

Emergency Management Standards and Schools

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There are no nationally-adopted emergency management standards for schools, but the U.S. Department of Education's [Practical Information on Crisis Planning: A Guide for Schools and Communities](#), which provides a four-phase approach to school emergency planning activities, is widely used throughout the country. In addition, many states and local school districts have their own emergency management mandates, policies, and procedures, often based on this guide.

A number of emergency management standards intended for voluntary adoption by emergency response organizations are produced by standards-making organizations such as the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), the Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS), and ASTM International (formerly the American Society for Testing and Materials).¹

FEMA's [National Incident Management System \(NIMS\)](#) — a nationwide, comprehensive approach for addressing all hazards — recommends the following voluntary standards for emergency management use. Schools are encouraged to review these standards carefully and to adopt, where applicable, those that meet their needs. Questions about their application should be addressed to your local or state emergency response organizations.²

¹ ASTM is currently drafting ASTM WK 8908, [Standard Guide for School Preparedness and All Hazard Response](#). No publication date has been announced.

² Refer to the "NIMS Recommended Standards List" on the [NIMS Resource Center](#) webpage. The Federal Emergency Management Agency is a part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

- NFPA 1561, [Standard on Emergency Services Incident Management System Overview](#). Defines and describes the essential elements of an incident management system that promotes coordination among responding agencies.
- NFPA 1600, [Standard on Disaster/Emergency Management and Business Continuity Programs](#). Provides a foundation for disaster/emergency management planning and operations and describes common elements, techniques, and processes.
- NFPA 1221, [Standard for Installation, Maintenance, and Use of Emergency Services Communications Systems](#). Covers the installation, performance, operation, and maintenance of public emergency services communications systems and facilities.
- ANSI INCITS 398, [Information Technology — Common Biometric Exchange Formats Framework \(CBEFF\)](#). Describes the data elements necessary for biometric data interchange among proprietary application programs.
- IEEE 1512, [Standard for Common Incident Management Message Sets for Use by Emergency Management Centers](#). Provides definitions, specific messages, data frames, and data elements for communicating information relating to traffic incidents, public safety, and hazardous cargo.
- [OASIS Emergency Data Exchange Language \(EDXL\) Distribution Element v1.0](#). Provides a standard message distribution structure for data sharing among emergency information systems using the XML-based emergency data exchange language.
- [OASIS Common Alerting Protocol v1.1](#). Provides a general format for exchanging all-hazard emergency alerts and public warnings, allowing a consistent warning message to be disseminated simultaneously over many different warning systems.

Additional Resources

- **NIMS Resource Center.** Provides complete information about NIMS and its extensive resources, <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/index.shtm>
- **National Integration Center, Incident Management Systems Integration Division (IMSID).** Manages the NIMS program and publishes the standards, guidelines, and compliance protocols for federal, state, tribal, and local governments to implement NIMS, <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/AboutNIMS.shtm>
- **NIMS Implementation Activities for Schools and Higher Education Institutions, U.S. Department of Education.** Presents a set of key school and campus emergency management activities to enhance the relationship among schools and campuses, their respective local governments, and their community partners as they communicate, collaborate, and coordinate on NIMS activities, <http://rems.ed.gov/index.cfm?event=NIMS>
- **Introduction to the Incident Command System, I-100, for Schools.** A free online, independent study course provided by FEMA's Emergency Management Institute, developed collaboratively by the Departments of Education and Homeland Security for use by K-12 personnel, <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/IS100sca.asp>

References

Links to the publications referenced herein are as follows:

- NIMS Resource Center, <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/RelatedDocuments.shtm>
- NFPA 1600, <http://www.nfpa.org/catalog/product.asp?title=Code-1600-2007-Disaster-Emergency-Management-and-Business-Continuity&category%5Fname=&pid=160007&target%5Fpid=160007&src%5Fpid=&link%5Ftype=search&cookie%5Ftest=1>
- NFPA 1221, <http://www.nfpa.org/catalog/product.asp?title=Code-1600-2007-Disaster-Emergency-Management-and-Business-Continuity&category%5Fname=&pid=160007&target%5Fpid=160007&src%5Fpid=&link%5Ftype=search&cookie%5Ftest=1>
- ANSI INCITS 398, <http://webstore.ansi.org/RecordDetail.aspx?sku=ANSI+INCITS+398-2008>
- IEEE 1512, http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpl/freeabs_all.jsp?arnumber=1673309
- OASIS v1.0, http://docs.oasis-open.org/emergency/edxde/v1.0/EDXL-DE_Spec_v1.0.pdf
- OASIS v1.1, http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/download.php/15135/emergency-CAPv1.1-Corrected_DOM.pdf
- ASTM WK 8908, <http://www.astm.org/DATABASE.CART/WORKITEMS/WK8908.htm>

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