

**MOORPARK CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA REPORT**

TO: The Honorable City Council

FROM: John Brand, Senior Management Analyst 

DATE: September 13, 2006 (CC Meeting of September 20, 2006)

SUBJECT: Consider Resolution Adopting the National Incident Management System for Disaster Response and Emergency Management

SUMMARY

The City Council is being asked to consider adopting the National Incident Management System (NIMS) to be in compliance with a Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD-5) to establish nationwide standard procedures for preparing for and responding to emergencies.

BACKGROUND

In February 2003, the President in Homeland Security Directive-5, directed the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to develop and administer a National Incident Management System (NIMS). The directive stated that, "... [NIMS] will provide a consistent nationwide approach for federal, state, and local governments to work effectively and efficiently together to prepare for, respond to, and recover from domestic incidents, regardless of cause, size, or complexity." Numerous compliance activities must be undertaken and completed by local governments to formally institute the NIMS. Formally adopting NIMS by resolution is necessary by the end of the federal fiscal year (September 30, 2006).

In 1995 the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) was implemented in California. The law stipulated that local governments must use SEMS and the Incident Command System (ICS) in responding to emergencies involving multiple jurisdictions or multiple agencies in order to be eligible for state funding of response related personnel costs. Local governments are required to use SEMS when a local emergency is declared or proclaimed or the local government emergency operations center (EOC) is activated. When assistance is needed, existing mutual aid agreements that are currently in place are available. Using SEMS and ICS for coordination and communication within the operational area (Ventura County) is essential to providing resources to the area of most need.

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The NIMS was built on the foundation of the successes of the SEMS and ICS developed in California. Many of the components involved in the NIMS are already an integral part of the system the City currently uses for emergency management activities. The NIMS is designed to utilize standardized terminology; standardized organizational structures; interoperable communications; consolidated action plans; unified command structures; personnel qualification standards; uniform standards for planning, training, and exercising; comprehensive resource management; and designated incident facilities during emergencies or disasters. The use of the NIMS will augment the City's ability to efficiently and effectively work together with federal, state, tribal and local governments, maintain first responder safety, and streamline incident management processes.

DISCUSSION

As indicated, the principles and concepts of NIMS are similar to SEMS. As with SEMS, the City of Moorpark needs to adopt NIMS formally in order to continue eligibility for federal grants and for reimbursement for costs expended during major emergency and disaster response and recovery operations. Internally, staff is updating the City of Moorpark Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and all other procedural documents. Additionally, the City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) procedures are being updated and key staff has received SEMS/NIMS certification training approved by FEMA on their roles and responsibilities during large scale emergencies.

Principal components of NIMS compliance include required training for all levels of disaster service workers, emergency responders, key Emergency Operations Center personnel, elected and appointed officials. It will also be necessary to modify and revise emergency response plans to include the NIMS and components of the Incident Command System. Jurisdictions are also mandated to complete "resource typing," a process of cataloging community response assets, including personnel and equipment. These and other activities are underway and will continue in the coming months. Additional NIMS training requirements are still being developed by the Department of Homeland Security. However, as compliance begins with formal adoption of the NIMS, staff recommends that the City Council adopt a resolution establishing the National Incident Management System as the standard for preparing for and responding to disaster incidents.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Adopt Resolution No. 2006-_____.

Attachment "A" NIMS Resolution

Attachment "A"

RESOLUTION NO. 2006-_____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MOORPARK, CALIFORNIA, ADOPTING THE NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR DISASTER RESPONSE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS, the President in Homeland Security Directive-5, directed the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to develop and administer a National Incident Management System, which would 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 disasters, regardless of cause, size, or complexity; and

WHEREAS, California pioneered the development of standardized incident management systems to respond to a variety of catastrophic disasters, including fires, earthquakes, floods, and landslide; and

WHEREAS, in the early 1970s, the California fire service, in partnership with the federal government, developed the seminal emergency incident command system that has become the model for incident management nationwide; and

WHEREAS; in 1993, California was the first state to adopt a statewide Standardized Emergency Management System for use by every emergency response organization, and implemented a system to ensure the continual improvement of the Standardized Emergency Management System; and

WHEREAS, California emergency management professionals have contributed their expertise to the development of the new National Incident Management System; and

WHEREAS, it is essential for responding to disasters that federal, state, local, and tribal organizations utilize standardized terminology; standardized organizational structures; interoperable communications; consolidated action plans; unified command structures; uniform personnel qualification standards; uniform standards for planning, training, and exercising; comprehensive resource management; and designated incident facilities during emergencies or disasters; and

WHEREAS, the California Standardized Emergency Management System substantially meets the objectives of the National Incident Management System; and

WHEREAS, the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks (9-11 Commission) recommended adoption of a standardized Incident Command System nationwide; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of California has directed his Office of Emergency Services and Office of Homeland Security in cooperation with the Standardized Emergency Management System Advisory Board to develop a program to integrate the National Incident Management System, to the extent appropriate, into the state's emergency management system.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MOORPARK DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The City of Moorpark will integrate the National Incident Management System, to the extent appropriate, into the emergency management system.

SECTION 2. The City of Moorpark will use the National Incident Management System which shall be consistent with the integration of the National Incident Management System and the Standardized Emergency Management System in California.

SECTION 3. The City Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this resolution is forwarded to the Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

SECTION 4. The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of the resolution and shall cause a certified resolution to be filed in the book of original resolutions.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 20th day of September, 2006.

Patrick Hunter, Mayor

ATTEST:

Deborah S. Traffenstedt, City Clerk