Unit 2:
What is NIMS?

Unit Terminal Objective

Explain the National Incident Management System.

Unit Enabling Objectives

- Describe the National Incident Management System (NIMS).
- Summarize the NIMS Command and Coordination Systems.

What is an Incident?

An incident is an occurrence, caused by either human or natural phenomena, that requires response actions to prevent or minimize loss of life, or damage to property and/or the environment.

Legal Basis for NIMS

HSPD-5 — Management of Domestic Incidents

PPD-8 — National Preparedness

Mandates

NRF Emphasizes Partnerships

National Incident Management System

- What? . . . NIMS provides a consistent nationwide template . . .
- Who? . . . to enable Federal, State, Territorial, tribal, and local governments, the private sector, and nongovernmental organizations to work together . . .
- How? . . . to prepare for, prevent, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of incidents regardless of cause, size, location, or complexity . . .
- Why? . . . to reduce the loss of life and property, and harm to the environment.

NIMS: What It Is/What It's Not

NIMS Is	NIMS Is Not
• A comprehensive, nationwide, systematic approach to incident management, including the command and coordination of incidents, resource management, and information management	• Only the ICS • Only applicable to certain emergency/incident response personnel • A static system
• A set of concepts and principles for all threats, hazards, and events across all mission areas (Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, Recovery)	• A response plan
• Scalable, flexible, and adaptable; used for all incidents, from day-to-day to large-scale	• Used only during large-scale incidents
• Standard resource management procedures that enable coordination among different jurisdictions or organizations	• A resource-ordering system
• Essential principles for communications and information management	• A communications plan

NIMS Components

Resource Management

Command and Coordination

- Incident Command System
- Emergency Operations Center
- Multiagency Coordination Groups
- Joint Information Systems

Communications and Information Management

NIMS: Command

Command: The act of directing, ordering, or controlling by virtue of explicit statutory, regulatory, or delegated authority.

Who has the EXPLICIT authority for the management of all incident operations?

NIMS: Coordination

Multiagency coordination is a process that allows all levels of government and all disciplines to work together more efficiently and effectively.

Multiagency Coordination Groups

During incidents, MAC Groups:

- **Act as a policy-level body.**
- **Support resource prioritization and allocation.**
- **Make cooperative multi-agency decisions.**
- **Enable decision making among elected and appointed officials with those managing the incident (IC/UC)**

Emergency Operations Centers

EOCs are physical or virtual locations where staff, stakeholders, and partners gather to provide support for an incident.

Joint Information System

JIS activities include:

- **Coordinate interagency messaging.**
- **Develop public information plans and strategies.**
- **Advise the IC and EOC Director on public affairs issues.**
- **Control rumors and inaccurate information.**

Incident Command System

- Standardized approach to on-scene command, control, and coordination.
- Common structure where personnel from different organizations work together.
- Structure for incident management that integrates and coordinates procedures, personnel, equipment, facilities, and communications.

Interconnectivity of NIMS Command and Coordination

Overview of the Senior Officials' Role

In most jurisdictions the Senior Official is responsible for:

- **Ensuring the safety of the citizens and protection of property**
- **Ensuring the continuity of government**
- **Activating specific legal authorities (disaster declarations, evacuations, state of emergency, or other protective actions)**
- **Delegating Authority for Incident Command to an IC/ UC**
- **Coordinating with the PIO to keep the media and public informed**
- **Requesting assistance from State agencies through the EOC**
- **Resolving any resource allocation conflicts**
- **Coordinating with other Sr. Officials & whole community partners**
- **Participating in a Multiagency Coordination Group (MAC)**

Objectives Review

1. What is NIMS?
2. What are the NIMS Command and Coordination Systems?