

# An Incident Management System (IMS) for Ontario



# What is IMS?

- **“Incident Management System”**
  - “A standardized approach to emergency management encompassing personnel, facilities, equipment, procedures, and communications operating within a common organizational structure.
  - IMS is predicated on the understanding that in any and every incident, there are certain management functions that must be carried out regardless of the number of persons who are available or involved in the emergency response.”
    - IMS Doctrine for Ontario, December 2008





# 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
- 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 was no single province-wide system to ensure effective coordination.



# How was Ontario's IMS developed?

- **Emergency Management Ontario (EMO), led the development of an IMS Doctrine for Ontario.**
- **Used a collaborative approach with key stakeholders organized as:**
  - **Steering Committee**
  - **Working Groups – for specific areas of focus, e.g.: communications, training, resources and forms**





# Who was 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 (OAFCA)
- 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



# 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

- **The project to develop IMS allowed Ontario's stakeholders & partners to contribute to the development and ownership of an IMS for Ontario**
- **IMS should contribute to making emergency response more cost effective and efficient**
- **A standardized system will incorporate those organizations not already using IMS**
- **A standardized system should improve the use of technology**



# Vision

**Ontario will have a standardized incident management system (IMS) that provides functional interoperability at all levels of emergency management.**



# Benefits of IMS

- **The use of IMS during an incident 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 multiple organizations and jurisdictions**



# 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
  - Stakeholders consulted – Fall 2007
  - IMS for Ontario doctrine approved – Winter 2008/2009
  - Training strategy implemented – 2008, and ongoing
  - IMS for Ontario launch - Spring 2009
  - Supporting materials developed – Summer 2009, and ongoing







# Implementation and Beyond

- **Integrate IMS principles into all aspects of emergency management in Ontario**
- **Establish publications management, maintenance structure, and annual system evaluation/update through a standing committee and secretariat**



# Future Supporting Materials

- **IMS in the EOC**
  - guidelines on applying IMS in the EOC
- **Implementation support resources**
- **Building Response Capacities & Agreements**
  - options for mutual aid/assistance re incident support teams
- **Resource Typing Catalogue**
  - Consistent asset/resource terminology
- **IMS Forms Management**
  - Integrate forms into the doctrine



# Preparing for IMS

- **Learn more about IMS by:**
  - **Visiting [www.ontario.ca/ims](http://www.ontario.ca/ims)**
  - **Contacting your stakeholder (organization, association, community/municipal, Ministry, sector) representative or EMO**
- **Attend upcoming presentations, workshops as advertised**
- **Register for training opportunities**



***Thank You***  
***on behalf of the***  
***IMS Steering Committee***

***April 2009***

