

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. C(12)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: June 20, 2006

TITLE: A Request to Adopt the National Incident Management System for Use by All Town Departments that Respond to Emergencies

DEPARTMENT: Fire	PUBLIC HEARING: YES ___ NO <u>x</u>
ATTACHMENTS: A. Resolution B. Homeland Security Presidential Directive/HSPD-5	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Interim Fire Chief, Travis Crabtree - 918-7349

PURPOSE

The purpose of this agenda item is request that the Board of Aldermen adopt the National Incident Management System (NIMS) as the management system to be used by all town departments and employees that respond to emergencies, including both manmade emergencies and natural disasters. The town staff recommends adoption of the attached resolution.

INFORMATION

Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 (Attachment B) directed by the President on February 28, 2003 directed the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to create and establish a single, comprehensive National Incident Management System ("NIMS") to be used throughout the United States. The ultimate goal of this system is to enable emergency responders at the national, state and local levels to work together more effectively to manage emergencies, irrespective of the cause, size or complexity. NIMS has already been adopted by the State of North Carolina and Orange County, and the Carrboro Fire Department has been using components of NIMS for several years.

As designed by the federal Department of Homeland Security, the NIMS framework provides the following key features:

1. The Incident Command Structure ("ICS"), which defines how emergency management agencies and workers respond to an emergency;
2. Multi-agency coordination systems, which define how different agencies in different jurisdictions and levels of government work together to manage emergencies; and
3. Public information systems, which refer to procedures and equipment necessary to timely and accurately communicate information to the public during a crisis.

Section 20 of Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5, mandates that local governments adopt the NIMS system to continue to be eligible for federal grants, other forms of assistance, and contracts that relate to emergency preparedness.

FISCAL IMPACT

The largest cost related to adopting NIMS is increased training requirements for town staff. This cost will be offset somewhat because NIMS training will replace some of the training that town staff are already required to take. Not adopting NIMS, however, will effectively make the town ineligible for all federal grants and assistance programs that relate to emergency preparedness, including Fire Act grants and money provided by FEMA to help cover the cost of responding to natural disasters. Not adopting NIMS might also force the town to pay back some previously granted federal funds.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff requests that the Board adopt the National Incident Management System as the primary incident management system to be used by the Town during all emergencies. The Board is also asked to direct town staff take any other actions necessary to ensure timely compliance with the NIMS program. A proposed resolution to this effect has been attached.