

National Incident Management System (NIMS)

August 26, 2005

WHEREAS, Homeland Security Directive (HSPD)-5 directed the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to develop and administer a National Incident Management System (NIMS), 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 domestic incidents, regardless of cause, size or complexity; and

WHEREAS, the collective input and guidance from all Federal, State, local and tribal homeland security partners has been, and will continue to be, vital to the ongoing development, effective implementation and utilization of a comprehensive NIMS; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary and desirable that all Federal, State, local and tribal emergency agencies and personnel coordinate their efforts to effectively and efficiently provide the highest levels of incident management; and

WHEREAS, to facilitate the most efficient and effective incident management it is critical 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 NIMS standardized procedures for managing personnel, communications, facilities and resources will improve the State's ability to utilize federal funding to enhance local and state agency readiness, maintain first responder safety, and streamline incident management processes; and

WHEREAS, the Incident Command System components of NIMS are already an integral part of various incident management activities throughout the State, including current emergency management training programs; and

WHEREAS, the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks (9-11 Commission) recommended adoption of a standardized Incident Command System. NOW THEREFORE, I, James H. Douglas, by virtue of the power vested in me as Governor, do hereby establish the National Incident Management System (NIMS) as the State standard for incident management.

This Executive Order shall take effect upon signing.

Witness my name hereunto subscribed and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont hereunto affixed at Montpelier this 26th day of August, 2005.

James H. Douglas, Governor

By the Governor:

Neale F. Lunderville, Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 03-05