

Resolution No.: 15-1612
Introduced: September 19, 2006
Adopted: September 26, 2006

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

By: Council President at the Request of the County Executive

SUBJECT: Montgomery County National Incident Management System (NIMS) Policy

Background

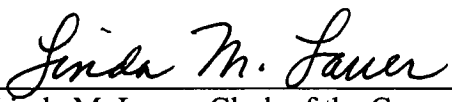
1. The President of the United States, in Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD)-5, directed the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to develop and administer a National Incident Management System (NIMS) to provide a consistent nationwide approach for federal, state, local, 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.
2. To facilitate efficient and effective incident management, it is essential that federal, state, local, and tribal organizations use standardized terminology and organizational structures, interoperable communications, consolidated action plans, unified command structures, uniform standards for planning, training, and exercising, comprehensive resource management, and designated incident facilities during emergencies or disasters in accordance with NIMS.
3. HSPD-5 requires that all federal departments and agencies adopt NIMS. The Directive also requires that states, territories, local jurisdictions and tribal entities comply with NIMS in order to be eligible for federal preparedness assistance funding. The Department of Homeland Security directed that these jurisdictions follow a phased approach for NIMS implementation. Among other things, compliance requirements include adoption of NIMS by all government departments and agencies by September 30, 2006, and encouragement of NIMS adoption by associations, utilities, non-governmental organizations, and private sector incident management and response organizations.
4. The Governor, in Executive Order 01.01.2005.09, adopted NIMS as Maryland's standard for incident management, and required that all State governmental agencies adopt NIMS as a basis for command and control of emergency incidents in cooperation with local jurisdictional response partners.
5. The NIMS standardized procedures for managing personnel, communications, facilities, and resources will improve the County's incident management processes, enhance readiness, maintain first responder safety, and enable the County to qualify for available State and federal funding. Components of NIMS, including incident command systems, unified command systems, emergency management systems, operations, training and programs, are already an integral part of incident management operations and activities throughout the State, National Capital Region, and in Montgomery County.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

1. To meet NIMS compliance requirements, this resolution establishes NIMS as the standard for incident management in Montgomery County. This resolution and the Governor's Executive Order 01.01.2005.09, taken together, require that all County Government departments and Montgomery County Public Schools, Montgomery College, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, Housing Opportunities Commission, and Montgomery County Revenue Authority (covered agencies), use NIMS as a basis for command and control of emergency incidents.
2. The Director of the Montgomery County Homeland Security Department (MCHSD) must administer this Policy and monitor compliance with appropriate federal and State NIMS directives, guidelines and regulations. Each County department must certify compliance with applicable NIMS requirements. The MCHSD Director may delegate NIMS implementation responsibilities to other County departments or request that other covered agencies assist with NIMS implementation, which may include NIMS administration, training, and training record keeping and compliance.
3. The MCHSD must coordinate with County departments and covered agencies to identify County employees and agency personnel who are required to receive NIMS training under NIMS guidelines, and to monitor the departments' and agencies' progress in complying with the NIMS requirements.
4. In coordination and cooperation with appropriate County departments and covered agencies, the MCHSD must organize develop and implement emergency management exercises, drills and other activities as may be necessary to comply with NIMS guidelines.
5. The MCHSD must advise County departments and covered agencies regarding their eligibility for federal grant funding under NIMS and DHS grant applications guidelines, and/or federal regulations regarding NIMS when applicable.
6. The MCHSD must encourage associations, utilities, non-governmental organizations, and private sector incident management and response organizations to adopt NIMS, and must serve as a liaison for NIMS implementation.

This is a correct copy of Council action.


Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council