

Incident Response Training

If you are interested in supporting the Coast Guard by serving in an Incident Command responding to incidents like oil spills, natural disasters or terrorist incidents, there are now concrete training requirements that you can satisfy by independent online study.

The *U. S. Coast Guard NIMS-NRP Implementation Plan*, December 2004, requires that "all Coast Guard personnel (active, reserve, civilian, and Auxiliary) potentially involved in response to incidents" complete all four of the courses described below by 30 September 2005.

The *National Response Plan* (NRP), published in December 2004, establishes a comprehensive all-hazards approach to enhance the ability of the United States to manage domestic incidents. The plan incorporates best practices and procedures from incident management disciplines and integrates them into a unified structure. It forms the basis of how the federal government coordinates with state, local, and tribal governments and the private sector during incidents. An online course introducing the NRP is available at <http://www.training.fema.gov/emiweb/IS/is800.asp>

The *National Incident Management System* (NIMS), published in March 2004, integrates effective practices in emergency preparedness and response into a comprehensive national framework for incident management. An online course introducing NIMS is available at <http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/IS/is700.asp>

The *Incident Command System* (ICS), in use for several years, has been adopted as part of NIMS and is the combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures and communications operating within a common operational structure, designed to aid in domestic incident management activities. This is the system used by the Coast Guard to respond to incidents like oil spills, natural disasters, terrorist attacks, etc. ICS is the subject of several courses, two of which are available online:

IS-100 *Introduction to the Incident Command System* (ICS-100) is available at <http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/IS/is100.asp>. (If you previously completed another ICS-100 course, that will be sufficient.)

IS-200 *Basic Incident Command System* (ICS-200) is available at <http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/IS/is200.asp>. (If you previously completed another ICS-200 course, that will be sufficient.)

In addition to the courses listed above, those in a leadership role, including coxswains or pilots in command, are required to complete ICS-300, *Intermediate Incident Command System*, a three-day classroom course, by 30 September 2006.

Information on the use of the National Emergency Training Center (NETC) Virtual Campus is at <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/downloads/VCHowTo.pdf>

J. B. Hall, DCP-04
2004 Yukon Harbor Rd SE
Port Orchard WA 98366
j.b.hall@wavecable.com
360-871-8198 (phone & fax)
360-340-8094 (cell)