

# National Strategy for All-Hazards Incident Management Teams (FY22–FY26)

Effective incident and disaster management reduces the injuries and suffering of victims, and enables needed resources to arrive, mitigate, and stabilize an incident or disaster more efficiently, potentially reducing the need or duration of Federal assistance.

All-Hazards Incident Management Teams enhance the nation’s capability to manage disasters and other incidents by providing Operational Coordination and effective management of on-scene resources. To provide the response community with the greatest degree of resiliency and preparedness to accomplish their mission, state, local, Tribal, Territorial (SLTT), and the Federal government need to enhance the preparedness of this critical resource.

## Vision

The nation’s SLTT entities maintain All-Hazards Incident Management Teams (AHIMTs) that are strategically located, staffed, trained, equipped, experienced, and capable of being rapidly deployed, on request, to assist SLTT and the Federal government in providing the core capability of Operational Coordination at the scene of an event, incident, or disaster. National level coordination of the development and standards for this important core capability is achieved through a Program Management Office (PMO) within the Federal government.

## Strategic Goals and Objectives

### (1) Support the Coordination of an AHIMT Program within the Federal government

Advocate for, support, and implement an AHIMT PMO to support the culture of preparedness to be ready for disasters by assisting SLTT governments in achieving disaster resiliency by improving their capability to effectively manage incidents and disasters within their jurisdiction.

- A. Provide guidance, model documents, and best practices to streamline development, maintenance, and readiness of AHIMTs
  - I. Expand the All-Hazards qualifications and credentialing process to include all complexity level types
- B. Develop a national endorsement framework to support implementation of endorsements by disciplines and agencies that will enable the rapid sharing of incident management personnel between disciplines
- C. Provide support to gather the necessary metrics and data-driven analytics to determine readiness, measure national capability and reserves, and to enhance the performance of the AHIMT program
  - I. Create a national deployment coordination center that tracks all teams and AHIMT qualified individuals nationwide, their capabilities, and their availability for emergency and planned events

- II. Codify the language and encourage AHIMTs to utilize the 3-Tiered Preparedness system metrics to drive local readiness objectives and standardize the teams nationally
- D. Encourage State Homeland Security Strategies to include AHIMTs as a resource. Provide guidance to jurisdictions in the use of grant funding opportunities to develop, train, exercise, and provide equipment and equipment caches for SLTT sponsored AHIMTs
- E. Incentivize the use of AHIMTs during declared disasters within the FEMA Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide by fully reimbursing applicants the cost of utilizing AHIMT personnel for Operational Coordination functional responsibilities

## **(2) Support Preparedness at All Levels of Government**

Advocate for, support, and implement Federal and state legislation and programs which include provisions for funding, training, equipping, sustaining, and appropriately utilizing AHIMTs. Support efforts to ensure AHIMTs and associated preparedness activities are properly supported and funded at all levels of government.

- A. Ensure response and recovery missions are appropriately executed and successful by establishment of a national network of standardized AHIMT resources
- B. Grant the Federal Government, through FEMA and other agencies, the authority to assist SLTT governments in developing and maintaining AHIMTs for the purpose of responding to potential, emerging, and ongoing emergency incidents and disasters occurring within their jurisdiction
- C. Enable the Federal agencies to access, when needed, those critical AHIMT response resources to support federal response and recovery operations, including but not limited to emergencies and major disasters declared under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act

## **(3) Support the Supplemental Response Team Program**

Provide a scalable and capable surge workforce that can provide FEMA with highly trained and experienced personnel through the development and implementation of a Supplemental Response Team (SRT) program. The SRT program enhances the Federal government disaster response operations, resiliency, and increases the nation's capacity to respond to catastrophic disasters by engaging AHIMT personnel, and preparing them to assist FEMA by deploying as part of the federal disaster workforce.

## **(4) Support the Federal Wildfire Mission**

Federal and State land management agencies have a long history of using IMTs to manage large and/or complex wildfires as well as non-fire incidents. Although many positions on wildland fire IMTs require wildfire specific knowledge, skills, and abilities, other positions require expertise in core ICS functions. All Hazard IMTs have the core ICS expertise to enhance and augment, the capacity and capabilities of existing wildland fire IMTs to meet increasing national and state response demands.

- A. Enhance the Federal and State land management agencies' resiliency and capacity to manage wildland fires by supporting existing wildland fire IMTs with appropriately trained AHIMT members
- B. Advocate for cooperation among State emergency management and State forestry agencies to allow for shared resources among wildland fire IMTs and AHIMTs, as well as mobilization of AHIMTs through the wildland fire mobilization system
- C. Support and prepare AHIMTs for support to wildland fire operations as appropriate, including
  - I. Managing a fire incident with the support of key wildland fire positions supporting Command and General Staff
  - II. independently supporting activities under direction of a wildland fire IMT (e.g., coordinating evacuation/re-entry of a jurisdictional area)
  - III. independently supporting a GACC or other entity (e.g., managing a mobilization center)
  - IV. Continue to align and share areas of mutual effort with interagency wildland fire IMTs to ensure ongoing standardization, succession, and interoperability