

*Washington County, Maryland  
Division of Fire & Emergency Services*

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*33 West Washington Street, Hagerstown, Maryland 21740  
240-313-2900 Fax: 240-313-2901*

September 27, 2005

Mr. John W. Droneburg, Director  
Maryland Emergency Management Agency  
State Emergency Operations Center  
Camp Fretterd Military Reservation  
5401 Rue Saint Lo Drive  
Reisterstown, Maryland 21136

**Ref: NIMS Adoption by Washington County, MD**

Dear Director Droneburg:

This letter will confirm that the Board of County Commissioners for Washington County formally adopted the National Incident Management System at their regular meeting on August 23, 2005.

I am attaching a copy of the resolution for your records

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Verna Brown, CEM or I.

Sincerely,

Joseph Kroboth, III, PE, CFPS, Director  
Division of Fire & Emergency Services

## RESOLUTION

### ADOPTING THE NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM NIMS REGULATIONS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND

#### RECITALS

The President of the United States, in Homeland Security Presidential Directive-5, directed the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security 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.

The Governor of Maryland, in Executive Order 01.01.2005.09 adopted NIMS as the Maryland State standard for incident management.

In order to facilitate the most efficient and effective incident management it is critical that Federal, State, local, and tribal organizations utilize standardized terminology, standardized 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.

It is necessary and desirable that all Federal, State, local, and tribal emergency agencies and personnel coordinate their efforts to effectively and efficiently provide the highest levels of incident management.

The NIMS standardized procedures for managing personnel, communications, facilities, and resources will improve Washington County's ability to utilize state and federal funding to enhance local agency readiness, maintain first responder safety, and streamline incident management processes; and

Incident Command System components of NIMS are already an integral part of various incident management activities throughout the State of Maryland and in Washington County, including current emergency management training programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Washington County, Maryland that:

**A. Name, purpose and intent.**

- (a) Name. The regulations hereby adopted shall constitute and shall hereafter be known as the "Washington County, Maryland National Incident Management System Regulations" and may be cited and is hereinafter referred to as the "NIMS Regulations."
- (b) Purpose and Intent. It is the intent of the NIMS Regulations to ensure the most efficient, consistent, and effective operations of Washington County's public safety, public works, administration, elected officials, and other staff during an emergency incident. Washington County (the "County") has invested large sums of money on public safety equipment, personnel, and training, which is essential to the health, safety and welfare of all County residents by providing emergency management, 911, law enforcement, public works, emergency medical services, fire suppression, hazmat, emergency communications, public health, and other staff and departments in times of terrorist acts, hurricanes, and other natural disasters. It is the purpose of the NIMS Regulations to require, as herein provided, that all persons or entities providing services and operating during an emergency in Washington County do so in a manner that is consistent with the NIMS guidelines. These operating guidelines shall be consistent with Homeland Security Presidential Directive-5 and State of Maryland Executive Order 01.01.2005.09.

**B. Scope.** Unless adopted by the respective incorporated town or city, the NIMS Regulations shall apply only in the unincorporated areas of the County. The provisions of the NIMS Regulations shall not apply within the corporate limits of any incorporated city or town within the County; provided that any such city or town may, by ordinance or resolution duly adopted by its governing body, adopt the NIMS Regulations as enforceable within such corporate limits and request that they be enforced therein. Upon such appropriate legislative act by such governing body and upon approval by the Board of County Commissioners of Washington County, Maryland (the "County Commissioners") to enforce the NIMS Regulations within the corporate limits of the governing body, the NIMS Regulations shall be in full force and effect within the corporate limits of any municipality so adopting them.

**C. Severability.** Should any section or provision of the NIMS Regulations be declared by the courts to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the NIMS Regulations as a whole or any part thereof other than the part so declared to be unconstitutional or invalid.

**D. Administration and enforcement.**

- (a) Administration and enforcement. The responsibility for the administration and enforcement of the NIMS Regulations shall be vested in such County Department (the "Department") as designated for such purpose by the County Commissioners. The Department may delegate its own personnel and to other departments and their personnel such duties and responsibilities in connection with the administration and enforcement of the NIMS Regulations as are appropriate in the Department's judgment.

- (b) Designated agency. The County Commissioners hereby designate the Washington County Division of Fire & Emergency Services for the administration and enforcement of the NIMS Regulations.

E. **Definitions.** For the purposes of the NIMS Regulations, the following definitions describe the meanings of the terms used in the NIMS Regulations.

HSPD – Homeland Security Presidential Directive

ICS – Incident Command System

NIMS – National Incident Management System

F. **General Provisions.**

- (a) Training. The Washington County Division of Fire & Emergency Services and the Washington County Department of Human Resources will coordinate initial NIMS training to all County employees and elected officials.
- (b) Exercises. The Washington County Division of Fire & Emergency Services will coordinate exercises, drills and other activities as necessary in cooperation with all County departments to maintain the NIMS training guidelines.
- (c) Grant Distributions. The County shall not distribute eligible grant funding to those departments or municipalities whose personnel are not trained or are not operating under the NIMS guidelines as directed by HSPD-5 and its subsequent guidelines.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect upon its passage.

Adopted and passed this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of August, 2005.

ATTEST:



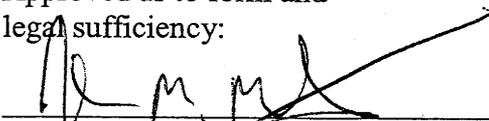
Joni L. Bittner, Clerk

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND



BY: Gregory N. Snok, President

Approved as to form and  
legal sufficiency:



John M. Martirano  
County Attorney