal funding for preparedness assistance will be conditioned by full compliance with NIMS.**

Thus far, most law enforcement agencies in the State have not played a large role in this initiative, largely due to a



lack of information about NIMS and the resources that are available to implement this system. In contrast, other first response agencies, particularly fire departments, have been proactive in applying for and receiving domestic preparedness equipment and training.

To assist Arkansas law enforcement in implementing NIMS within all agencies, thus expanding their access to Federal funding, this issue of the *CJI Management Quarterly* will provide information on NIMS and will highlight one of the organizations in the State that is providing programs and services designed to engage Arkansas law enforcement in domestic preparedness.


NIMS: The National Incident Management System


For the first time ever, all of the nation's emergency responders will soon use a common language and a common set of procedures when working individually and together to keep America safe.

The **National Incident Management System (NIMS)** ensures that they will have the same preparation, the same goals and expectations, and most importantly, they will be speaking the same language.


The NIMS provides a consistent nationwide approach for Federal, State, territorial, tribal and local governments to work effectively and efficiently together to prepare for, prevent, respond to, and recover from domestic incidents, regardless of cause, size, or complexity.


Jurisdictions at the State and local levels are being urged to support NIMS implementation by completing the following tasks:


 **Completing the NIMS Awareness Course—“National Incident Management System (NIMS), An Introduction.”** This independent study course developed by the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) explains the purpose, principles, key components and benefits of NIMS. The course also contains *Planning Activity* screens, allowing participants an opportunity to complete some planning tasks during the course. The course is available on-line on the EMI web page at: <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is700.asp> and will take between forty-five minutes to three hours to complete.

 **Formally recognizing the NIMS and adopting the NIMS principles and policies.** States, territories, tribes, and local entities should establish legislation, executive orders, resolutions, or ordinances to formally adopt the NIMS. The National Incident Management Response

Integration Center (NIC) will provide sample language and templates to assist agencies in formally adopting the NIMS through legislative and/or executive/administrative means.

 **Establish a NIMS baseline by determining which NIMS requirements your agency already meets.** The NIC is developing the NIMS Capability Assessment Support Tool (NIMCAST), a web-based self-assessment system that agencies can use to evaluate their incident response and management capabilities. This useful tool identifies the requirements established within the NIMS and can assist your agency in determining the extent to which you are already compliant, as well as identify the NIMS requirements that you are not currently meeting.

 **Establishing a timeframe and developing a strategy for full NIMS implementation.** States, territories, tribes, and local entities are encouraged to achieve full NIMS implementation during FY 2005. To the extent that full implementation is not possible during FY 2005, Federal preparedness assistance must be leveraged to complete NIMS implementation by FY 2006. By FY 2007, Federal preparedness assistance will be conditioned by full compliance with the NIMS.

 **Institutionalizing the use of the Incident Command System.** If your agency is not already using the Incident Command System (ICS), you must institutionalize the use of ICS within your response system. The 9/11 Commission Report recommended national adoption of the ICS to enhance command, control, and communications capabilities. All Federal, State, territory, tribal, and local jurisdictions will be required to adopt ICS in order to be compliant with the NIMS.

The NIC web page, www.fema.gov/nims, will be updated regularly with information about the NIMS and guidance for implementation. **For more information, contact the NIMS Integration Center at (202) 646-3850.**

Domestic Preparedness Programs Available Through the Pine Bluff Arsenal

In a collaborative partnership, the Pine Bluff Arsenal and General Physics (GP) currently administer the **Domestic Preparedness Equipment Technical Assistance Program (DPETAP)**, a program designed to assist first responders in better selecting, operating, and maintaining their radiological, chemical and biological detection and response equipment by providing detailed technical information and hands-on equipment operations and maintenance training.

Initially, this program, which is funded by the Office for Domestic Preparedness, Department of Homeland Security, was focused on Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) detection equipment. However, in 2002, training was expanded to include mass casualty decontamination and personal protection equipment (PPE) training.

DPETAP Mobile Technical Assistance Teams are available to provide, at no charge to the jurisdiction, on-site technical assistance and training to assist emergency response personnel in the operation and maintenance of their domestic preparedness equipment.

In Arkansas alone, over 1,500 students have been trained, including 1,290 Fire Fighters, 133 HazMat/EMS personnel, 18 Military/EOD and 38 Law Enforcement Officers.

The Homeland Defense Equipment Reuse (HDER) Program

The Homeland Defense Equipment Reuse (HDER) Program is a subordinate program within DPETAP. The goal of the program is to provide surplus radiological detection instrumentation and other equipment, as well as training and technical support, to emergency responder agencies nationwide to enhance their domestic preparedness capabilities.



Effective April 1, 2003, the program is available to all jurisdictions desiring to participate. Responder agencies in each jurisdiction have access to a substantial inventory of radiological detection instrumentation and other equipment that is no longer required by the Federal government. The equipment is rehabilitated and provided at no cost to the recipient. General Physics provides training to personnel that comprise the responder agencies in the metropolitan areas via mobile training teams that travel to the first responder location.

The hands-on training is provided on a not-to-interfere basis with on-going and emergent first responder activities. The training is focused on the operation, maintenance and calibration of the equipment items. Specifically, the training program supports the following instrumentation and equipment: hand-held dose rate meters (e.g., ionization chambers), electronic pulsers, microrem meters, count rate meters used for contamination surveys, instrumentation probes (i.e., alpha and gamma scintillation and Geiger Mueller (G-M) probes) and photo-ionization chambers (self-reading pocket dosimeters).

Currently, the training is provided on classes of equipment that are specific makes and models. Additional training will be added as more equipment is made available.

Prepositioned Equipment Program (PEP)

There are three key initiatives associated with the **Prepositioned Equipment Program (PEP)**, another subordinate DPETAP Program.

General Physics has developed and implemented a Quality Control Inspection program that has been used as a premier example of quality control programs in the Office for Domestic Preparedness. The PEP entails the conduct of intermittent inspections to monitor the readiness of the equipment for deployment and the readiness of personnel maintaining the PEP sites to deploy the equipment and effectively distribute it at a WMD site.

The inspectors designed, developed, implemented and evaluated Operational Readiness Exercises (ORE's) to validate that program components are prepared to respond timely and effectively to a WMD incident. An

ORE culminates in demonstrating that the facilities, equipment, procedures and personnel are ready to operate.

Finally, General Physics will provide Augmentation Teams such that when equipment is deployed to a WMD incident, General Physics personnel will assist PEP site personnel with equipment deployment operations and also provide equipment training to emergency responders at the deployed site. Assistance visits have been completed at eight PEP sites and Operational Readiness Exercises completed at seven PEP sites.

Eligibility for the DPETAP Program

Training and services provided through this program are available free-of-charge to state, county and local agencies. **For more information about the DPETAP Program, contact Danny Mossburg, DPETAP Information Officer, at (870) 540-2387.**

CJI Management Quarterly

Criminal Justice Institute
University of Arkansas System
7723 Colonel Glenn Road
Little Rock, AR 72204