



Urbana Fire Rescue Services

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MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Resolution Adopting National Incident Management System (NIMS)

DATE: January 4, 2005

TO: Bruce Walden, CAO

FROM: Rex Mundt, Fire Chief

CC: Eddie Adair, Police Chief
William Gray, Public Works Director

Introduction

Attached is the proposed resolution for adoption of the National Incident Management System (NIMS). Since September 11, 2001 the emergency services of our national have been promoting the concept of one unified system of disaster management. On March 1, 2004 Homeland Security Presidential Directive-5 was implemented, which directed all federal, state, tribal, and local governments to work together to prepare for, prevent, respond to, and recover from domestic incidents regardless of cause, size, or complexity through the adoption of NIMS. With the City of Urbana formally adopting NIMS we comply with the directive, and satisfy the first phase of the NIMS implementation program.

Background

For nearly 30 years emergency services have been working toward a standardized system of emergency management. During this time the Fire Service developed the Incident Command System (ICS), which has proven to be effective, but the Fire Service solely utilized it. While the ICS proved to work for the fire service, when multiple agencies would become involved in an incident of significant size, disorganization generally occurred, resulting in a vast waste of personnel and resources. Immediately after September 11, 2001, all branches of emergency services assisted the federal government in developing a unified system we now call the National Incident Management System, or NIMS. The results of utilizing NIMS, and the operational concepts promoted have been proven in a very short period of time. The primary benefits of NIMS is the total integration of police, fire, and public work agencies, resulting in improved communications, coordination of resources, and improved access to needed specialized resources, both State and Federal.

Locally, emergency services within the twin cities, and the county, currently work very effectively together. What we are called upon to do within NIMS, is improve our internal disaster planning, enhance overall disaster response training for a wide range of city personnel, and routinely exercise our plans to

validate their effectiveness, and appropriateness. All of which we currently address within the City's Disaster Plan guidelines.

Budget Impacts

Implementing NIMS is not without cost, most of which is bared by the State and Federal Government. Specifically, initial training in Disaster Awareness, Initial Response, and the full NIMS program are provided through the State of Illinois. This training is required of our Police, Public Works, and Fire personnel. Generally, continuing education in these areas will be provided through in-service training, and we intend to use our own personnel, thus reducing future financial impacts. Most budgetary impacts will be absorbed through our normal operations, with personnel from several departments participating in our disaster plan reviews, and annual exercises.

Special note:

The NIMS program does come with a financial penalty for failure to adopt and fully implement. Effective Federal fiscal year 06, any community that has failed to adopt, and fully certify implementation will be restricted from receiving federal funding. The specifics, and scope, of this penalty is yet to be fully defined, but is clear that at minimum, both Police and Fire departments would lose access to federal funding if we failed to adopt and implement NIMS. There is a potential the penalty may further impact federal funding that may occur through our Public Works, and Community Development departments.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City adopt the Resolution Adopting The National Incident Management System (NIMS), and we fully implement NIMS by October 1, 2005.

Prepared and Approved by:

Rex R. Mundt, Fire Chief

RESOLUTION NO. 2005-01-001R

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
(NIMS)

WHEREAS, Homeland Security Presidential Directive /HSPD-5 establishes the National Incident Management System (NIMS); and

WHEREAS, the NIMS establishes a single, comprehensive approach to domestic incident management to ensure that all levels of government across the Nation have the capability to work efficiently and effectively together using a national approach to domestic incident management; and

WHEREAS, the NIMS provides a consistent nationwide approach for Federal, State and local governments to work together to prepare for and respond to, and recover from domestic incidents regardless of the cause, size or complexity; and

WHEREAS, the NIMS provides for interoperability and compatibility among Federal, State and local capabilities and includes a core set of concepts, principles, terminology and technologies covering the incident command system, unified command, training, management of resources and reporting; and

WHEREAS, beginning October 1, 2004 all Federal departments and agencies shall make adoption of the NIMS a requirement for providing Federal preparedness assistance through grants, contracts or other activities to local governments;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS, as follows:

Section 1. That the City of Urbana hereby adopts the National Incident Management System (NIMS) as its system of preparing for and responding to disaster incidents.

This Resolution is hereby passed by the voice vote of a majority of the members of the Council of the City of Urbana, Illinois, at a meeting of said Council.

PASSED by the City Council this ____ day of _____, _____.

Phyllis D. Clark, City Clerk

APPROVED by the Mayor this ____ day of _____, _____.

Tod Satterthwaite, Mayor