

National Incident Management System (NIMS) Compliance

Readers know that public works personnel are first responders. Now PWD's are getting long overdue recognition for their role in emergency response.

The Department of Homeland Security developed NIMS, a uniform set of processes and procedures, for emergency responders to use in emergency response operations.

There are six components to NIMS:

- Command and Management,
- Preparedness,
- Resource Management,
- Communications and Information Management,
- Support Technologies, and
- On-going Management and Maintenance

NIMS compliance is required for Federal Grant funding. Political and governmental leaders, agency and organization administrators, department heads, and personnel that fill Incident Command Systems (ICS) roles should take the NIMS 700 certification. The deadline for full NIMS compliance is September 30, 2006. NIMS implementation requirements are online in the Secretary's letter to the Governors on the NIMS webpage (see the NIMS Compliance section). Implementation requirements for FY 2006 will be released later this year, although NIMS compliance deadlines have not been extended.

On-line compliance certification is available: "Introduction to NIMS" (IS-700). Or, agencies may contact their local fire departments. ❖

Sources:

http://www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/nims_compliance.shtm
May 1, 2006

New Incident Management Requirements are in Effect,
NIMS, Country Roads & City Streets, Vol. 21, No. 1,
Spring 2006, p. 1-3

Public Works Management Software

The UNH T² Center is upgrading SIMS, RSMS and DrainMS. SIMS, RSMS and DrainMS will have a new look and feel, but use the same "tried and true" condition assessment and management algorithms as the older versions.

In the new version, field data collection is easy with a tablet PC or laptop. Users will collect signs, culverts, or catch basins (or other assets) by clicking on the screen's digital map. A drop down form enables one to enter the data. Assets appear on the map as an icon. Users do not need and hold a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit on the asset because the location is entered using a stylus on a map.

Pavement inventory and assessment is similarly collected. Road sections also appear as an icon and data is entered through drop down menus, including physical characteristics (e.g. number of lanes, lane width, etc. and severity). The seven distresses are the same as found in earlier versions of RSMS

Once data is collected, a management analysis is used. Results are seen by changing the shape and/or color of icon, depending upon which condition is selected (e.g. road signs with obstructions, or culverts in need of review). Users may hold the mouse on the icon to view the details for each asset. There are a variety of tabular reports are available.

The LTAP Exchange, a private partner, will make GIS software available to map collected data. Additional functions such as GASB34 reporting, cost analysis, and data archiving are available online through the LTAP Exchange.

Release is due this fall. See the fall issue of *Road Business* for training details. ❖