

## **INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM**

March 2005

The Homeland Security Presidential Directive-5 (HSPD-5) was signed in February of 2003. HSPD-5 contains specific criteria for state, territorial, local and tribal jurisdictions to qualify for 2005 and beyond Homeland Security grants. Those criteria are:

- All first responders complete the NIMS Awareness Course: "National Incident Management System, An Introduction" IS700.
- Formally recognize the NIMS and adopt NIMS principles and policies. States, territories, tribes and local entities should establish legislation, executive orders, resolutions, or ordinances to formally adopt the NIMS.
- Determine which NIMS requirements already have been met and develop strategies for addressing gaps.
- Develop a strategy and timeframe for full statewide NIMS implementation during FY2005.
- Institutionalize the use of the Incident Command System. All federal, state, territory, tribal and local jurisdictions are required to adopt ICS in order to be compliant with the NIMS.

Presently, a small group within the public safety community is working on a countywide incident command policy. This effort has as its major goal the institutionalization of the Incident Command System within Livingston County. Once a first draft has been assembled by the working group, additional public safety officers and officials will be tasked with refining and perfecting a final draft for approval by the 9-1-1 Administrative Oversight Board.

The policy will establish minimum training for first responders, safety officers and incident commanders. It will also outline the authority of an incident commander, as well as address when an incident commander may wish to tap the authority of other officials, such as the Emergency Management Program Coordinator or the Chairman of the Livingston County Board of Commissioners.

The policy will not be an incident command instruction manual. It will require an incident commander to be properly trained to exercise command or relinquish that command upon arrival of a qualified public safety officer.