

Section 8

Glossary

Language of Emergency Response..... G-1
Glossary of Common Emergency Response Terms G-2

The Language of Emergency Response

Acronyms

ARC	American Red Cross
CERT	Community Emergency Response Team
DES	County Department of Emergency Services
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
DO	District Office
DPH	Department of Public Health
DSW	Disaster Service Worker
EAS	Emergency Alert System
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
EOP	Emergency Operations Plan
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
HAZMAT	Hazardous Materials
ICS	Incident Command System
LOG	Logistics
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NIMS	National Incident Management System
OP AREA	Operational Area
OPS	Operations
PA	Public Address
PIO	Public Information Officer
S&R	Search and Rescue
SOP	Standard Operations Procedure
SIT STAT	Situation Status
WMD	Weapon of Mass Destruction

Glossary of Common Emergency Response Terms

Action Plan - the plan prepared on-site by the EOC Director/Incident Commander and Planning/Intelligence Chief that will guide response to the emergency at hand.

Activate - is the verb used to describe the intention of implementing the emergency plan.

American Red Cross - a national volunteer agency that provides disaster relief.

Damage Assessment - the process used to determine the amount and severity of damage caused by a disaster or emergency.

Disaster - a sudden, calamitous event that causes damage, loss, and destruction to people and property.

Disaster Service Worker - refers to any public employee or any unregistered person impressed into service consequent to a state of emergency.

Emergency - a condition of disaster or extreme peril to the safety of persons and property.

Emergency Operations Center - the location from which centralized management is performed during emergency response.

Emergency Operations Plan - the plan that each district/school has and maintains for responding to disasters and/or school crisis.

EOC Director/IC - the individual responsible for the overall management during an emergency response requiring an EOC activation. In a Unified Command situation, this function may be performed by two or more individuals representing multiple agencies. Sometimes is referred to as the Incident Commander as well.

Exercise - a simulated emergency situation designed to evaluate an organization or agency's level of preparedness.

Federal Disaster Assistance - refers to the federal government's in-kind and financial assistance provided to disaster victims, the state, or local government agencies through the Federal Disaster Relief Act.

First responder - a collective term used to describe law enforcement, fire, EMS, public works, and public health personnel; those agencies generally first on the scene during emergencies. Hazard any source of danger or element of risk to people, property, or the environment.

Hazard - Mitigation any measure taken that attempts to eliminate or reduce the potential for damage or injury from a disaster.

Incident - an occurrence or event, natural or man-made, that requires action by emergency personnel.

Incident Command System - the national standard for on-scene emergency management.

Management by Objectives - a top-down management activity that involves a three-step approach to problem-solving: establishing the objectives, selecting the appropriate strategy(ies) to achieve those objectives, and providing the direction of or assignments associated with the selected strategy.

Mass Care Facility - a location where food, lodging, clothing, first aid, welfare inquiry, and social services are available to victims of disaster.

Mass Prophylaxis - distribution of medicines, vaccinations or inoculations to the public on a mass scale in response to a public health threat.

Media - refers to any/all of the means of disseminating information and instructions to the public: radio, television, newspapers or the web.

Memorandum of Understanding - a pre-existing agreement between agencies to render support (personnel, equipment or facilities) during times of emergency.

Mitigation - the pre-event actions taken to lessen the effects and impact of a disaster.

Operational Area - an intermediate level of the state emergency organization, consisting of a county and all of the political subdivisions/special districts within its boundaries.

Pandemic - a global outbreak of disease when a new virus emerges that affects a large portion of the human population for which there is little or no immunity.

Preparedness - refers to the entire spectrum of planning and training that ensures emergency readiness.

Recovery - those activities associated with “getting back to business” after an emergency; the long-term plan.

Response - those activities undertaken to address the immediate short-term effects of an emergency or disaster. Response activities include actions taken to save lives, protect property and meet basic human needs.

Section - within ICS, the organizational level with responsibility for a major functional area of incident response: Management/Command, Operations, Planning/Intelligence, Logistics, Finance/Administration.

Section Chief - the ICS title given to those individuals responsible for the command of a functional section.

Triage - a process of rapidly classifying patients on the basis of urgency of treatment.

Threats - those situations or circumstances (i.e., earthquake, flood, fire, hazmat incident, winter storm, etc.) that are likely to occur within, or affect, the Operational Area.