

Emergency Operations Planning and Management Overview

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) and Incident Command Structure (ICS) established by FEMA form the framework WSU's emergency operation planning.

National Incident Management System (NIMS)

NIMS provides a standardized approach to incident management, ensuring that all levels of the organization can work together effectively during emergencies. Key components include:

1. **Preparedness:** Involves planning, training, and exercises to ensure readiness for various incidents.
2. **Resource Management:** Establishes guidelines for identifying, mobilizing, and tracking resources during incidents.
3. **Communication and Information Management:** Promotes effective communication and information sharing among responders and stakeholders.
4. **Command and Coordination:** Outlines structures for leadership and coordination during incidents, emphasizing collaboration across agencies and jurisdictions.
5. **Ongoing Management and Maintenance:** Involves continual assessment and improvement of NIMS practices.

Incident Command System (ICS)

ICS is a standardized, on-scene management tool used during incidents to coordinate response efforts. Key features include:

1. **Flexible Structure:** ICS can be scaled to fit the complexity and needs of any incident, from small to large-scale emergencies.
2. **Unified Command:** Allows multiple agencies to work together under a single command structure, ensuring coordinated efforts.
3. **Clear Roles and Responsibilities:** Defines specific roles within the command structure, such as Incident Commander, Operations Chief, and Logistics Chief, which helps streamline decision-making and task assignment.
4. **Integrated Communication:** Ensures that all team members and agencies are using a common communication framework, which enhances situational awareness and coordination.
5. **Action Planning:** Focuses on developing and implementing a clear Incident Action Plan (IAP) that outlines objectives, strategies, and resources for managing the incident.

Integration of NIMS and ICS

NIMS and ICS work together to create a cohesive approach to emergency management. While NIMS provides the overarching framework for managing incidents across jurisdictions and disciplines, ICS offers the specific operational structure used to implement that framework on

the ground. Together, they facilitate effective emergency response, ensure the safety of responders and the public, and promote recovery efforts following an incident.

WSU implements the emergency management cycle of prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery:

- Prevention engages training and planning efforts.
- Protection implements engineered solutions before an emergent event.
- Mitigation occurs before and during an incident, eliminating or controlling hazards to reduce the probability and/or consequences of an emergency.
- Response includes those immediate actions during an emergency to sustain lives and protect property and the environment, and
- Recovery includes short-term efforts to restore critical functions with a long-term focus upon restoring normal operations.

WSU adheres to the practice of applying these principles at the lowest administrative or jurisdictional level possible and scaling up with additional support when needed. An incident response is first managed by the lead agency, determined by the nature of the incident e.g. police, fire, and/or medical personnel. Larger incidents scale up through the Incident Command Structure until the demand for resources requires the coordination afforded by Unified Command.

Similarly, WSU initiates prevention, protection, and mitigation efforts at the campus, college, school, department, and work unit level, with each administrative unit preparing in advance to respond to, and recover from incidents, incorporating the assistance from WSU Emergency Support Functions. The attached PowerPoint presentation presented to the Board of Regents in January 2023 provides additional details, and the full presentation to the Regents may be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QdKTofHkofU> (31.20/2:34:00).

On the Pullman campus, preparedness, response and recovery efforts are guided by the [Coordinated Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan \(C-CEMP\)](#), an agreement between WSU, the City of Pullman and Whitman County. On the Spokane, Vancouver, Tri-Cities and Everett campuses and other statewide locations, agreements, and relationships with first responders, local emergency management and government agencies support WSU's preparedness, response, and recovery efforts.

Event, Incident and Emergency Specific Guidance

WSU's Emergency Operations Plan is supplemented by Event Action Plans (EAPs) for large events such as football games, concerts, and commencement ceremonies. Additionally, Incident Action Plans (IAPs) detail emergency specific operations plans, such as the *WSU Pullman Police Protest Plan* for the 2024 commencement, and similar protest plans developed at other campuses for the 2024 commencement. Additional incident specific emergency procedures are available at <https://oem.wsu.edu/>.