

# FORWARD

The City Council and the City Manager, acting as the Director of Emergency Services, are charged with the responsibility to develop and implement an all-hazard emergency management plan for Springfield.

**Prior to 1999, Springfield's Emergency Plan emphasized preparedness and response to all risks faced by the community. In 1999, additional emphasis was placed on mitigation and recovery to better fulfill the four phases of emergency management. Continuing the focus on mitigation and recovery, this plan has been developed and modeled after principles and concepts in emergency management created and refined following the attacks on September 11, 2001.**

In Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD)-5, Management of Domestic Incidents, the President directed the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop, submit for review to the Homeland Security Council, and administer a National Incident Management System (NIMS). This system will provide a consistent nationwide approach for Federal, State, and local governments to work effectively and efficiently together to prepare for, prevent, respond to, and recover from domestic incidents regardless of the type or size of the event.

NIMS integrates the standardized organizational structures such as Incident Command System (ICS), multi-agency coordination systems, and public information systems. ICS is a management system that provides a common organizational structure for small or complex incidents, both natural and manmade. ICS is now used in all levels of government, as well as in many private sector and other non-government organizations. Design requirements for ICS include:

- Providing for operations involving a single agency within a single jurisdiction; multiple agencies within a single jurisdiction; and multiple agencies from multiple jurisdictions;
- Providing for organizational structure that can be adapted to any emergency or incident, to which emergency organizations would respond;
- Being applicable and acceptable to users throughout the country;
- Being easily adaptable to any technology;
- Being easily expanded in a logical manner;
- Having basic, common elements of organization; terminology; and procedures;
- Being effective, yet basic enough to ensure low operational maintenance costs.