

An Incident Management System (IMS) for Ontario



What is IMS?

- **“Incident Management System”**
 - **“A system that defines the roles and responsibilities to be assumed by personnel and the operating procedures to be used in the management and direction of emergency incidents and other functions.”**
 - **National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1561**

Why is IMS needed?

- **Lessons learned from events such as:**
 - the ice storm of 1998 that hit eastern Ontario, Quebec, and New Brunswick;
 - the September 11th, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States;
 - the 2003 outbreaks of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in the Greater Toronto Area;
 - and the massive power failure of August 14th, 2003

“Since 9/11, a consensus is emerging within the emergency response community that a clear [Incident Management] system should be required of all response agencies.”

*National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States
Preliminary Report – May 19, 2004*

Why IMS?

- Provincial commitment to an ever-improving system of emergency management
- Federal government commitment to improving emergency management and coordination to bolster national capabilities
- Emergency management has become a high profile public concern with low tolerance for failure
- A growing body of 'lessons learned' from previous emergencies
- Many jurisdictions have adopted an IMS
- Diverse mix of emergency management organizations, each with its own mandate
- There is no single province-wide system to ensure effective coordination.

How is Ontario's IMS being developed?

- **Emergency Management Ontario (EMO), is leading the development and introduction of IMS across the province.**
- **Using a collaborative approach with key stakeholders**
 - **Steering Committee**
 - **Working Groups – concentrate effort on specific areas of focus, for example: communications, training and forms management**

Who is involved? (IMS Steering Committee)

- **Federal government:**
 - Department of National Defence (DND), Joint Task Force (Central) (JTFC)
 - Public Safety Canada (PSC)
- **Provincial government:**
 - Emergency Management Ontario (EMO)
 - Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services (MCSCS)
 - Ministry of Government Services (MGS)
 - Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC)
 - Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR)
 - Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM)
 - Ontario Provincial Police (OPP)
- **Municipal governments:**
 - City of Cornwall
 - City of Greater Sudbury
 - City of Ottawa
 - City of Toronto
 - City of Windsor
 - Durham Region
 - Region of Peel
 - The Township of Tarbutt & Tarbutt Additional

Cont'd...

Who is involved? (IMS Steering Committee) cont'd

- **Associations:**

- Association of Municipal Emergency Medical Services of Ontario (AMEMSO)
- Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO)
- Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
- Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP)
- Ontario Association of Emergency Managers (OAEM)
- Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs (O AFC)
- Ontario Hospital Association (OHA)
- Ontario Municipal Administrators Association (OMAA)
- Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA)
- Ontario Public Works Association (OPWA)

- **Private Sector:**

- TransCAER, Ontario Regional Office

- **Non-governmental organizations:**

- St. John Ambulance
- Canadian Red Cross
- Salvation Army - Ontario Central Divisional Headquarters

ICS vs IMS

- **One of the most important 'best practices' that has been incorporated into the IMS is the Incident Command System (ICS), a standard, on-scene, all-hazards incident management system already in use by firefighters, hazardous materials teams, rescuers and emergency medical teams.**
- **IMS is built on the ICS “operating platform”**
- **IMS expands on ICS to better meet interagency requirements for incident responses**

Key considerations

- **A standardized system should:**
 - **Be consistent and inter-operable**
 - **Allow Ontario's stakeholders & partners to contribute to the development and ownership of an IMS for Ontario**
 - **Contribute to making emergency response more cost effective**
 - **Incorporate those organizations not already using IMS**
 - **Help improve the use of technology**
 - **Provide guidance on implementation issues**
 - **Improve effectiveness and cost efficiency**

Vision for IMS in Ontario

- **A provincial system that:**
 - **provides functional interoperability at all levels of emergency management within Ontario**
 - **affords requisite training materials and opportunities to all emergency management professionals and organizations in Ontario**
 - **is flexible enough to handle coordinated emergency management between Ontario and the federal government of Canada, other provinces, and contiguous states, and during municipal, provincial, national, or international emergency response operations**

The Road to Success

- **Cooperative, collective approach with mutual respect**
- **Building on proven and tested approaches in use in other jurisdictions**
- **Strong support in the emergency management community for the implementation of IMS**

Benefits of IMS

- **The use of the Incident Management System during an incident will contribute to the protection of lives, property, the environment and the economy. IMS will:**
 - **Provide an efficient, flexible and consistent structure to manage all incidents at all levels**
 - **Allow incidents to be managed in a cohesive manner**
 - **Facilitate the response to incidents and cooperation between response organizations and jurisdictions**

Impacts of IMS

- **The investment of resources will vary based on each organization's current needs and circumstances with respect to adopting IMS**
- **For some organizations, it will likely require targeted and appropriate training and communications efforts**

What is the Timetable?

- **Three-year project (2006 - 2009), with the following benchmarks:**
 - **Project Management Structure established – Fall 2006**
 - **Project Communications Plan developed – Spring 2007**
 - **Project Communications Plan implemented – Spring 2007 and ongoing**
 - **Training strategy developed - Spring 2007**
 - **Stakeholder consultation on Doctrine – Fall 2007**
 - **IMS for Ontario doctrine approved – Winter 2007/2008**
 - **Training strategy implemented - Ongoing to 2009**
 - **Supporting materials developed - Winter 2007/2008, and ongoing; and**
 - **IMS for Ontario implementation Spring 2008 - Spring 2009**

Current Work

- **Finalizing the IMS Doctrine**
- **Communications materials and support**
- **Additional working groups to address Resource Typing and Forms Development**
- **Sector-specific Annex Development**
- **Training Program Development**
- **Implementation Plan**

Preparing for IMS

- **Learn more about IMS by:**
 - **Contacting EMO**
 - **Contacting your stakeholder (organization, association, community/municipal, Ministry, sector) representative**
- **Attend upcoming presentations, workshops as advertised**
- **Provide feedback through the upcoming stakeholder consultations**
- **Watch for information about training opportunities as these become available**

Implementation and Beyond

- **Stakeholder consultation on the need for regulations**
- **Work to integrate IMS principles into all aspects of emergency management in Ontario**
- **Hold at least one provincial exercise**
- **Monitor/assist exercises at the local level**
- **Formal publications management, maintenance structure, and annual system evaluation/update through a permanent steering committee and secretariat**

Questions

*Thank You
on behalf of the
IMS Steering Committee*

