

National Incident Management System (NIMS) Compliance Program

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) was published by the Department of Homeland Security on March 1, 2004. It provides a comprehensive and consistent national approach to all-hazard incident management at all jurisdictional levels and across all functional emergency management disciplines.

The benefit of NIMS is especially evident at the local level, when the entire community prepares for and provides an integrated response to an incident. Communities are expected to adopt NIMS at the local level for all government departments.

The NIMS necessitates the use of the Incident Command System, the multi-agency coordination systems and a public information system.

When implementing NIMS, all emergency plans and SOPs must incorporate NIMS components, principles and policies, including emergency planning, training, response, exercises, equipment, evaluation, and corrective action plans. Elected and appointed officials of a community need to be directly involved in these NIMS preparedness elements, especially when the community exercises its emergency management policies, plans, procedures and resources.

Jurisdictions are required to meet the annual NIMS implementation requirements as a condition of receiving federal preparedness funding assistance.

The City of Auburn is committed to the implementation of the NIMS through the formation of a NIMS Work Group which meets quarterly to assure that our ongoing maintenance plan covers all of the NIMS requirements.

We also conduct Incident Command System training as needed. We have developed a city Incident Management Assistance Team to support police, fire and public works command staff at large scale incidents. We also conduct Exercises in order to test our response plans.

Because of our efforts, the city has received hundreds of thousands of dollars through grants since 2006 for equipment and training. Those funds have saved and will continue to save the taxpayer from having to fund the equipment and training necessary to protect our citizens.