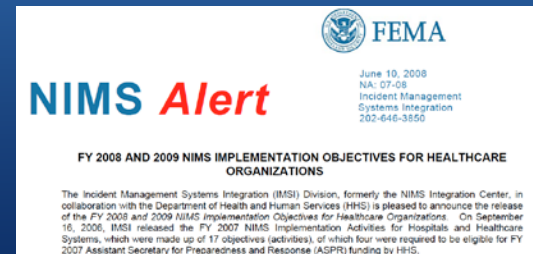


Hospital Emergency Management

HVAs, EOPs and NIMS

Many are years behind on training requirements

The Joint Commission is only part of the process



Requirements for NIMS in Healthcare

By Presidential Directive the National Incident Management System (NIMS) is the “common language” for all Federal, state and local responders. Healthcare must learn to speak that language and function as part of a coordinated multi-agency response. The goal is to strengthen medical surge capacity, and it is not optional. HHS requires hospitals to implement 14 specific NIMS objectives ranging from formal adoption to updated EOPs to mutual aid agreements, training and exercises.

All healthcare personnel within a response structure should have completed four specific FEMA courses (IS-700.a, IS-800.b, IS-100.HCb and IS-200.HCa) by 2009 if they received FY 2008 ASPR funding. Many, if not most, failed to meet this requirement, leaving a huge preparedness gap. Not everyone needs all of the training. The intended role of the responder dictates the type and depth of training required.

Following each module, students logon to the FEMA website and take the final exam. Properly done, the entire training package is only two days and completes two of 14 steps for your NIMS implementation effort.

FEMA advises, “The overall benefit of teaching the training in a classroom... far exceeds completing the training on-line.” We agree. This is serious business, and taking these classes without an expert instructor is faking it. Trainers should have demonstrated experience as an Incident Commander in a complex NIMS environment, because that is where you will find yourself, and you need to know what is coming.

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IESO L.L.C. Risk Management

IESO, L.L.C. is a risk management company with over 100 years of combined environmental, health, safety and management system experience in the industrial, municipal, government and healthcare sectors. We developed the first customized OSHA 30-hour course for healthcare, and have credentialed specialists to serve all EHS needs of your organization.

To learn more about our healthcare services, expert staff and experience, please visit our website at www.iesollc.com or call us at 877-265-6384

Requirements for NIMS in Healthcare

The Joint Commission’s approach begins with a detailed Hazard Vulnerability Assessment (HVA) to determine threats and risks to the facility and the vulnerability to them. Hospital leaders, including medical staff, must participate and as a group define and prioritize potential emergencies and communicate needs to community response agencies. Serving on the LEPC is a very good mechanism for that, but many hospitals simply do not make the effort to do so despite their membership being an EPA requirement. This leaves LEPCs in the position of planning for community response without input from the facilities everyone expects to manage all of the victims.

TJC Standard EM.01.01.01 requires the organization to plan prior to developing its written Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). That may sound obvious, but it is certainly not simple for at least three reasons: first, good planning is harder than it sounds and requires a great deal of experience and imagination. Second, The Joint Commission lays out a number of very specific points to be addressed, each of which must be customized for your site. Third, TJC guidelines do not address all of the requirements from HHS and FEMA that go along with preparedness and response, and those gaps continue to be a problem for healthcare.

When “the big one” hits, victims (real or perceived) are coming and in large numbers. Locking down or turning them away will not be an option. Healthcare is going to be part of something big and complicated. Embrace it, and start getting ready now. Once the storm hits, it’s too late to play catch-up.



Health Care Services

- OSHA 30 and 10-hr Courses for Healthcare
- NIMS for Healthcare Executives
- Patient Handling Ergonomics
- Industrial Hygiene
- HICS and Mass Casualty Plans
- Exposure Control Plans
- ISO 14001 for Healthcare
- OHSAS 18001 for Healthcare
- TJC/DNV Program Elements

Insist on Real NIMS Experience



Our NIMS expert, Dr. Scott Harris, is a former On-Scene Coordinator and NIMS instructor for the U.S. EPA. He was the Region 6 lead for BioWatch, a national sentry program for early detection of biological WMD events, and served on national workgroups developing BMPs and Agency capabilities for surveillance, first response, hotzone sampling and decontamination.

Scott authored Response, Decontamination and Consequence Management Plans for numerous major cities and international airports, and was a member of the Region 6 Emergency Readiness Team, holding DOD Top Secret and DOE “Q” security clearances.