



TOWN OF CARRBORO

Fire-Rescue Department

NORTH CAROLINA

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Overview of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and Incident Command System (ICS)

Purpose

This document provides a high-level overview of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and Incident Command System (ICS), and their relevance to the Town of Carrboro's emergency management framework.

What is NIMS?

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) is the federally established framework that guides coordinated incident management across all levels of government and partner organizations. It provides a common structure, standardized terminology, and scalable systems. Adoption is required for eligibility for certain federal preparedness and disaster funding programs.

What is ICS?

The Incident Command System (ICS) is the operational component of NIMS used for on-scene management. It establishes a clear chain of command, defined roles, and a scalable structure applicable to both emergencies and planned events.

Why This Matters to Carrboro

Formal adoption ensures compliance with federal and state requirements, supports funding eligibility, enhances coordination with regional partners, and institutionalizes a standardized approach to incident management.

Core Components

Command and Coordination; Resource Management; Communications and Information Management.

Operational Value

Supports unified command, span of control, accountability, and flexible response structures.

Local Application

Applied in EOC activations, severe weather response, public events, and multi-agency incidents. Adoption formalizes existing practices.

Conclusion

Adoption formalizes alignment with national standards and best practices, strengthens coordination, and supports continued funding eligibility.