



City of Woodland

REPORT TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

DATE: October 7, 2008

SUBJECT: National Incident Management System (NIMS)

Report in Brief

The utilization of a consistent and standard approach for inter-agency response to disasters is an essential element in order to ensure that personnel from various jurisdictions will work together in an effective and efficient manner. As required by the United States Department of Homeland Security, the City of Woodland must formally adopt the standard approach incorporated within the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt Resolution No. _____ formally approving the National Incident Management System, and that the Resolution be signed by the appropriate parties.

Background

In 1995 the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) was implemented in California. The law stipulated that local governments must use SEMS in responding to emergencies involving multiple jurisdictions or multiple agencies in order to be eligible for state funding of response related personnel costs. Therefore, local governments are required to use SEMS when a local emergency is declared or proclaimed or the local government Emergency Operation Center (EOC) is activated.

In 2004, the federal government through the Department of Homeland Security implemented the next phase of the EOC system, the National Incident Management System (NIMS). The principles and concepts of NIMS are the same as the SEMS with a few nuances. As with SEMS, the City of Woodland 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. Coordination and communication must be through Emergency Operation Centers (EOC). When assistance is needed the City uses existing mutual aid agreements that are currently in place. Coordination and communication within the operational area (Yolo County) is essential to providing the few resources to the area of most need.

Discussion

The underlying principle associated with SEMS and NIMS is that it is essential for emergency responders to utilize a standardized approach in order to ensure that personnel from different jurisdictions will effectively and efficiently work together. This must include 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. In the case of Woodland and Yolo County, emergency responders to an incident may include personnel from six separate law enforcement agencies, three separate professional and several different volunteer fire suppression organizations and various civilian organizations. Disasters that are regional in scope would involve resources from dozens of local jurisdictions as well as state and federal agencies and organizations such as the American Red Cross. Effective utilization of NIMS will enable emergency responders to get the job done when coordination is most urgently needed.

Fiscal Impact

There is no cost to approve and sign the resolution, adopting the National Incident Management System (NIMS). However, failure to approve and sign the resolution will result in the City of Woodland’s ineligibility for federal preparedness grants or reimbursement for costs expended during major emergency and disaster response and recovery operations.

Public Contact

Posting of the City Council agenda.

Recommendation for Action

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt Resolution No. _____ formally approving the National Incident Management System, and that the Resolution be signed by the appropriate parties.

Prepared by: Shannon Collins
Management Analyst

Reviewed by: Tod Reddish Fire Chief

Mark G. Deven
City Manager

Attachment

Resolution No: _____

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WOODLAND
ADOPTING THE NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NIMS)

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 landslides; 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 1992, California was the first state to adopt a statewide Standardized Emergency Management System for the 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,

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, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Woodland, will integrate the National Incident Management System, to the extent appropriate, into the emergency management system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Woodland utilizes 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; and

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Woodland City Council on October 7, 2008

AYES: _____

NAYES: _____

ABSENT: _____

ABSTAIN: _____

ATTEST:

Clerk/Secretary

Mayor