

2009 Homeland Security Grant Requirements

Frequently Asked Questions

National Fire Incident Reporting System(NFIRS) Resource Mobilization NIMSCAST

The purpose of this document is to provide answers to several frequently asked questions related to requirements of the grant programs listed above. For more specific information, please contact your assigned GOHS Grant Manager.

General Questions

- Q. When will a list of noncompliant agencies be provided to the Regions?
A. Reports will be provided quarterly to each of the Regional Homeland Security Coordinators. Specifically, reports will be run on April 1, July 1, October 1, and January 1.
- Q. Can grant funding be used to purchase items on behalf of a non-compliant agency?
A. No. Recipients of grant funded items must be in compliance prior to taking receipt of the items.
- Q. What happens in the event that an agency never becomes compliant during the period of performance of the grant?
A. A budget modification will be required to reallocate funds to an agency that is compliant.

NIMSCAST

- Q. Are NIMS compliance and NIMSCAST Compliance the same thing?
A. No. The NIMS Compliance Assessment Tool (NIMSCAST) is a self assessment instrument for State, territorial, tribal, local, private sector, and non-governmental organizations to evaluate, define and report their jurisdiction's achievement of all NIMS implementation activities.

An agency must answer all questions in the NIMSCAST tool to be NIMSCAST compliant. They may answer a question negatively. Any resulting corrective action plan will show effort toward remedy of a shortfall.

- Q. How often does a local agency need to update its NIMSCAST information?
A. Compliance reporting must be completed and updated annually into the NIMSCAST System. The deadline for submission is September 30 of each year and more often if desired.
- Q. What levels of government are responsible for reporting into NIMSCAST?
A. Information must be reported at the county level. However, larger municipalities are also encouraged to begin this process in anticipation that it will be required in the near future. Any direct recipients of funding must also comply with NIMSCAST.

- Q. Who can help a local agency set up a NIMSCAST account?
- A. Municipalities should contact their county emergency manager who can assist in establishing new NIMSCAST accounts. Any of the Colorado Division of Emergency Management Regional Field Managers can assist with NIMSCAST accounts.
- Q. What technical assistance is available to local governments with regard to NIMSCAST?
- A. Colorado Division of Emergency Management Regional Field Managers can assist with most technical matters or questions. Robyn Knappe, CDEM State Training Manager, can also assist at the state level or work with FEMA/NIMSCAST developers to resolve any technical questions.

NFIRS

- Q. What is NFIRS?
- A. NFIRS stands for National Fire Incident Reporting System. NFIRS is a national standardized reporting system used by U.S. fire departments to report fires and other incidents to which they respond and to maintain records of these incidents in a uniform manner. The Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-498) authorizes the National Fire Data Center in the United States Fire Administration (USFA) to gather and analyze information on the magnitude of the Nation's fire problem, as well as its detailed characteristics and trends. The Act further authorizes the USFA to develop uniform data reporting methods, and to encourage and assist state agencies in developing and reporting data. In order to carry out the intentions of the Act, the National Fire Data Center has established the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS).

The NFIRS has two objectives: to help State and local governments develop fire reporting and analysis capability for their own use, and to obtain data that can be used to more accurately assess and subsequently combat the fire problem at a national level. To meet these objectives, the USFA has developed a standard NFIRS package that includes incident and casualty forms, a coding structure for data processing purposes, manuals, computer software and procedures, documentation and a National Fire Academy training course for utilizing the system.

The NFIRS reporting format is consistent with the National Fire Protection Association Standard 901, "Uniform Coding for Fire Protection" 2001 version. The current version of NFIRS, version 5.0, was released in January 1999. NFIRS 5.0 expands the collection of data beyond fires to include the full range of fire department activity on a national scale. It is a true all-incident reporting system.

- Q. Which agencies must report into NFIRS?
- A. Fire response agencies who have received Federal Fire Act grant funding and / or are direct or indirect recipients of State Homeland Security Grant funding must report into the National Fire Information Reporting System (NFIRS).

- Q. What constitutes compliance with NFIRS?
A. Agencies that submit NFIRS data to the Division of Fire Safety annually from the time a grant was received are compliant.
- Q. If an agency is not currently compliant with NFIRS, what needs to be done to become compliant?
A. The agency must register and begin reporting into NFIRS to become compliant.
- Q. How frequently do agencies need to report into the system to be compliant?
A. Incident reports must be received at least annually to determine if an agency has been reporting into NFIRS.
- Q. Who can a local agency contact for more information regarding NFIRS?
A. Please contact Marlinda Acevedo with the Division of Fire Safety at marlinda.acevedo@cdps.state.co.us with any questions.

Resource Mobilization

- Q. What is the Resource Inventory?
A. The Colorado State Emergency Resource Mobilization Plan, including the State of Colorado Emergency Resource Inventory website, was developed pursuant to state statute and supports the Colorado Emergency Act. The Resource Inventory is a web-based computer inventory of resources that can be used for emergency operations.

The *State of Colorado Emergency Resource Inventory Report website* allows agencies to list all TYPED resources into the state resource database.

While often confused with ROSS (Resource Ordering and Status Systems), the Colorado Emergency Resource Inventory Report website is a user friendly system that allows local jurisdictions to report their resources and the Division of Fire Safety to record those resources in ROSS. ROSS is then used to order and manage resources during an emergency.

- Q. How do I access the State Resource Inventory Report?
A. The State Resource Inventory Report is accessible at two locations; The Colorado Division of Fire Safety home page at <http://dfs.state.co.us>, lower right side of the page under “**State of Colorado Emergency Resource Mobilization Plan**” follow the link to “**Emergency Resource Mobilization Inventory Website**” or directly at <https://mobilization.state.co.us> The data is secured with log-on permissions and is password protected.
- Q. Which agencies must report into Resource Inventory?
A. Reporting to the State of Colorado Emergency Resource Inventory Report is required for all agencies that own resources covered by current typing standards. For a list of typing standards, please visit <https://mobilization.state.co.us>

- Q. What constitutes compliance with Resource Inventory?
A. Quarterly updating of resource and agency information.
- Q. How frequently do agencies need to report into the system to be compliant?
A. Resources must be updated quarterly.
- Q. Who can a local agency contact for more information regarding resource mobilization?
A. Agencies may contact the Division of Fire Safety and Bill Miederhoff at William.miederhoff@cdps.state.co.us with questions or for assistance.