

## NIMS Courses Required for Ohio EMS Providers

Attention Program Directors:

As you probably know, National Incident Management System (NIMS) training for first responders was introduced by the federal government in 2003 as a way of improving the response to a domestic incident. Pursuant to Homeland Security Presidential Directives 5 (HSPD-5) and 8 (HSPD-8), the Division of EMS is required to implement new fire training requirements – to include NIMS training and preparedness components – into its rules before the end of the federal fiscal year (Friday, September 29, 2006).

These new training requirements will help firefighters effectively prepare for, prevent, respond to, and recover from domestic incidents.

Filing a rule under the normal process with the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR) takes at least 76 days. Because filing through JCARR will not meet the above deadline, the Division of Emergency Medical Services has requested that the Governor approve the filing of an emergency rule – which would become effective immediately– in order to incorporate the above requirements by September 29.

The Division has proposed to amend Rule 4765-11-03(B)(7) of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC). This amendment states that firefighter applicants must submit documentation of successful completion of the IS-700 course (pertaining to NIMS) and IS-100 course (pertaining to incident command systems) prior to obtaining a certificate of completion from a fire service training program. The fire service training program must maintain documentation of compliance in student and/or course files.

These courses can be accessed at the FEMA website:

<http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/IScrslist..asp> (online course)

[http://www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/nims\\_compliance.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/nims_compliance.shtm) (classroom-based courses).

If an Executive Order is issued by the Governor, the Division will file OAC 4765-11-03 as an emergency rule and it will become effective immediately. You will then have to begin complying with the above training requirements. The Division plans to also file OAC 4765-11-03 through JCARR, at which point the Division will conduct a public hearing in order to receive comments on the proposed changes.

If you have any questions regarding the NIMS requirements or the potential effective date of the above rule, please contact Doug Orahoad at 800-233-0785.