

NIMS Alert

RESOURCE TYPING GUIDANCE

On October 20, 2004, FEMA and the NIMS Integration Center (NIC) released the *National Mutual Aid Glossary of Terms and Definitions* and the *Resource Typing Definitions* for 120 different kinds of resources. The resource typing definitions were prepared by working groups consisting of subject matter experts and Federal, State, and local responders who would be "using" the definitions to inventory their assets and to support mutual aid requests. In addition to the persons directly involved in the working groups, there were over 300 corresponding members who reviewed working drafts and participated in the formation of these definitions. The Glossary and Resource Typed Definitions can be accessed at www.fema.gov/nims/mutual_aid.shtm.

Since the release of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the National Response Plan (NRP), there has been more intense focus on these definitions since resource typing and mutual aid are key components of NIMS. Some States and localities are looking at the resource typing definitions, concluding that there are differences and initiating new resource typing definitions that better reflect their needs. NIMS is based on the need for standard definitions and practices. Developing separate definitions will in effect negate the fundamental idea that all responders should be using common definitions when ordering or receiving assets through mutual aid. Systems that do not conform to these common definitions are not compliant with NIMS.

The NIMS Integration Center recognizes that in some instances changes need to be made to the current definitions and in other instances entire new definitions may be created. The NIMS Integration Center will facilitate this process to ensure that we maintain a consistent nationwide approach to resource typing and consistency across the nation.

Recommend changes or additions will be compiled and fed into the resource typing working groups for consideration on a quarterly basis. Working group membership will remain dynamic so that we can have leaders in these function areas either directly represented in the group or include a corresponding member(s).

Resource Typing Form Instructions

Please complete the resource typing form in its entirety and submit to NIMS-Integration-Center@dhs.gov to be processed. It may be accessed from the NIMS Homepage, listed under "New from the NIMS Integration Center." Please note it is important to list the names and contact information of individuals you recommend the NIC should include when addressing your comment/recommendation. If you have any questions or problems downloading the form, please contact NIMS-Integration-Center@dhs.gov.