

THE NATIONAL RESPONSE PLAN, NIMS, AND THE NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS GOAL

Complex and emerging 21st Century threats, like the horrific attacks of September 11th, 2001, remind Americans that we all share responsibility for homeland security. All levels of government, the private sector, and non-governmental organizations must work together to prepare for, prevent, respond to, and recover from major events, including terrorist attacks, natural disasters, and other emergencies, that exceed the capabilities of any single entity. To address this requirement, *Homeland Security Presidential Directive – 5* (HSPD-5: Management of Domestic Incidents) and *Homeland Security Presidential Directive – 8* (HSPD-8: National Preparedness) establish national initiatives that develop a common approach to domestic incident management, including the **National Response Plan (NRP)**, the **National Incident Management System (NIMS)**, and the **National Preparedness Goal** (the Goal).

A Common Approach to National Response

- The NIMS provides a consistent framework for entities at all jurisdictional levels to work together to manage domestic incidents, regardless of cause, size, or complexity. To promote interoperability and compatibility, NIMS includes a core set of guidelines, standards, and protocols for command and management, preparedness, resource management, communications and information management, supporting technologies, and management and maintenance of NIMS.
- The NRP, using the template established by the NIMS, is an all-discipline, all-hazards plan that provides the structure and mechanisms to coordinate operations for evolving or potential Incidents of National Significance. Incidents of National Significance are major events that require a coordinated and effective response by an appropriate combination of Federal, State, local, tribal, private sector, and nongovernmental entities.

A Common Approach to National Preparedness

- The Goal establishes readiness priorities, targets, and metrics. It enables the Nation to answer two key questions: “How prepared do we need to be?” and “How prepared are we?”
- The Goal enables entities across the Nation to more easily pinpoint capabilities that need improvement and develop and maintain capabilities at levels needed to manage major events using the NRP and NIMS.

One Reinforces the Other

- Together, the NRP, NIMS, and the Goal define *what* needs to be done to manage a major event, *how* it needs to be done, and *how well* it needs to be done.
- The NRP, NIMS, and the Goal align the patchwork of Federal, State, local, tribal, private sector, and non-governmental incident management efforts into an effective and efficient national structure.

TWO COMPLEMENTARY PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVES

HSPD-5

Identifies steps for improved coordination in response to incidents. It requires the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to coordinate with other Federal departments and agencies and State, local, and tribal governments to establish a National Response Plan (NRP) and a National Incident Management System (NIMS).

HSPD-8

Describes the way Federal departments and agencies will prepare for such a response. It requires DHS to coordinate with other Federal departments and agencies and State, local, and tribal governments to develop a National Preparedness Goal (the Goal) and align preparedness programs and activities in a wide range of areas to support the Goal.

For more information, go to <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/welcome.html>



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