



Florida Kidney Disaster Coalition

ALL-HAZARDS EDUCATIONAL SERIES:

NIMS and ICS

In response to attacks on September 11, President George W. Bush issued Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 (HSPD-5) in February 2003. HSPD-5 called for a National Incident Management System (NIMS); identified steps for improved coordination of Federal, State, local, and private industry response to incidents; and described the way these agencies will prepare for such a response. One of the key features of NIMS is the Incident Command System (ICS). ICS is a standardized, on-scene, all-hazards incident management concept.

Each incident requires a response. Whether from different departments within the same jurisdiction, from mutual aid partners, or from State and Federal agencies, responders need to be able to work together, communicate with each other, and depend on each other.

You may have to work with your local Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to prepare for or respond to disasters. The EOC is a multi-agency coordination organization that provides support and coordination to the on-scene responders. **Understanding emergency management systems, policies, and language allows your facility staff to better work with local emergency management to provide the best planning and response for the kidney community.**

There are a few characteristics to remember about ICS:

Common Terminology and Clear Text

The ability to communicate is absolutely critical. All communications should be in plain English. Do not use codes, slang, abbreviations or jargon.

Span of Control

Span of control is the number of individuals or resources that one supervisor can manage effectively during an emergency. The recommended ratio is one (1) supervisor to five (5) employees (or patients).

Reliance on an Incident Action Plan

An Incident Action Plan (IAP) is an oral or written plan containing general objectives and the overall strategy for managing a disaster. This plan directs personnel to actions that should be taken within a certain timeframe.

At the simplest level, all Incident Action Plans must have four elements:

- What do we want to do?
- Who is responsible for doing it?
- How do we communicate with each other?
- What is the procedure if someone is injured?

For more information or to take NIMS or ICS training, visit
www.training.fema.gov/is