

**University of Louisville Adoption and Implementation
of the
National Incident Management System**

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) provides a common approach to emergency response that enables responders to work together more effectively. Developed by the Secretary of Homeland Security at the request of the President, the NIMS integrates effective emergency response into a comprehensive national framework for incident management. The Kentucky Office of Homeland Security is the state administrative agency in the Commonwealth charged by Homeland Security to fully integrate the NIMS into all incident management protocols and procedures for state and local governments, including state universities.

The University of Louisville must adopt and implement NIMS in order to effectively integrate its emergency response with local, state and federal emergency management agencies. In addition, if the University does not adopt and implement NIMS, state and federal grants related to emergency preparedness and management, and homeland security could be suspended or canceled. Examples of these grants are \$100K for the Disaster Resistant University Program, \$50K for the Buffer Zone Protection at Papa John's Cardinal Stadium and \$201K for the Kentucky Hazard Mitigation Analysis among others.

The minimum requirements for adoption and implementation in federal Fiscal Year 2006 include the following five items:

1. Emergency response personnel and emergency management personnel must complete a NIMS awareness training course prior to September 30, 2006.

The Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the emergency response component of the Department of Environmental Health and Safety (DEHS) have successfully completed this course.

Once a University-wide Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) is adopted/promulgated, other individuals involved in emergency response and emergency management would be required to complete the course.

2. The University must formally recognize NIMS and adopt or promulgate the NIMS principles and policies.

Currently the University is not in compliance with this portion of the minimum requirements. On a short term basis, the university could become compliant if the President issued a promulgation letter to adopt NIMS, the Incident Command System and a draft EOP (developed by DEHS). Long term compliance would be that the University develops and adopts a comprehensive and functional Emergency Operation Plan that has been vetted with all stakeholders.

3. Establish a NIMS baseline by determining the NIMS requirements that the University has already met.

The University has completed this requirement by completing the NIMS Capabilities Assessment Support Tool (NIMCAST). The first use of this tool was by DEHS on July 20, 2005 and the information was reviewed by DPS. The tool has been updated since the initial assessment.

4. Establish a timeframe and develop a strategy for full NIMS compliance.

Using the NIMCAST, various areas were found not to be in compliance with NIMS. A timeline has been developed to complete the tasks required for full compliance with NIMS. The University administration must direct DEHS, DPS and other affected units and administrators to participate in the development, testing and implementation process.

5. Institutionalizing the use of the Incident Command System (ICS).

The University (DPS, DEHS and Physical Plant) has been utilizing the ICS for a number of years during emergencies. It has also been used to integrate with the Louisville Metro emergency responders for medical, police, fire and chemical emergencies.