



February 26, 2016

To: California Fire Service, Law Enforcement, and Emergency Management Agencies
Subject: California Adoption of Next-Generation Incident Command System (NICS)

The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) - in association with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE) and through a strategic partnership with the Department of Homeland Security's Science & Technology Directorate (DHS S&T) is acquiring the Next-Generation Incident Command System (NICS) software for use by California's emergency service professionals. As announced on May 15, 2015, the current research and development NICS pilot will transition to a fully operational tool sponsored and managed by the State of California.

The new California deployment of the NICS software will be called Situation Awareness and Collaboration Tool (SCOUT). SCOUT will provide an information sharing environment to facilitate operational and tactical collaboration among California emergency responders and interagency situational awareness for local, tribal, state, and federal partners for small to extreme scale homeland security incidents, such natural disasters, technological hazards, intentional attacks, and human-caused emergencies.

SCOUT will be rolled out in three phases.

Phase 1 NICS Pilot participating agencies will be transferred automatically to SCOUT.

Phase 2 Registration will be expanded in a controlled manner to select agencies.

Phase 3 Registration will open to all eligible and interested agencies.

SCOUT will deploy Phase 1 in the spring of 2016 and progress to Phase 2 and Phase 3 in a controlled manner to maintain system performance and stability.

For current program information, please visit www.caloes.ca.gov/scout.

If you have questions or your agency currently has a direct data feed into NICS, please contact the Cal OES SCOUT Project Manager, Caroline Thomas Jacobs, at caroline.thomasjacobs@caloes.ca.gov or (916) 208-3185.

Sincerely,

MARK S. GHILARDUCCI
Director
Governor's Office of Emergency Services

KEN PIMLOTT
Director
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