

Water Sector Incident Command System (ICS) and National Incident Management System (NIMS) Training

U.S. EPA's Water Security Division

The Horsley Witten Group, Inc. (HW) assists the U.S. EPA's Water Security Division in training water sector personnel to both prepare for and to respond to emergencies. HW staff conducts workshops across the nation to teach ICS and NIMS to water and wastewater utility staff and operators. ICS is an incident management system that, under NIMS, is the national standard for managing all domestic incidents.

To aid utilities understanding of the course materials, HW customized the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) training visuals and group learning activities to be applicable to the water sector. To date, HW has created water sector ICS-100, 200, 300, and 400 level courses, as well as water sector versions of both FEMA's NIMS and National Response Framework (NRF) courses. HW's instructors administer FEMA's exams at the end of each training session for participant certification.

Students have reacted positively to the training, giving the training average scores of "excellent." HW staff trains (and certifies) thousands of water sector personnel in many NIMS curricula courses in this ongoing project.

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