

**PLACER COUNTY
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: Thomas Miller, County Executive Officer
by Rui Cunha, Program Manager, Office of Emergency Services

Date: October 24, 2006

Subject: Adopt by resolution the National Incident Management System (NIMS) as official regulatory guidance for emergency incident and disaster preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation within Placer County.

ACTION REQUESTED

That your Board adopts by resolution the National Incident Management System (NIMS) as official regulatory guidance for emergency incident and disaster preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation within Placer County.

BACKGROUND

During a response to a natural or a manmade disaster or emergency, it is essential to have a system for all responders that uses standardized terminology and organizational structures, interoperable communications, consolidated action plans, appropriate command structures, and uniform standards for coordination, information management, and resource management. A system of this nature greatly enhances the efficacy of response and recovery, which often involves the activity of disparate agencies from multiple levels of government from multiple political jurisdictions. Understanding the need for a system of this type, California adopted the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) statewide in 1993, and it has been in use throughout the State, including Placer County, ever since.

The tragic events of 9/11 made it apparent that a *nationwide* system for use by all individuals, agencies, and emergency response organizations was imperative. Consequently, Homeland Security Presidential Directive-5, "*Management of Domestic Incidents*" (HSPD-5) directed development of just such a system. As a result, the National Incident Management System (NIMS) was created and now provides a standardized, coordinated approach to incident management *nationwide*. NIMS, like SEMS, provides a structure as well as operational procedures and protocols for the four incident management phases of preparation, response, recovery, and mitigation.

HSPD-5 also directs that each level of government, if it wishes to receive federal pre-disaster funding, complete numerous prescribed actions and self-certify that it is compliant with NIMS and has formally adopted NIMS. NIMS compliance implies that local government has accomplished certain prescribed steps including using NIMS standardized terminology and procedures in plans, using the Incident Command Systems (ICS) in field response, and training individuals and organizations involved in incident response in the principles of NIMS.

On February 8, 2005, the Governor's Office issued Governor's Executive Order S-2-05 stating, in part, that SEMS substantially meets the objectives and requirements of NIMS. While SEMS meets the requirements of NIMS, the State of California will maintain the Operational Area (County) and Regional levels of Emergency Management, not addressed in NIMS.

Placer County has managed large incidents such as the 1995 and 1997 Floods, the Gap Fire, the Star Fire, the Sierra Fire, the Stevens Fire, the 2006 Floods, the Raiston Fire and a number of actual or potential health emergencies in full compliance with NIMS.

Placer County fire, law enforcement and emergency medical first responders use the Incident Command System as a matter of routine. The County Emergency Management Organization, made up of County employees from nearly all County Departments, complies with SEMS (and now with NIMS). Many of Placer County's cities and special districts have completed training and have implemented systems that substantially comply with NIMS. Placer County participates in an annual statewide health exercise, conducts bi-annual mass casualty incident exercises and participates in the tri-annual statewide Golden Guardian exercise program. These exercises allow Placer County and most of our political subdivisions to practice SEMS/NIMS, assess systems capabilities and grow our ability to function in complex incidents.

By adopting NIMS, your Board allows Placer County to report full compliance with State and Federal mandates, but more importantly, your Board continues its long tradition of support for the highest standards of public safety and incident management.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact to the County as a result of this action.

Attachment:

Resolution

Before the Board of Supervisors County of Placer, State of California

In the matter of:

Resol. No: _____

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE NATIONAL INCIDENT
MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NIMS) AS OFFICIAL
REGULATORY GUIDANCE FOR EMERGENCY INCIDENT
AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE,
RECOVERY AND MITIGATION WITHIN PLACER COUNTY**

The following **RESOLUTION** was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer at a regular meeting held **OCTOBER 24, 2006** by the following vote on roll call:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Signed and approved by me after its passage.

Chairman, Board of Supervisors

Attest:

Clerk of said Board

WHEREAS, during preparation for, responding to, recovering from or mitigating human caused or natural incidents or larger disasters, a system of standardized terminology and organizational structures, interoperable communications, consolidated action plans, appropriate command structures, and uniform standards for coordination, information and resource management minimizes impacts to public health and safety, reduces property losses, preserves the environment; and

WHEREAS, the State of California adopted just such a system statewide in 1993 and called it the California Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS), which has been in use throughout California and in Placer County ever since; and

WHEREAS, as Homeland Security Presidential Directive-5, "Management of Domestic Incidents" (HSPD-5) directed development of a nationwide emergency management system, the resultant National Incident Management System (NIMS) enables a standardized, integrated approach to incident management; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Executive Order S-2-05, of Feb 8, 2005 states in part that SEMS substantially meets the objectives and requirements of NIMS; and

WHEREAS, to be in compliance, Placer County must accomplish certain steps such as using NIMS standardized terminology and procedures in plans, using the Incident Command Systems (ICS) in field response, training individuals and organizations involved in incident response in the principles of NIMS; and

WHEREAS, Placer County first responders from fire, law enforcement and emergency medical agencies use the Incident Command System in the field, and in the greater County, the Placer County Emergency Management Organization, complies with NIMS procedures and doctrines; and

WHEREAS, inasmuch as the County has already substantially completed the actions required by the Department of Homeland Security for NIMS compliance, and is already SEMS compliant, it can unequivocally state that it is NIMS compliant;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County of Placer adopts the National Incident Management System; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County of Placer uses the National Incident Management System which shall be consistent with the integration of the National Incident Management System and the Standardized Emergency Management System in California; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution is forwarded to the Governor's Office of Emergency Services.