

**EPHRATA FIRE DEPARTMENT  
POLICY REGARDING  
THE NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

*Revised August 18, 2008*

**POLICY STATEMENT**

The Ephrata Fire Department uses the National Incident Management System (NIMS) as its standard for incident management.

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) integrates effective practices in emergency preparedness and response into a comprehensive national framework for incident management. The NIMS will enable responders at all levels to work together more effectively to manage domestic incidents no matter what the cause, size or complexity.

**PURPOSE**

The President of the United States, in Homeland Security Directive (HSPD)-5, directed the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to develop and administer a National Incident Management System (NIMS), which would provide a consistent nationwide approach for federal, state, local and tribal governments to work together more effectively and efficiently to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from domestic incidents, regardless of cause, size or complexity.

Since then, the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks (9-11 Commission) recommended adoption of a standardized Incident Command System. The Incident Command System components of NIMS are already an integral part of various incident management activities throughout the State and the City of Ephrata, including current emergency management training programs.

Meeting the NIMS standards for responses to incidents will facilitate efficient and effective incident management so that:

- Terminology, organization, & command structures are standardized
- Communications are interoperable
- Action plans are consolidated
- Personnel qualifications, planning, training & exercise standards are uniform

Using the NIMS standardized procedures for managing personnel, communications, facilities, and resources will improve the City of Ephrata's ability to utilize federal and state funding to enhance local agency readiness, maintain first responder safety, and streamline incident management processes.

**NIMS POINT OF CONTACT**

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