



National Association of SARA Title III Program Officials

Concerned with the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act

Practical Advice for Local Emergency Planning Committees

Issue 07-03

This is part of a continuing set of guidance and advice documents intended for Local Emergency Planning Committees and State Emergency Planning Commissions. These are intended to make observations on the practical aspects of local emergency planning and preparedness. It is assumed that the reader has some background in the provisions of EPCRA and the other applicable statutes and those details will not be restated here. As always, consult local and state statutes and

NIMS AND ICS COMPLIANCE FOR LEPCs

LEPCs are not response agencies. Nonetheless, awareness and training in NIMS and ICS are appropriate. This is true even though it should be expected that various members of the LEPC will hold NIMS and ICS training levels consistent with their duties.

It is NASTTPO's view that all LEPC members should complete the on-line FEMA IS-700: NIMS, An Introduction and the on-line IS-100: Introduction to ICS course. The benefit of the IS-100 series of courses is that there are some catering to specific community groups. These course are available at <http://training.fema.gov/IS/NIMS.asp> and are not time consuming.

NASTTPO has adopted this view for some very pragmatic reasons:

- First, NIMS and ICS are critical to the modern systems of emergency management. If an LEPC is to be relevant to the first responders in their community it is important that they have a background in these systems.
- Second, we agree with the statement of the NIMS Integration Center: "The benefit of NIMS is most evident at the local level, when a community as a whole prepares for and provides an integrated response to an incident." We do not believe this is feasible unless the LEPC embraces NIMS and ICS.
- Third, emergency services will be provided to key community organizations, such as schools, commercial enterprises and regulated facilities using NIMS and ICS. The LEPC needs to be able understand and explain these procedures in order to promote community safety.