



Blue NIMS: Street Level Incident Command

Course Overview: The Blue NIMS course takes the fundamental principles taught by the FEMA National Incident Management System (NIMS) Incident Command System (ICS) and breaks the information down into an everyday practical application environment that is directed at “boots-on-the-ground” law enforcement. In this course, Officers learn by taking the ICS fundamentals and linking them with current practices and best practices in law enforcement and unified response operations.

Course Need: Law Enforcement operations throughout the nation require brave men and women of law enforcement to engage in operations as single response units or in small tactical teams. In these types of scenarios, the need to integrate with other public safety entities in multi-agency operations is minimal and operations can typically be managed through face-to-face interactions. However, when faced with the growing demands of complex incident responses it is paramount for initial arriving officers understand these fundamental principles so they can begin laying the framework for a complex incident response.

While law enforcement has historically invested much of the incident management training at the Supervisory level, today’s incidents require units on the street to begin attending and applying this training on everyday incidents. By applying these fundamentals on everyday incidents, habits will be established, relationships built, and the ability to response to a dynamic-complex incident will be made easier due to the repetitive application of the ICS model. This course provides the model to apply these principles on a single vehicle accident to a model for application at an active attacker incident.

Course Contributors: Harris County Fire Marshal’s Office
Harris County Sheriff’s Office
City of Houston Police and Fire Department

Current Actions: The HCFMO has successfully conducted training on Blue NIMS for the majority of the HCSO Command Staff from the rank of Major and up. HCFMO has also successfully conducted the Blue NIMS Train-the-Trainer with the HCSO and beginning August 29th the HCSO will conduct their first patrol level delivery of the Blue NIMS class.

HCFMO is currently piloting the delivery of the Blue NIMS course through a virtual “in-class” experience.