

three: Resource Management, Command and Coordination, and Communications and Information Management.

IS-200 “ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents,” further describes how incidents and events are handled. This course is also scheduled for revision in the near future.

IS-800.c, “National Response Framework (NRF), an Introduction,” covers the concepts of the NRF and management of all-hazards response. It is typically recommended for senior leaders, managers, agency heads, or those who have a level of responsibility for the response. Therefore, the course is often also recommended in many PSAPs for all telecommunicators, especially those performing in the role of a CTO, tactical dispatcher, or other specialized assignment, in addition to those working at a supervisory level.

Other changes and updates throughout the courses include mutual aid, resource typing, credentialing, Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ), revision of the concepts of manageable span of control, clarification of some terminology, additions to the Planning P (a flow chart in the shape of a P), and incorporation of enhanced information exchange processes such as social media and geographic information systems. Perhaps one of the most important issues is cybersecurity practices for information sharing.³

Think about some of the changes in technology and communication methods since the FEMA courses were first designed in 2004: Facebook was first founded, Bluetooth was new, Skype and VoIP were just getting established, and one of the most coveted cell phones was the Motorola Razr. Even with course updates in 2008, the technology advances included things like the beginning of true consumer-owned GPS-enabled devices, USB 3.0, and Android OS to compete with the earlier release of the iPhone in mid-2007.

With current technology and communication advances in 2018, social media, and the public’s access to instant news and live video feeds, we are driven to change and adapt the way we operate. This includes how we initially respond to incidents, coordinate activities, and navigate the cyber world.⁴

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centers. It is imperative to stay in tune with technology and operational changes, and the overarching processes put in place to enhance situational awareness, coordinate and track resource status, interact with other key players involved in an expanding incident, manage information flow and sharing, maintain proper documentation, standardize responses, and participate in planning and effective communications.

As first, first responders, it is our responsibility to stay informed, highly trained, and motivated to understanding our roles and responsibilities not only within our own agencies but also within the greater public safety arena. ●

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References:

- ¹ National Incident Management System (NIMS), Emergency Management Institute, FEMA <https://training.fema.gov/is/crslist.aspx>
- ² ICS Training Courses, Emergency Management Institute, FEMA, <https://training.fema.gov/nims/docs/nims.2017.instructor%20student%20learning%20materials.pdf>
- ³ ICS Resource Center, Emergency Management Institute, FEMA <https://training.fema.gov/emiweb/is/icsresource/TrainingMaterials.htm>
- ⁴ “2004: A Look Back at the Technology from 10 Years Ago,” Paste Magazine <https://www.pastemagazine.com/articles/2014/12/tech-from-10-years-ago-blogging-bluetooth-andthe.html>



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