The National Incident Management System (NIMS) can help plan a “whole community” approach to preparedness.

The National Preparedness System

The National Preparedness Goal

A secure and resilient nation with the capabilities required across the whole community to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to and recover from the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk.

The National Preparedness System (NPS) outlines an organized process for everyone in the community — not just the emergency services — to assist in achieving the National Preparedness Goal through five mission areas: Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response and Recovery. The Federal Emergency Management Agency calls this the “whole community” approach.
Whole community requires everyone’s involvement in preparedness. It includes:

- Individuals and families.
- Businesses.
- Faith-based organizations.
- Nonprofit groups.
- Schools.
- Media outlets.
- All levels of government.

The NPS can help your community begin to plan its unified whole community approach to preparedness. For example, it identifies 15 core capabilities within the Response mission area for which communities must plan and coordinate efforts to save lives, protect property and meet basic human needs after a catastrophic incident.

The NPS is made up of six segments and uses supporting tools and resources — including NIMS — to help communities prepare across mission areas. The six segments are:

- Identifying and assessing risk.
- Estimating capability requirements.
- Building and sustaining capabilities.
- Planning to deliver capabilities.
- Validating capabilities.
- Reviewing and updating.

Whether your fire or Emergency Medical Services department manages or supports an incident or is responsible for core capabilities in some or all five mission areas, the NPS provides you with a path forward for a united community effort.

For more information about the NPS and how to start the conversation with community members, visit www.fema.gov.

For more information, contact:

Thomas Murray
Fire Program Specialist

| Thomas.murray2@fema.dhs.gov |
| 301-447-1588 |