

IS-800 National Response Plan, an Introduction Executive Summary

On February 28, 2003, President Bush issued Homeland Security Presidential Directive-5 (HSPD-5) directing the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a National Response Plan (NRP) and the National Incident Management System (NIMS). Previously, Federal incident management activities were loosely joined through several Federal response plans. The NRP now serves as the core national, all-hazards plan that provides the structure and mechanisms for national-level policy and operational coordination for domestic incident management. The NRP uses the NIMS to establish a nationwide template enabling government and nongovernmental responders to respond to all domestic incidents.

The NRP specifies how Federal resources will work with local governments and the private sector to respond to Incidents of National Significance (incidents requiring Department of Homeland Security (DHS) coordination – i.e. Presidentially declared disasters). The NRP is based on the premise that incidents are typically managed at the lowest possible geographic, organizational, and jurisdictional level.

Roles and Responsibilities

Table: NRP Roles and Responsibilities identifies the various groups outlined in the NRP and their roles and responsibilities in domestic incident management.

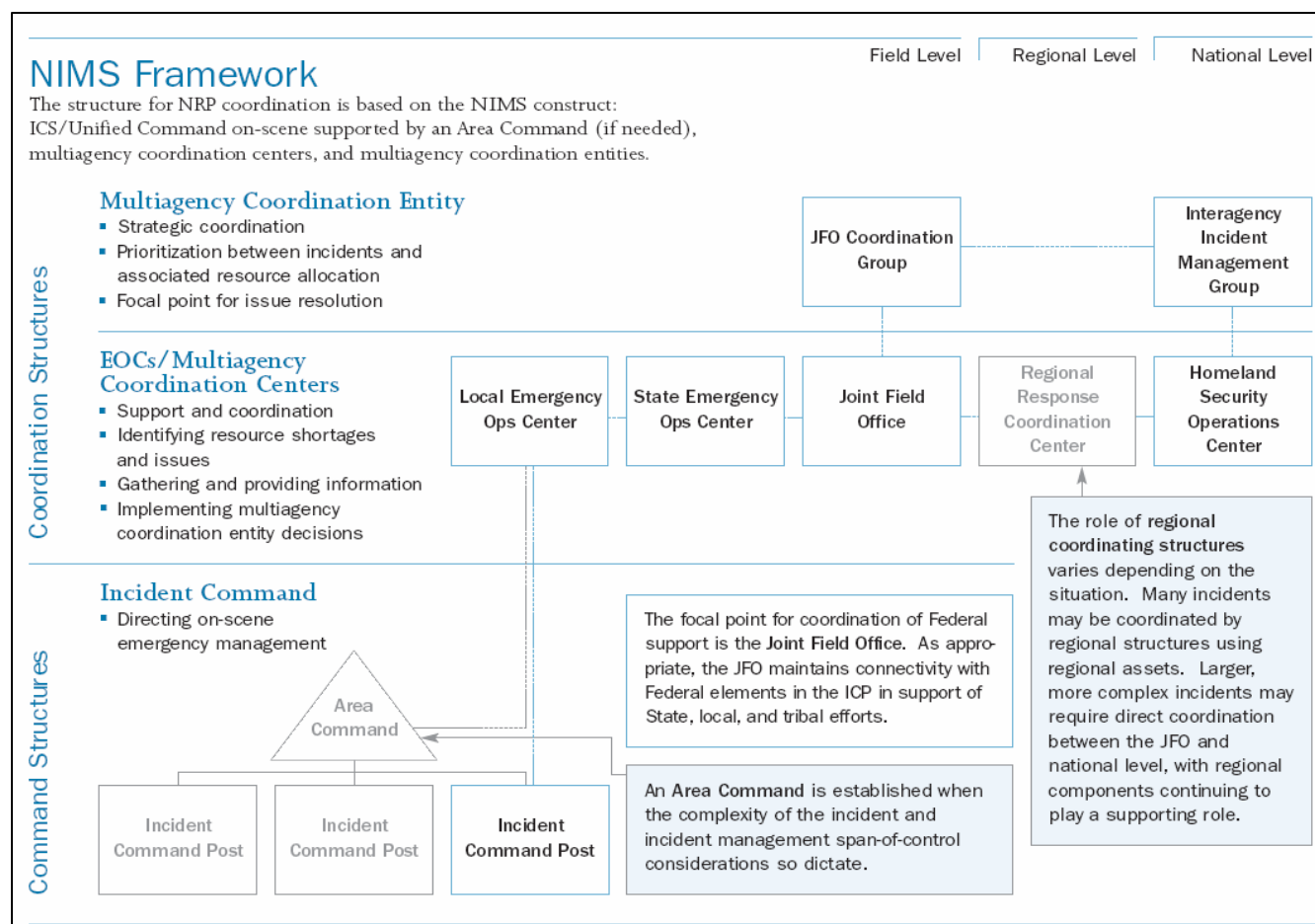
<i>NRP Roles and Responsibilities</i>		
Level/Group(s)		Incident Management Responsibilities
Federal	Secretary of Homeland Security	Assumes overall responsibility for domestic incident management
	Attorney General	Lead for criminal investigations of terrorist acts/threats
	Secretary of Defense	Authorizes defense support
	Secretary of State	Coordinates international activities
	Federal Departments/Agencies	Provides Federal support/resources; Coordinates and/or supports Emergency Support Function** (ESF) activities
State/Local/Tribal Governments		Public safety/welfare for jurisdiction
Nongovernmental/Private/Citizen		Provides supporting activities (hazardous operations owners may bear responsibilities under the law for incident response)

**The NRP uses a functional approach that groups Federal and certain private-sector capabilities into Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) to provide support, resources, program implementation, and services (fire, medical, public works, etc.).

Coordinating Structures

The NRP employs various Federal coordinating structures to manage Incidents of National Significance. *Table: NRP Coordinating Structures* outlines the roles of the NRP coordinating structures (see also attached figure: NIMS Framework).

NRP Coordinating Structures			
Level	NRP Coordinating Structures		Roles
Field	Incident Command Post (local)	ICP	Directs on-scene emergency management; manages on-scene operations
	Local Emergency Operations Center (local)	EOCs	Supports and coordinates local response efforts
	State Emergency Operations Center (State)	SOCs	Supports and coordinates State response efforts
	Joint Field Office	JFO	Temporary Federal facility that coordinates Federal assistance activities in/near the affected jurisdiction(s)
Regional	Regional Response Coordination Center	RRCC	Coordinates Federal regional response efforts; coordinates Emergency Response Team-A (ERT-A) deployment
National	Homeland Security Operations Center	HSOC	Primary national hub for Federal incident management, operational coordination and resource support
	National Response Coordination Center	NRCC	Federal resource deployment coordination; support Federal regional and field components; activate Emergency Response Teams (ERTs)
	Interagency Incident Management Group	IIMG	Facilitates strategic Federal domestic incident management coordination; Secretary of Homeland Security advisory body



Federal Field-Level Organizations and Teams

The JFO functions as the Federal NRP field-level coordinating structure to support on-scene efforts and implement State and Federal programs and functions. The JFO follows the Incident Command Structure (ICS) structure. Depending on the incident, the JFO structure will vary and may include the organizations/teams listed in *Table: NRP Field-Level Coordinating Structure: JFO*.

NRP Field-Level Coordinating Structure: JFO			
JFO Structure			
JFO Coordination Group (directs JFO activities)	Principle Federal Official (PFO)		Designated by/represents the Secretary of Homeland Security in the field; ensures Federal efforts are coordinated; primary point of contact for Secretary of Homeland Security
	Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO) (Stafford Act declarations)		Federal resources support activities; Federal lead if no PFO is designated
	Federal Resource Coordinator (FRC) (non-Stafford Act declarations)		Manages Federal-to-Federal support activities
	Senior Federal Law Enforcement Official (SFLEO)		Directs law enforcement operations; acts as the FBI Special Agent-in-Charge for terrorist incidents
	State Coordinating Officer (SCO)		State counterpart to the FCO; manages State incident management programs and activities
	Senior Federal Official (SFOs)		Represent other Federal departments or agencies with primary statutory responsibilities
	Others as needed		
JFO Coordination Staff	Chief of Staff	Safety Coordinator	Specialized assistance
		Liaison Officer(s)	Specialized assistance
		Infrastructure Liaison	Coordinates with critical infrastructure elements
		Others as needed	Specialized assistance
	External Affairs		Communications with external audiences (Public Affairs, etc.)
Defense Coordinating Officer (DCO)		Department of Defense's (DODs) point of contact	
JFO Sections	Operations	Law Enforcement Investigative Operations Branch/Joint Operations Center (JOC)	Established by the FBI SAC in the event of a terrorist incident; coordinate/direct law enforcement activities
		Security Operations Branch/Multiagency Command Center (MACC)	Established by the U.S. Secret Service; site security for National Special Security Events (NSSEs)
		Recovery and Mitigation Branch	Recovery issues (temporary housing, etc.); mitigation programs
	Planning		Provides information management/ situational awareness to JFO Coordination Group
	Logistics		Logistics support
	Finance/Admin		Financial management

Federal Emergency Response Teams (ERTs), activated by the NRCC, are deployed to aid in incident management. All ERTs are incorporated into the JFO as soon as it is established. ERTs are composed of FEMA staff and ESF personnel.

Emergency Response Teams (ERT)	
ERT-A: Advance	Initial deployment of Federal resources
ERT-N: National	Deploys for large-scale, high-impact events; may pre-deploy
Federal Incident Response Support Team (FIRST)	Forward component of the ERT-A
Domestic Emergency Support Team (DEST)	Technical support for potential/actual terrorist incidents; may act as a stand-alone advisory team to the FBI SAC

Incident Management Actions

The NRP identifies the following processes involved in incident management:

Notification, Assessment, Reporting, and Activation

- Federal, state, local, private-sector, and nongovernmental organizations report threats/incidents to the HSOC through existing jurisdictional reporting mechanisms. Terrorist threats are normally reported to a local/regional FBI agent assigned to the Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF). The JTTF then reports this information to the FBI Strategic Information and Operations Center (SIOC). If deemed credible, the FBI SIOC reports this information to the HSOC.
- HSOC receives threat/incident information and determines course of action. For Incidents of National Significance (actual/potential), the HSOC notifies the Secretary of Homeland Security.
- Secretary of Homeland Security assesses the situation, determines if the event meets the criteria for an Incident of National Significance, and will then activate NRP components, as appropriate.

Response

- If the Secretary of Homeland Security declares an Incident of National Significance, HSOC notifies Federal departments/agencies to staff the IIMG, NRCC, RRCC, and JFO. HSOC also notifies affected states.

NOTE: Under the Stafford Act, the Governor, as the State's chief executive, requests assistance from the Federal Government when resources will be, or are insufficient.

Recovery

- The JFO is the central coordination point delivering recovery assistance programs.

Mitigation (Reduces/eliminates long-term risk to people/property from hazards)

- The JFO's Recovery and Mitigation Branch coordinates Federal mitigation programs.

Demobilization

- When a centralized Federal coordination presence is no longer required in the affected area, the JFO Coordination Group implements the demobilization plan to close the JFO.

Remedial Actions/After-Action Report

- The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) conducts "hotwashes" to identify critical issues and lessons learned. The JFO Coordination Group submits an after-action report to DHS.