

**AGENDA REPORT**

**DATE October 18, 2005**

**ITEM:** Resolution 9520: Designating National Incident Management System (NIMS) as the City's basis for all incident management

**INITIATED BY:** John Lawton, City Manager

**ACTION REQUESTED:** Adopt Resolution 9520

**PRESENTED BY:** John Lawton, City Manager

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The City Manager recommends the Commission approve Resolution 9520 to adopt the National Incident Management System as a basis for incident management.

**MOTION:**

“I move the City Commission adopt Res. 9520.”

**SYNOPSIS:**

Resolution 9520 designates the National Incident Management System (NIMS) as the basis for all incident management in the City of Great Falls. The Department of Homeland Security Directive (HSPD)-5 has nationally institutionalized NIMS, which has been adopted by the State of Montana. For our city to be prepared to respond to large disasters and to be eligible for federal grants, NIMS must be adopted.

**BACKGROUND:**

For a number of years, the City's emergency responders have used a structured command and control system during emergencies. City of Great Falls emergency responders adopted the Incident Command System (ICS) that ensured incident commanders did not get overwhelmed, that responders on scene were accounted for, and that ensured strategy and tactics worked toward a common purpose.

NIMS was developed by Homeland Security to provide a consistent nationwide template to enable federal, state, local, and tribal governments and private-sector and non-governmental organizations to work together effectively and efficiently to prepare for, prevent, respond to, and recover from domestic incidents, regardless of cause, size, or complexity, including acts of catastrophic terrorism.

Past incidents like the bombing of the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, the 9-11-01 World Trade Center attack and Hurricane Katrina demonstrate a need to have a single command system that all agencies are trained to properly use.

In the coming months, City staff will receive NIMS training. Additionally, the City's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) must be changed to reflect NIMS use during disasters. Once the training is completed and the EOP has been drafted, the City will conduct drills and exercises to ensure the plan works.