



## Pennsylvania State Fire Academy

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### Minimum Standard for Accreditation (MSA)

**Date:** December 2006

**Last Revision:** October 2005 by DHS/FEMA/USFA/NFA

**Course Title:** NIMS ICS for Emergency Medical Services  
*(Replaces current NFA ICS for EMS)*

**SFA Course Code:** NICS-EMS

**DOH CEU Number:** 001229 **DOH CEUs Assigned:** 14 (1M/T, 13 Other)

**Course Length:** 16 hours (2 days w/breaks) **Lecture/Lab Breakdown:** 10/6

**Prerequisites:** *None*

**Referenced Text(s):** The text to be used for this course is *NIMS ICS for EMS* student manual, DHS/FEMA/USFA/NFA, October 2005.

**Course Goal:** To train Emergency Medical Services personnel to be able to manage major emergencies and/or disasters in harmony with the other emergency response agencies responding to these events.

**Course Description:** This course is designed to be an introductory/orientation course for EMS personnel who are beginning to use NIMS ICS and to provide basic ICS tools and skills. This course is designed to teach the implementation of ICS in day-to-day EMS operations and is not meant to be a high-level ICS course for public health emergencies, mass casualty incidents or other EMS incidents of National Significance.

This course will help students recognize the importance of an effective management system and understand the various components that provide the basis for that system. The requirements necessary to make the system functional will be discussed. With DHS assistance in providing and mandating a single ICS, this Nation's emergency response personnel will move in the direction of greater management harmony, which will ensure much more effective management of America's major emergencies.

It is extremely important that the students realize that the ICS has application in small and large emergency services; at simple and complex incidents; and in career, combination, and volunteer organizations. Students will be allowed to compare the benefits of the ICS to their own department or jurisdiction to demonstrate to themselves that the effective implementation of the ICS and its subsequent use will have a positive effect on their incident management.

**Description of Methodology:** This course will be delivered by the use lecture, facilitated discussion, small group exercises and activities, and facilitated scenario response.

**Student Equipment & Supplies:** Students will need the NIMS ICS for EMS student manual, additional activity sheets, notebook, and pen or pencil.

**Equipment/Audiovisual/Facility/Supply Requirements:** Computer, LCD projector, Screen, 1/2" DVD driver or player, Easel pads/Chalkboard, TV monitor(s)--for video playback, CD with Unit 1 thru 6 PowerPoint presentations, DVD w/Video – Unit 2: “In Command, The Evolution of the ICS System”.

**Special Notes & Conditions:**

**Course Outline**

<u>Time</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Notes</u>
1 hour	Registration and introduction	
2 hrs. 45 min.	Unit 1: Introduction and Overview	
4 hrs. 35 min.	Unit 2: Incident Command System Command and Command Staff Functions and Applications	
1 hr. 50 min.	Unit 3: Incident Command System –General Staff Function	
2 hrs. 10 min.	Unit 4: The Multi-casualty Branch	
2 hrs. 40 min.	Unit 5: Communications	
1 hr. 25 min.	Unit 6: Incident Command System Support Tools	
2 hrs. 15 min	Unit 7: NIMS and ICS Competencies	
50 min	Unit 8: Incident Termination	
1hr. 5 min	Unit 9: Scenario Exercise	
1hr.	Unit 10: Closing and Course Summary	
<b>20 hrs. 35min</b>	<b>Total Time</b>	

**Competency Evaluation Mechanism:** Competency will be determined by the student’s active participation in the small group exercises, activities, and scenario play; and, successful completion (70% or better score) of the 20 question final exam.

**Course Objectives:** By the end of the course, the student will be able to, with a minimum 70% accuracy;

1. Identify the need for an organized approach to management of emergency incidents.
2. Recognize the laws and standards that require an organized approach to managing emergency incidents.
3. List the elements of an effective Incident Command System (ICS).
4. Understand the history of ICS and the National Incident Management System (NIMS).
5. List 8 components of an ICS.
6. Evaluate their departments' capabilities to implement the various elements of an ICS.
7. Identify the responsibilities of the Incident Commander (IC) and the Command Staff positions.
8. Describe the logical expansion of the Incident Command System (ICS) and the interrelationship of the various elements and functions.
9. Understand the Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC).
10. Describe personnel accountability.
11. Identify the need for General Staff functions of Operations, Planning, Logistics, and Finance/Administration, based on incident complexity.
12. Define and explain the responsibilities of Operations, Planning, Logistics, and Finance/ Administration and information and Intelligence as functions within the Incident Command System (ICS).
13. Define the process of selecting the discipline/agency legally responsible for overall incident management.
14. Describe the structure and operation of Unified Command.
15. Provide a baseline definition of a Multi-Casualty Incident (MCI).
16. Understand the development and management of the Multi-casualty Branch (Triage, Treatment and Transport Units).
17. Describe the need for effective incident communications.
18. Describe the Communication Order Model process.
19. Understand the Brief Initial Report.
20. Explain the Transfer of Command process.
21. Critically evaluate incident communications.
22. Identify the basic design elements, purpose, and benefits of standard Incident Command system.
23. Identify and describe the purpose and benefits of Multi-Casualty worksheets and status boards.
24. Describe the purpose and benefits of ICS position identification vests.
25. Explain the purpose and use of triage tags.

26. Understand the importance of preparedness and operational plans, delegation of authority, incident types and complexity, common responsibilities in the ICS and Operations Briefing.
27. Describe the key elements of incident termination, and when a post incident analysis (PIA) should be held.
28. Explain the key purposes of incident documentation collection, need for personnel support and when it should begin, importance of scene cleaning and the actions required, importance of coordination with law enforcement when disposing of scene waste, benefits of a PIA and the difference between a formal and informal PIA.
29. Identify areas for organizational recovery.
30. Recognize the importance of preplanning, practice, and performance evaluation to the effective use of an Incident Command system (ICS)
31. Use the Incident Commander (IC) feedback loop to improve organization ICS.