

Resolution Designating the National Incident Management System (NIMS) as the Basis for all Incident Management in Winona County, Minnesota

WHEREAS the President of the United States, in Homeland Security Directive (HSPD)-5, directed the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to develop and administer a National Incident Management System (NIMS), which would provide a consistent nationwide approach for federal, state, local and tribal governments to work together more effectively and efficiently to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from domestic incidents, regardless of cause, size or complexity;

WHEREAS the collective input and guidance from all federal, state, local, and tribal security partners has been, and will continue to be vital to the development, effective implementation and utilization of a comprehensive NIMS;

WHEREAS it is necessary and desirable that all federal, state, local and tribal emergency agencies and personnel coordinate their efforts to effectively and efficiently provide the highest levels of incident management;

WHEREAS, to facilitate the most efficient and effective incident management, it is critical that federal, state, local, and tribal organizations utilize standardized terminology, standardized organizational structures, interoperable communications, consolidated action plans, unified command structures, uniform personnel qualification standards, uniform planning, training, and exercising standards, comprehensive resource management, and designated incident facilities during emergencies or disasters;

WHEREAS, the NIMS standardized procedures for managing personnel, communications, facilities, and resources will improve the Winona County's ability to utilize federal and state funding to enhance local agency readiness, maintain first responder safety, and streamline incident management processes;

WHEREAS the Incident Command System components of NIMS are already an integral part of various incident management activities throughout the State of Minnesota and Winona County, including current emergency management training programs;

WHEREAS the Winona County Emergency Coordinating Council (WCECC), with representatives from Winona Area Ambulance Services, Winona County Red Cross, Winona County Emergency Management, Winona County Sheriff, Winona County Community Health Services, Winona State University, Winona Police, Winona Fire Department, Winona Area Public Schools, Winona County Environmental Services, Winona Amateur Radio, Winona Health, and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources supports the adoption of NIMS;

WHEREAS the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks (9-11 Commission) recommended adoption of a standardized Incident Command System;

