

**ROUTT COUNTY  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
GLOSSARY OF  
TERMS & ACRONYMS**



PREPARED BY  
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GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ACRONYMS  
USED IN ROUTT COUNTY EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANS

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**TERMS AND ACRONYMS PERTAINING TO:**

- ◆ **BIOTERRORISM**
  - ◆ **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**
  - ◆ **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE**
  - ◆ **ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCY**
  - ◆ **WILDLAND FIRE**
- 

*An operational guideline applicable to all emergencies employing National Incident Management System (NIMS), including the Incident Command System (ICS).*

– A –

**6 MINUTES FOR SAFETY**

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A daily safety briefing for wildland fire that focuses on high risk events found within a firefighter's scope of work that are performed on an infrequent basis.

**AAR**

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After Action Report or After Action Review

**ACTUAL OCCURRENCE**

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An "actual occurrence" is defined as any natural, technological, national security or terrorism incident that has happened in your jurisdiction for which a coordinated emergency response or recovery operation was required. This includes both large-scale incidents that have resulted in a presidential declaration of an emergency or major disaster and those occurrences of a lesser magnitude, which require significant state and/or local response and recovery activities.

**ACTION PLAN**

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(See Incident Action Plan)

**ADJUVANT**

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A substance added to a vaccine to improve the immune response so that less vaccine is needed to provide protection

**ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS (CHARGES)**

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Any expenses not charged directly to a program, project or fire. They include general overhead personnel and administrative services. For the state, the administrative charge is identified as those charges and expenses used to determine the "facilities and administrative (indirect rate)." All activities that can be identified and charged to specific projects (and not excluded elsewhere) are considered direct costs and may be billed with proper documentation.

**AERIAL FUELS**

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All live and dead vegetation in the forest canopy or above surface fuels, including tree branches, twigs and cones, snags, moss, and high brush.

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**AERIAL IGNITION**

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Ignition of fuels by dropping incendiary devices or materials from aircraft.

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**AFTER ACTION REVIEW (AAR)**

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A professional discussion of an event, focused on performance standards, that enables Agency Administrators and firefighters to discover for themselves what happened, why it happened, and how to sustain strengths and improve on weaknesses. An After Action Review is a tool incident command personnel and units can use to get maximum benefit from every incident. It provides a daily review of the day's actions: - Identify and discuss effective and non-effective performance. Candid insights into specific firefighter, leader, and unit strengths and weaknesses from various perspectives. - Feedback and insight critical to actions that were not standard operating procedures or those that presented safety problems. - Lessons learned and how to apply them in the future.

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**AGENCY**

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An agency is a division of government with a specific function, or a non-governmental organization (e.g., private contractor, business, etc.) that offers a particular kind of assistance. In the Incident Command System (ICS), agencies are defined as jurisdictional (having statutory responsibility for incident mitigation) or assisting and/or cooperating (providing resources and/or assistance). (See Assisting Agency, Cooperating Agency)

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**AGENCY ADMINISTRATOR**

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Agency officials who are signatory to an agreement.

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**AGENCY EXECUTIVE**

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A policy group of executive personnel from a "key" (lead) agency (ministry) that addresses matters pertaining to declaring an emergency, to invoking response levels, to liaising with support agencies, to preparing a public communications strategy, and to informing cabinet ministers (equivalent to a crisis management team in industry).

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**AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE**

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An individual assigned to an incident from an assisting or cooperating agency that has been delegated authority to make decisions on matters affecting that agency's participating at the incident. Agency representatives report to the Liaison Officer.

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**AGRICULTURAL BURN**

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A fire designed to burn cover vegetation in preparation for crop production, weed control, or other cultivation purposes. A fire used to clean irrigation ditches, fencerows, and cultivated fields that have an excess of dead grass or weeds which deter agricultural use. A fire used to dispose of agricultural byproducts such as old hay, straw, fence posts, trees, limbs, or lumber.

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**AIR OPERATIONS**

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Established separately at an incident due to the complex needs for use of aircraft in both tactical and logistical operations.

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**AIR OPERATIONS BRANCH DIRECTOR**

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The person primarily responsible for preparing and implementing the air operations portion of the incident action plan. Also responsible for providing logistical support to helicopters operating on the incident.

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**AIR TANKER**

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A fixed-wing aircraft equipped to drop fire retardants or suppressants.

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**ALLOCATED RESOURCES**

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Resources (i.e., people, equipment, supplies, and vehicles) dispatched to an incident.

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**ALPHA RADIATION**

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One of the three main types of radiation (alpha, beta, and gamma) emitted from radioactive materials. Alpha particles are the heaviest and most highly charged of these type particles. However, they cannot travel more than a few inches in air and are completely stopped by a piece of paper. A human's outermost layer of dead skin can stop even the most energetic alpha particle; however, if ingested through eating, drinking, or breathing, particles can become an internal hazard.

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**AMERICAN RED CROSS (ARC)**

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A quasi-governmental organization that's purpose is to provide relief of suffering and welfare activities during war and disaster. The ARC operates under a congressional charter and is financially supported by public donations. Internationally, it operates in accordance with the Treaty of Geneva. It is the national organization with Primary Agency responsibility in the Federal Response Plan (FRP) for Emergency Support Function 6 (ESF6) – Mass Care.

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**ANCHOR POINT**

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An advantageous location, usually a barrier to fire spread, from which to start building a fire line. An anchor point is used to reduce the chance of firefighters being flanked by fire.

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**ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE**

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A part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture that provides leadership in ensuring the health and care of animals and plants.

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**ANTIBIOTIC**

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A substance produced by bacteria or fungi that destroys or prevents the growth of other bacteria and fungi.

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**ANTIBODY**

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A protein produced by the body's immune system in response to a foreign substance (antigen). Our bodies fight off an infection by producing antibodies. An antibody reacts specifically with the antigen that triggered its formation and its function is to inactivate the antigen

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**ANTIGEN**

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Any foreign substance, usually a protein, which stimulates the body's immune system to produce antibodies. (The name antigen reflects its role in stimulating an immune response - antibody generating.)

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**ANTIVIRAL**

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Drug that are used to prevent or cure a disease caused by a virus, by interfering with the ability of the virus to multiply in number or spread from cell to cell.

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**APHIS**

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Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

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**APHL**

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Agency for Public Health Laboratories

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**ARAMID**

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The generic name for a high-strength, flame resistant synthetic fabric used in the shirts and jeans of firefighters. Nomex, a brand name for aramid fabric, is the term commonly used by firefighters.

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**ARC**

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American Red Cross

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**AREA COMMAND**

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An organization established to oversee the management of multiple incidents that are each being handled by an Incident Command System organization; or to oversee the management of a very large incident that has multiple Incident Management Teams assigned to it. Area command has the responsibility to set overall strategy and priorities, allocate critical resources based on priorities, ensure that incidents are properly managed, and ensure that objectives are met and strategies followed.

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**ARSON**

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Crime of burning property.

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**ASYMPTOMATIC**

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Presenting no symptoms of disease.

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**ART**

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Assessment and Response Team

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**ASPECT**

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Direction toward which a slope faces.

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**ASSESSMENT**

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The evaluation and interpretation of measurements and other information to provide a basis for decision-making.

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**ASSIGNED RESOURCES**

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Resources (i.e., people, equipment, supplies, and vehicles) checked in and assigned work tasks on an incident.

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**ASSIGNMENTS**

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Tasks given to resources to perform within a given operational period based upon tactical objectives in the incident action plan.

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**ASSISTING AGENCY**

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An agency directly contributing tactical or service resources to another agency. The general term “augmenting” may be used to describe this activity.

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**ASTHO**

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Association of State and Territorial Health Officials

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**ATROPINE**

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An anti-cholinergic used as an antidote for nerve agent poisoning to block the effect of the neurotransmitter or chemical causing the over-stimulation.

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**ATTACK**

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A hostile action taken against the United States by foreign forces or terrorists, resulting in the destruction of or damage to military targets, injury or death to the civilian population, or damage or destruction to public and private property

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**AVAILABLE RESOURCES**

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Incident-based resources that are ready for deployment but not yet assigned.

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**AVIAN FLU**

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A highly contagious viral disease with up to 100% mortality in domestic fowl caused by influenza A virus subtypes H5 and H7. All types of birds are susceptible to the virus but outbreaks occur most often in chickens and turkeys. The infection may be carried by migratory wild birds, which can carry the virus but show no signs of disease. Humans are only rarely affected.

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**AWARENESS**

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The continual process of collecting, analyzing, and disseminating intelligence, information, and knowledge to allow organizations and individuals to anticipate requirements and to react effectively.

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**AWARENESS TRAINING LEVEL**

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Addresses training requirements for emergency responders who are likely to witness or discover an incident involving the terrorist/criminal use of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) or who may be sent out to initially respond or support the response to the report of such an incident. Generally, all actions to be taken by these individuals should be conducted from within the cold zone. Should personnel find themselves in the warm and hot zones, they are to remove themselves and to encourage others, if ambulatory, to move to a staging area away from the immediate threat and attempt to minimize further contamination. The requisite competencies for this level of training are to recognize

(RECOGNITION) a WMD terrorism incident and to notify (NOTIFICATION) appropriate authorities of the incident.

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**BACKFIRE**

A fire set along the inner edge of a fireline to consume the fuel in the path of a wildfire and/or change the direction of force of the fire's convection column.

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**BACKPACK PUMP**

A portable sprayer with hand-pump, fed from a liquid-filled container fitted with straps, used mainly in fire and pest control. (See also Bladder Bag)

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**BACTERIA**

Microscopic organism capable of creating diseases.

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**BAMBI BUCKET**

A collapsible bucket slung below a helicopter. Used to dip water from a variety of sources for fire suppression.

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**BASE**

The location at which primary logistics functions for an incident are coordinated and administered. The Incident Command Post may be co-located with the base.

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**BEHAVE**

A system of interactive computer programs for modeling fuel and fire behavior that consists of two systems: Burn and Fuel.

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**BIOTERRORISM**

The intentional use of microorganisms or toxins derived from living organisms to produce death or disease in humans, animals, or plants.

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**BLADDER BAG**

A collapsible backpack portable sprayer made of neoprene or high-strength nylon fabric fitted with a pump. (See also Backpack Pump)

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**BLOW-UP**

A sudden increase in fire intensity or rate of spread strong enough to prevent direct control or to upset control plans. Blow-ups are often accompanied by violent convection and may have other characteristics of a fire storm. (See also Flare-up)

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**BONFIRE**

An outdoor fire utilized for ceremonial purposes.

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**BOUNDARY LINE FIRE**

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This includes (i) a fire burning jointly on lands of two or more parties or will soon burn across the boundary line and the boundary line is known; (ii) where the fire location is known, but the jurisdictional boundary on the ground is uncertain; or (iii) where the location of a reported fire is uncertain in relation to the jurisdictional boundary.

Once the exact location of the fire is determined in relation to the jurisdictional boundary, it ceases to be a boundary fire unless falling in category (i) above.

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**BRANCH**

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The organizational level having functional or geographic responsibility for major parts of incident operations. The branch level is organizationally between section and division/group in the operations section, and between section and units in the logistics section.

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**BRANCHES**

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Branches are necessary to establish another level of organization within the operations section in order to minimize span of control concerns.

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**BRUSH**

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A collective term that refers to stands of vegetation dominated by shrubby, woody plants, or low growing trees, usually of a type undesirable for livestock or timber management.

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**BRUSH FIRE**

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A fire burning in vegetation that is predominantly shrubs, brush, and scrub growth.

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**BT**

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Bioterrorism

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**BUCKET DROPS**

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The dropping of fire retardants or suppressants from specially designed buckets slung below a helicopter.

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**BUFFER ZONES**

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An area of reduced vegetation that separates wildlands from vulnerable residential or business developments. This barrier is similar to a greenbelt in that it is usually used for another purpose such as agriculture, recreation areas, parks, or golf courses.

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**BUMP-UP METHOD**

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A progressive method of building a fire line on a wildfire without changing relative positions in the line. Work is begun with a suitable space between workers. Whenever one worker overtakes another, all workers ahead move one space forward and resume work on the uncompleted part of the line. The last worker does not move ahead until completing his or her space.

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**BURN OUT**

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Setting fire inside a control line to widen it or consume fuel between the edge of the fire and the control line.



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**BURNED AREA REHABILITATION / STABILIZATION**

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Efforts undertaken within three (3) years of a wildland fire to repair or improve fire-damaged lands unlikely to recover to management-approved conditions, or to repair or replace minor facilities damaged by fire; along with planned actions to stabilize and prevent unacceptable degradation to natural and cultural resources, to minimize threats to life or property resulting from the effects of a fire, or to repair/replace/construct physical improvements necessary to prevent degradation of land or resources.

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**BURNING BAN**

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A declared ban on open air burning within a specified area, usually due to sustained high fire danger.

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**BURNING CONDITIONS**

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The state of the combined factors of the environment that affect fire behavior in a specified fuel type.

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**BURNING INDEX**

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An estimate of the potential difficulty of fire containment as it relates to the flame length at the most rapidly spreading portion of a fire's perimeter.

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**BURNING PERIOD**

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The part of each 24-hour period when fires spread most rapidly; typically from 10:00 a.m. to sundown. (See also Ops Period)

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**CACHE**

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A predetermined complement of tools, equipment, and/or supplies stored in a designated location, available for incident use.

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**CAMP**

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A geographical site, within the general incident area, separate from the incident base, equipped and staffed to provide sleeping, food, water, and sanitary services to incident personnel.

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**CAMPFIRE**

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As used to classify the cause of a wildland fire, a fire that was started for cooking or warming that spreads sufficiently from its source to require action by a fire control agency.

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**CAMPS**

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Incident locations where resources may be kept to support incident operations. Camps differ from staging areas in that essential support operations are done at camps, and resources at camps are not always immediately available for use. Not all incidents will have camps.

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**CANDLE OR CANDLING**

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A single tree or a very small clump of trees which is burning from the bottom up.

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**CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT**

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Provides information designed to help the planning team evaluate preparedness, mitigation (prevention), and response resources and capabilities. This includes an assessment of community and industry response capabilities.

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**CARRIER**

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A bearer and transmitter of an agent capable of causing infectious disease. An asymptomatic carrier shows no symptoms of carrying an infectious agent.

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**CATEGORY "A" AGENTS**

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The possible biological terrorism agents having the greatest potential for adverse public health impact with mass casualties. The Category "A" agents are:

- Smallpox
- Anthrax
- Plague
- Botulism
- Tularemia
- Viral hemorrhagic fevers (e.g., Ebola and Lassa viruses)

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**CB**

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Citizens Band

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**CD**

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Communicable Disease

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**CDC**

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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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**CDEM**

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Colorado Division of Emergency Management

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**CENTERS FOR DISEASE AND PREVENTION**

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The U.S. government agency at the forefront of public health efforts to prevent and control infectious and chronic diseases, injuries, workplace hazards, disabilities, and environmental health threats. CDC is one of 13 major operating components of the Department of Health and Human Services.

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**CEDRS**

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Colorado Electronic Disease Reporting System

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**CERCLA**

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Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act

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**CHAIN**

A unit of linear measurement equal to 66 feet.

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**CHAIN OF COMMAND**

A series of management positions in order of authority.

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**CHECK-IN**

The process whereby resources first report to an incident. Check-in locations include incident command post, incident base, camps, staging areas, helibases, helispots, and division supervisors.

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**CHECKLIST**

Written (or computerized) enumeration of actions to be taken by an individual or organization; means to aid memory rather than provide detailed instruction.

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**CHEMTREC**

Chemical Manufacturers' Association Chemical Transportation Emergency Center

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**CHIEF**

An incident command system title for individuals responsible for command of the functional sections (i.e., operations, planning, logistics, and finance/administration).

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**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICIAL**

The official of the community who is charged with authority to implement and administer laws, ordinances, and regulations for the community. He or she may be a mayor, city manager, etc.

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**CISM**

Critical Incident Stress Management

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**CLADE**

A group of organisms, such as a species, whose members share homologous features derived from a common ancestor. The avian virus H5N1 Clade 1 includes human and bird isolates from Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, and Malaysia. Clade 2 viruses have been identified in bird isolates from China, Indonesia, Japan, and South Korea.

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**CLEAR TEXT**

The use of plain English in radio communications transmissions. No ten codes or agency codes are used when using clear text.

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**CLOSEST FORCES CONCEPT**

The philosophy of committing the closest available appropriate resources, regardless of agency, for initial attack or for critical need.

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**CLOSURE**

Legal restriction, but not necessarily elimination of specified activities such as smoking, camping, or entry that might cause fires in a given area.

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**COLD FRONT**

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The leading edge of a relatively cold air mass that displaces warmer air. The heavier cold air may cause some of the warm air to be lifted. If the lifted air contains enough moisture, the result may be cloudiness, precipitation, and thunderstorms. If both air masses are dry, no clouds may form. Following the passage of a cold front in the Northern Hemisphere, westerly or northwesterly winds of 15 to 30 or more miles per hour often continue for 12 to 24 hours.

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**COLD TRAILING**

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A method of controlling a partly dead fire edge by carefully inspecting and feeling with the hand for heat to detect any fire, digging out every live spot, and trenching any live edge.

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**COLD ZONE**

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A safe area free of contamination or threat of exposure, at a hazardous material incident for responders. The area where a command post or staging area is located. Also called the support zone.

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**COLORADO START TRIAGE**

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The Colorado Simple Triage and Rapid Treatment (START) method whereby patients in an MCI are assessed and evaluated on the basis of the severity of injuries and assigned the following emergency treatment priorities:

- ◆ 0      Black      Deceased
- ◆ I      Red      Immediate
- ◆ II      Yellow      Delayed
- ◆ III      Green      Walking Wounded

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**COLORADO STATE FOREST SERVICE (CSFS)**

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A statutory entity governed by the Board of Governors of the Colorado State University System.

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**COMMAND**

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The act of directing and/or controlling resources by virtue of explicit legal, agency, or delegated authority. May also refer to the incident commander.

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**COMMAND**

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Sets objectives and priorities. Has overall responsibility at an incident or event.

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**COMMAND POST**

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(See Incident Command Post)

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**COMMAND STAFF**

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The command staff consists of the information officer, safety officer, and liaison officer. They report directly to the incident commander and may have assistants. Command staff has responsibilities that can involve the entire incident management team.

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**COMMUNICATIONS UNIT**

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An organizational unit in the logistics section responsible for providing communication services at an incident. A communications unit may also be a facility (e.g., a trailer or mobile van) used to provide the major part of an incident communications center.

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**COMMUNITY**

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A political entity which has the authority to adopt and enforce laws and ordinances for the area under its jurisdiction. In most cases, the community is an incorporated town, city, township, village, or unincorporated area of a county. However, each state defines its own political subdivisions and forms of government.

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**COMPENSATION UNIT / CLAIMS UNIT**

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Functional unit within the finance/administration section responsible for financial concerns resulting from property damage, injuries, or fatalities at the incident.

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**COMPLEX**

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Two or more individual incidents located in the same general area which is assigned to a single incident commander or to unified command.

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**CONDITION**

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The process of systematically analyzing a situation, developing relevant information, and informing appropriate command authority of viable alternatives for selection of the most effective combination of available resources to meet specific objectives. The coordination process (which can be either intra- or interagency) does not involve dispatch actions. However, personnel responsible for coordination may perform command or dispatch functions within limits established by specific agency delegations, procedures, legal authority, etc.

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**CONFINEMENT**

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Strategy employed in appropriate management responses were a fire perimeter is managed by a combination of direct and indirect actions and use of natural topographic features, fuel, and weather factors.

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**CONTAIN A FIRE**

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A fuel break around the fire has been completed. This break may include natural barriers or manually and/or mechanically constructed line.

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**CONTAGIOUS**

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A contagious disease is easily spread from one person to another by contact with the infectious agent that causes the disease. The agent may be in droplets of liquid particles made by coughing or sneezing, contaminated food utensils, water or food.

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**CONTAMINATION**

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The undesirable deposition of a chemical, biological, or radiological material on the surface of structures, areas, objects, or people.

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**CONTROL A FIRE**

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The complete extinguishment of a fire, including spot fires. Fireline has been strengthened so that flare-ups from within the perimeter of the fire will not break through this line.

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**CONTROL LINE**

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All built or natural fire barriers and treated fire edge used to control a fire.

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**CONTROL ZONES**

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The areas in and around a hazardous material incident whereby entry by people and equipment are controlled to ensure human safety and to reduce the spread of contamination. See the following terms exclusion or hot zone; decontamination reduction or cold zone; support or cold zone.

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**CONTROLLED BURN**

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A fire that is being contained/confined by the person(s) that ignited the fire. Fire should not be considered controlled if no one is monitoring the fire.

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**COOPERATING AGENCY**

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An agency supplying assistance, including but not limited to direct tactical or support functions or resources to the incident control effort (e.g., Red Cross, law enforcement agency, telephone company, etc.).

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**COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS**

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Federal grants for bioterrorism preparedness and response from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Health Resources and Services Administration.

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**COOPERATOR**

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Organized fire forces of other agencies, paid or volunteers, public or private, at the local, municipal, state or federal level.

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**COORDINATION**

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The process of systematically analyzing a situation, developing relevant information, and informing appropriate command authority of viable alternatives for selection of the most effective combination of available resources to meet specific objectives. The coordination process (which can be either intra- or inter-agency) does not involve dispatch actions. However, personnel responsible for coordination may perform command or dispatch functions within the limits established by specific agency delegations, procedures, legal authority, etc.

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**COORDINATION CENTER**

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A general term used to describe any facility that is used for the coordination of agency or jurisdictional resources in support of one or more incidents, such as a command post.

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**COPS**

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Colorado Office of Preparedness and Security

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**COST SHARE AGREEMENT**

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A document prepared between a federal, state and/or local agency to distribute costs on a multi-jurisdictional incident or an incident which threatens or burns across boundaries of direct protection areas of the agencies.

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**COST UNIT**

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A functional unit within the finance section responsible for tracking costs, analyzing cost data, making cost estimates, and recommending cost-saving measures.

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**COUNTY**

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Employees, elected officials, and appointed officers of a county.

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**COYOTE TACTICS**

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A progressive line construction duty involving self-sufficient crews that build fire line until the end of the operational period, remain at or near the point while off duty, and begin building fire line again the next operational period where they left off.

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**CREEPING FIRE**

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Fire burning with a low flame and spreading slowly.

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**CREW**

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(See Single Resource)

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**CREW BOSS**

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A person in supervisory charge of usually 16 to 21 firefighters and responsible for their performance, safety, and welfare.

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**CRITICAL AGENTS**

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The biological and chemical agents likely to be used in weapons of mass destruction and other bioterrorist attacks. Current lists may be found on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention web site:

- <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/Agent/Agentlist.asp>
- <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/Agent/AgentlistChem.asp>

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**CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS MANAGEMENT (CISM)**

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Has been determined to be an integral part of any emergency medical response to an MCI event or evacuation. Regional and local teams of mental health and peer debriefs have been trained and are available throughout the state.

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**CROWN FIRE (CROWNING)**

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The movement of fire through the crowns of trees or shrubs more or less independently of the surface fire.

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**CSEPP**

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Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program

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**CURING**

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Drying and browning of herbaceous vegetation or slash.

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**DAM**

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A barrier built across a watercourse for the purpose of impounding, controlling, or diverting the flow of water.

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**DAMAGE ASSESSMENT**

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The process used to appraise or determine the number of injuries and deaths, damage to public and private property, and the status of key facilities and services such as hospitals and other health care facilities, fire and police stations, communications networks, water and sanitation systems, utilities, and transportation networks resulting from a man-made or natural disaster.

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**DEAD FUELS**

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Fuels with no living tissue in which moisture content is governed almost entirely by atmospheric moisture (relative humidity and precipitation), dry-bulb temperature, and solar radiation.

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**DEBRIS BURNING**

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A fire spreading from any fire originally set for the purpose of clearing land or for rubbish, garbage, range, stubble, or meadow burning.

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**DECONTAMINATION**

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The process of removing or neutralizing contaminants that have accumulated on personnel and equipment that is critical to health and safety at the scene of any hazardous materials incident, including a terrorism incident. The process is designed to protect emergency care providers to prevent mixing of incompatible substances, and to protect the community by preventing uncontrolled transportation of contaminants from the incident site.

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**DEFENSIBLE SPACE**

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An area either natural or manmade where material capable of causing a fire to spread has been treated, cleared, reduced, or changed to act as a barrier between an advancing wildland fire and the loss to life, property, or resources. In practice, "defensible space" is defined as an area a minimum of 30 feet around a structure that is cleared of flammable brush or vegetation.

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**DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY**

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A statement provided to the incident commander by the agency executive delegating authority and assigning responsibility. The delegation of authority can include objectives, priorities, expectations, constraints, and other considerations or guidelines as needed. Many agencies require written delegation of authority to be given to incident commanders prior to their assuming command on large incidents.



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**DEPLOYMENT**

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See Fire Shelter Deployment.

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**DEPUTY**

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A fully qualified individual who, in the absence of a superior, could be delegated the authority to manage a functional operation or perform a specific task. In some cases, a deputy could act as relief for a superior and therefore must be fully qualified in the position. Deputies can be assigned to the incident commander, general staff, and branch directors.

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**DEMOBILIZATION UNIT**

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Functional unit within the planning section responsible for assuring orderly, safe, and efficient demobilization of incident resources.

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**DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR**

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The government agency that protects and provides access to our Nation's natural resources.

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**DETECTION**

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The act or system of discovering and locating fires.

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**DGPS**

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Digital Global Positioning System

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**DHHS**

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Department of Health and Human Services

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**DHS**

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Department of Homeland Security

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**DIRECT ATTACK**

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Any treatment of burning fuel, such as by wetting, smothering, or chemically quenching the fire or by physically separating burning from unburned fuel.

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**DIRECT COSTS**

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All costs associated with direct fireline/fireground operations and incident support ordered by or for the incident; excludes overhead, facilities, and administrative costs.

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**DIRECT PROTECTION AREA**

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That area which, by law or identified or authorized pursuant to the terms of an agreement, is provided wildland fire protection by the state or its counties or by a federal agency. This may include land protected under exchange or payment for protection.

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**DIRECTOR**

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An Incident Command System title for individuals responsible for supervision of a branch.

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**DISASTER**

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The occurrence or imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property, or significant adverse impact on the environment, resulting from any natural or technological hazards, including but not limited to fire, flood, earthquake, wind, storm, hazardous substance incident, water contamination, blight, drought, infestation, explosion, civil disturbance, or hostile military action. For the purposes of state or federal disaster declarations, the term "disaster" generally falls into the category of major or catastrophic based on the level of severity and impact on local and state resources. Major disasters are likely to require immediate state assistance supplemented by federal resources, if necessary, to supplement state efforts and resources. Catastrophic disasters may require immediate and massive state and federal assistance in both the response and recovery aspects.

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**DISASTER RECOVERY CENTER (DRC)**

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Places established in the area of a Presidentially declared major disaster, as soon as practicable, to provide victims the opportunity to apply in person for assistance and/or obtain information relating to that assistance. DRCs are staffed by local, state, and federal agency representatives, as well as staff from volunteer organizations (e.g., the American Red Cross).

---

**DISPATCH**

---

The implementation of a command decision to move a resource or resources from one place to another.

---

**DISPATCH CENTER**

---

A facility from which resources (i.e., people, equipment, and vehicles) are directly assigned to an incident.

---

**DISPATCHER**

---

The implementation of a command decision to move a resource or resources from one place to another.

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**DIVISION**

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Divisions are used to divide an incident into geographical areas of operation. Divisions are established when the number of resources exceeds the span-of-control of the operations chief. A division is located within the Incident Command System organization between the branch and the task force/strike team.

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**DMAT**

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Disaster Medical Assistance Team

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**DOCUMENTATION UNIT**

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Functional unit within the planning section responsible for collecting, recording, and safeguarding all documents relevant to the incident.

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**DOD**

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U.S. Department of Defense

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**DOE**

U.S. Department of Energy

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**DOI**

U.S. Department of Interior

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**DOJ**

U.S. Department of Justice

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**DOT**

U.S. Department of Transportation

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**DOSE (RADIATION)**

A general term indicating the quantity (total or accumulated) of ionizing radiation or energy absorbed by a person or animal.

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**DOSIMETER**

An instrument for measuring and registering total accumulated exposure to ionizing radiation.

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**DOZER**

Any tracked vehicle with a front-mounted blade used for exposing mineral soil.

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**DOZER LINE**

Fire line constructed by the front blade of a dozer.

---

**DRC**

Disaster Recovery Center

---

**DRAW DOWN LEVEL**

A minimal level of resources usually available for initial attack to provide coverage for its area of responsibility. This level can change depending on local conditions. In the event that the required resources become unavailable, move up and cover resources will be needed to maintain the draw down level.

---

**DRC**

Disaster Recovery Center

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**DRIFT**

One process in which influenza virus undergoes mutation. The amount of change can be subtle or dramatic, but eventually as drift occurs, a new variant strain will become dominant. This process allows influenza viruses to change and re-infect people repeatedly through their lifetime and is the reason influenza virus strains in vaccine must be updated each year. (See also Shift)

---

**DRIP TORCH**

---

Hand-held device for igniting fires by dripping flaming liquid fuel on the materials to be burned; consists of a fuel fount, burner arm, and igniter. Fuel used is generally a mixture of diesel and gasoline.

---

**DROP ZONE**

---

Target area for air tankers, helitankers, and cargo dropping.

---

**DROUGHT INDEX**

---

A number representing net effect of evaporation, transpiration, and precipitation in producing cumulative moisture depletion in deep duff or upper soil layers.

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**DRY LIGHTNING STORM**

---

Thunderstorm in which negligible precipitation reaches the ground. Also called a dry storm.

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**DUFF**

---

The layer of decomposing organic materials lying below the litter layer of freshly fallen twigs, needles, and leaves and immediately above the mineral soil.

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**DWT**

---

Dead Weight Ton

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**– E –**

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**EA**

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Environmental Assessment

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**EARTHQUAKE**

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The sudden motion or trembling of the ground produced by abrupt displacement of rock masses, usually within the upper 10 to 20 miles of the earth's surface.

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**EAS**

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Emergency Alert System

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**ECDIS**

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Electronic Chart Display Information System

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**EDI**

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Electronic Data Interchange

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**EH**

---

Environmental Health

---

**EIS**

Environmental Impact Statement

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**ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSE**

A sharp pulse of energy radiated instantaneously by a nuclear detonation which may affect or damage electronic components and equipment.

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**EMA**

Emergency Management Agency (local)

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**EMERGENCY**

A suddenly occurring and often unforeseen situation or an unusual event which is determined by the Governor or the county to require state response or mitigation actions to supplement local government in protecting lives and property. A situation which requires saving lives, reducing suffering, protecting property and the environment, and mitigating economic and social losses.

---

**EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM**

A digital technology (voice/text) communication system consisting of broadcast stations and interconnecting facilities authorized by the Federal Communications Commission. The system provides the President and other national, state, and local officials the means to broadcast emergency information to the public before, during, and after disasters.

---

**EMERGENCY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

Services required to correct or improve damaging environmental health effects on humans, including inspection for food contamination, inspection for water contamination, and vector control; providing for sewage and solid waste inspection and disposal; clean-up and disposal of hazardous materials; and sanitation inspection for emergency shelter facilities.

---

**EMERGENCY EPIDEMIC**

Cases or an illness or condition, communicable or non-communicable, caused by bioterrorism, pandemic influenza, or a novel and highly fatal infectious agents or biological toxins.

---

**EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICES**

Services required to prevent and treat the damaging health effects of an emergency, including communicable disease control, immunization, laboratory services, dental and nutritional services; providing first aid for treatment of ambulatory patients and those with minor injuries; providing public health information on emergency treatment, prevention, and control; and providing administrative support including maintenance of vital records and providing for a conduit of emergency health funds from state and federal governments.

---

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

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A systematic program of activities that governments and their partners undertake before, during, and after a disaster to save lives, prevent injury, and to protect property and the natural environment. Emergency management activities include:

- Mitigation: Eliminating hazards or reducing their potential impact.
- Preparedness: Planning, training, and exercising for disastrous events.
- Response: Taking action when a disaster occurs to save lives, prevent injuries, and prevent or limit property damage.
- Recovery: Restoring normalcy after the disaster.

These activities are not the sole responsibility of the designated emergency management agency. Virtually all agencies have a role, but most particularly law enforcement, fire services, public works, and public health.

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**EMERGENCY MANAGER**

---

The individual within each political subdivision that has coordination responsibility for jurisdictional emergency management.

---

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL ASSISTANT**

---

A healthcare specialist with particular skills and knowledge in pre-hospital emergency medicine.

---

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

---

Services, including personnel, facilities, and equipment required to ensure proper medical care for the sick and injured from the time of injury to the time of final disposition, including medical disposition within a hospital, temporary medical facility, or special care facility, release from site, or declared dead. Further, emergency medical services specifically include those services immediately required to ensure proper medical care and specialized treatment for patients in a hospital and coordination of related hospital services.

---

**EMERGENCY MORTUARY SERVICES**

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Services required to assure adequate death investigation, identification, and disposition of bodies; removal, temporary storage, and transportation of bodies to temporary morgue facilities; notification of next of kin; and coordination of mortuary services and burial of unclaimed bodies.

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**EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER**

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The protected site from which state and local civil government officials coordinate, monitor, and direct emergency response activities during an emergency.

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**EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN**

---

A document that describes how people and property will be protected in disaster and disaster threat situations; details who is responsible for carrying out specific actions; identifies the personnel, equipment, facilities, supplies, and other resources available for use in the disaster; and outlines how all actions will be coordinated.

---

**EMERGENCY PLANNING ZONES**

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Areas around a facility for which planning is needed to ensure prompt and effective actions are taken to protect the health and safety of the public if an accident occurs.

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**EMERGENCY RESPONSE COORDINATOR**

---

Person authorized to direct implementation of an agency's emergency response plan.

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**EMERGENCY RESPONSE (CONTINGENCY) PLAN**

---

The plan that each jurisdiction and industry has and maintains for responding to hazards.

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**EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (ERT)**

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An interagency team, consisting of the lead representative from each federal department or agency assigned primary responsibility for an ESF and key members of the FCO's staff, formed to assist the FCO in carrying out his/her coordination responsibilities. The ERT may be expanded by the FCO to include designated representatives of other federal departments and agencies as needed. The ERT usually consists of regional-level staff.

---

**EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM ADVANCE ELEMENT**

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For federal disaster response and recovery activities under the Stafford Act, the portion of the ERT that is first deployed to the field to respond to a disaster incident. The ERT-A is the nucleus of the full ERT.

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**EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM NATIONAL**

---

An ERT that has been established and rostered for deployment to catastrophic disasters where the resources of the FEMA Region have been, or are expected to be, overwhelmed.

---

**EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION (ESF)**

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In the FRP, a functional area of response activity established to facilitate the delivery of federal assistance required during the immediate response phase of a disaster to save lives, protect property and public health, and to maintain public safety. ESFs represent those types of federal assistance which the state will most likely need because of the impact of a catastrophic or significant disaster on its own resources and response capabilities, or because of the specialized or unique nature of the assistance required. ESF missions are designed to supplement state and local response efforts.

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**EMERGENCY SUPPORT TEAM**

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An interagency group operating from FEMA headquarters. The EST oversees the national-level response support effort under the FRP and coordinates activities with the ESF primary and support agencies in supporting federal requirements in the field.

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**EMI**

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Emergency Management Institute

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**EMS**

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Emergency Medical Services

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**EMTS**

Emergency Medical and Trauma Services System

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**ENERGY RELEASE COMPONENT**

The computed total heat released per unit area (British thermal units per square foot) within the fire front at the head of a moving fire.

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**ENGINE**

Any ground vehicle providing specified levels of pumping, water and hose capacity.

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**ENGINE CREW**

Firefighters assigned to an engine. The Fireline Handbook defines the minimum crew makeup by engine type.

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**ENTRAPMENT**

A situation where personnel are unexpectedly caught in a fire behavior-related, life-threatening position where planned escape routes or safety zones are absent, inadequate, or compromised. An entrapment may or may not include deployment of a fire shelter for its intended purpose. These situations may or may not result in injury. They include "near misses."

---

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

Environmental assessments were authorized by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. They are concise, analytical documents prepared with public participation that determine if an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is needed for a particular project or action. If an environmental assessment determines an EIS is not needed, the environmental assessment becomes the document allowing agency compliance with NEPA requirements.

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**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

Environmental impact statements were authorized by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. Prepared with public participation, they assist decision makers by providing information, analysis and an array of action alternatives, allowing managers to see the probable effects of decisions on the environment. Generally, environmental impact statements are written for large-scale actions or geographical areas.

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**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

The government agency that leads the nation's environmental science, research, education and assessment efforts.

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**ENZYME**

A substance that speeds up chemical reaction. Every chemical reaction in living organisms is facilitated by an enzyme.

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**EOC**

Emergency Operations Center



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**EOP**

Emergency Operations Plan

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**EPA**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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**EPCRA**

Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act

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**EPG**

Emergency Planning Guide

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**EPIDEMIC**

A disease occurring suddenly in a community, region or country in numbers clearly in excess of normal. (See also Pandemic)

---

**EPIDEMIOLOGIST**

A professional skilled in disease investigation. Epidemiologists design and conduct epidemiological studies, analyze data to detect patterns and trends in disease, establish and maintain surveillance systems, monitor health status, and evaluate the performance and cost effectiveness of public health programs.

---

**EQUILIBRIUM MOISTURE CONTENT**

Moisture content that a fuel particle will attain if exposed for an infinite period in an environment of specified constant temperature and humidity. When a fuel particle reaches equilibrium moisture content, net exchange of moisture between it and the environment is zero.

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**ERC**

Energy Release Component

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**ERT**

Emergency Response Team

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**ERT-A**

Emergency Response Team Advance Element

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**ERT-N**

Emergency Response Team National

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**ESCAPE ROUTE**

A preplanned and understood route firefighters take to move to a safety zone or other low-risk area, such as an already burned area, previously constructed safety area, a meadow that won't burn, natural rocky area that is large enough to take refuge without being burned. When escape routes deviate from a defined physical path, they should be clearly marked (flagged).

---

**ESCAPED FIRE**

---

A fire which has exceeded or is expected to exceed initial attack capabilities or prescription.

---

**ESF**

---

Emergency Support Function

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**EST**

---

Emergency Support Team

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**ETA**

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Estimated Time of Arrival

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**EVACUATION**

---

Organized, phased, and supervised dispersal of people from dangerous or potentially dangerous areas.

- *Spontaneous Evacuation.* Residents or citizens in the threatened areas observe an emergency event or receive unofficial word of an actual or perceived threat and without receiving instructions to do so, elect to evacuate the area. Their movement, means, and direction of travel is unorganized and unsupervised.
- *Voluntary Evacuation.* This is a warning to persons within a designated area that a threat to life and property exists or is likely to exist in the immediate future. Individuals issued this type of warning or order are NOT required to evacuate, however it would be to their advantage to do so.
- *Mandatory or Directed Evacuation.* This is a warning to persons within the designated area that an imminent threat to life and property exists and individuals MUST evacuate in accordance with the instructions of local officials.

---

**EVACUEES**

---

All persons removed or moving from areas threatened or struck by a disaster.

---

**EVENT**

---

A planned non-emergency activity. ICS can be used as the management system for a wide range of events (e.g., parades, concerts, sporting events, etc.).

---

**EXCLUSION ZONE**

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(See Hot Zone)

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**EXPOSURE (RADIOLOGICAL)**

---

A quantitative measure of gamma or x-ray radiation at a certain place based on its ability to produce ionization in air.

---

**EXPOSURE RATE (RADIOLOGICAL)**

---

The amount of ionizing radiation to which an individual would be exposed or which he or she would receive per unit of time.

---

**EXTENDED ATTACK INCIDENT**

---

A wildland fire that has not been contained or controlled by initial attack forces and for which more firefighting resources are arriving, en route, or being ordered by the initial attack incident commander.

---

**EXTREME FIRE BEHAVIOR**

---

"Extreme" implies a level of fire behavior characteristics that ordinarily precludes methods of direct control action. One or more of the following is usually involved: high rate of spread, prolific crowning and/or spotting, presence of fire whirls, strong convection column. Predictability is difficult because such fires often exercise some degree of influence on their environment and behave erratically, sometimes dangerously.

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**FACILITIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS**

---

Costs that are incurred for common or joint objectives and therefore cannot be identified readily and specifically with a particular sponsored project, an instructional activity, or any other institutional activity.

---

**FACILITIES UNIT**

---

Functional unit within the support branch of the logistics section that provides fixed facilities for the incident. These facilities may include the incident base, feeding areas, sleeping areas, sanitary facilities, etc.

---

**FALLER**

---

A person who fells trees. Also called a sawyer or cutter.

---

**FAO**

---

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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**FAST**

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Field Assessment Team

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**FCO**

---

Field Coordinating Officer

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**FDA**

---

U.S. Food and Drug Administration

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**FEDERAL COORDINATING OFFICER**

---

The person appointed by the President to coordinate federal assistance in a Presidentially declared emergency or major disaster.

---

**FEDERAL RESPONSE PLAN (FRP)**

---

A plan mandated by HSPD-5 that integrates federal government domestic awareness, prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery plans into one all-discipline, all-hazards plan.

---

**FEMA**

---

Federal Emergency Management Agency

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**FIA**

---

Federal Insurance Administration

---

**FIELD OBSERVER**

---

Person responsible to the Situation Unit Leader for collecting and reporting information about an incident obtained from personal observations and interviews.

---

**FIELD OPERATIONS GUIDE**

---

A pocket-size manual of instructions on the application of the Incident Command System.

---

**FINANCE / ADMINISTRATION SECTION**

---

The section responsible for all incident costs and financial considerations. Includes the time unit, procurement unit, compensation/claims unit, and cost unit.

---

**FINE (LIGHT) FUELS**

---

Fast-drying fuels, generally with comparatively high surface area-to-volume ratios, which are less than 1/4-inch in diameter and have a time lag of one hour or less. These fuels readily ignite and are rapidly consumed by fire when dry.

---

**FINGERS OF A FIRE**

---

The long narrow extensions of a fire projecting from the main body.

---

**FIRE BEHAVIOR**

---

The manner in which a fire reacts to the influences of fuel, weather and topography.

---

**FIRE BEHAVIOR FORECAST**

---

Prediction of probable fire behavior, usually prepared by a Fire Behavior Officer, in support of fire suppression or prescribed burning operations.

---

**FIRE BEHAVIOR SPECIALIST**

---

A person responsible to the Planning Section Chief for establishing a weather data collection system and for developing fire behavior predictions based on fire history, fuel, weather and topography.

---

**FIRE BREAK**

---

A natural or constructed barrier used to stop or check fires that may occur, or to provide a control line from which to work.

---

**FIRE CACHE**

---

A supply of fire tools and equipment assembled in planned quantities or standard units at a strategic point for exclusive use in fire suppression.

---

**FIRE CREW**

---

An organized group of firefighters under the leadership of a crew leader or other designated official.

---

**FIRE FRONT**

---

The part of a fire within which continuous flaming combustion is taking place. Unless otherwise specified the fire front is assumed to be the leading edge of the fire perimeter. In ground fires, the fire front may be mainly smoldering combustion.

---

**FIRE INTENSITY**

---

A general term relating to the heat energy released by a fire.

---

**FIRE LINE**

---

A linear fire barrier that is scraped or dug to mineral soil.

---

**FIRE LOAD**

---

The number and size of fires historically experienced on a specified unit over a specified period (usually one day) at a specified index of fire danger.

---

**FIRE MANAGEMENT**

---

Activities and programs that include the use of fire as a resource management tool, and protection of values from unwanted, uncontrolled wildfire.

---

**FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

---

A strategic plan that defines a program to manage wildland and prescribed fires. The fire management program objectives come from an approved land use plan (e.g., Resource Management Plan). The Fire Management Plan is supplemented by operational plans such as preparedness, preplanned dispatch, prescribed fire, and prevention.

---

**FIRE PERIMETER**

---

The entire outer edge or boundary of a fire.

---

**FIRE SEASON**

---

1) Period(s) of the year during which wildland fires are likely to occur, spread, and affect resource values sufficient to warrant organized fire management activities. 2) A legally enacted time during which burning activities are regulated by state or local authority.

---

**FIRE SHELTER**

---

An aluminized tent offering protection by means of reflecting radiant heat and providing a volume of breathable air in a fire entrapment situation. Fire shelters should only be used in life-threatening situations, as a last resort.

---

**FIRE SHELTER DEPLOYMENT**

---

The removing of a fire shelter from its case and using it as protection against fire.

---

**FIRE STORM**

---

Violent convection caused by a large continuous area of intense fire. Often characterized by destructively violent surface indrafts, near and beyond the perimeter, and sometimes by tornado-like whirls.

---

**FIRE TRIANGLE**

---

Instructional aid in which the sides of a triangle are used to represent the three factors (oxygen, heat, fuel) necessary for combustion and flame production; removal of any of the three factors causes flame production to cease.

---

**FIRE USE**

---

Burning for a purpose.

---

**FIRE USE MODULE (PRESCRIBED FIRE MODULE)**

---

A team of skilled and mobile personnel dedicated primarily to prescribed fire management. These are national and interagency resources, available throughout the prescribed fire season, that can ignite, hold and monitor prescribed fires.

---

**FIRE WEATHER**

---

Weather conditions that influence fire ignition, behavior and suppression.

---

**FIRE WEATHER WATCH**

---

A term used by fire weather forecasters to notify using agencies, usually 24 to 72 hours ahead of the event, that current and developing meteorological conditions may evolve into dangerous fire weather.

---

**FIRE WHIRL**

---

Spinning vortex column of ascending hot air and gases rising from a fire and carrying aloft smoke, debris, and flame. Fire whirls range in size from less than one foot to more than 500 feet in diameter. Large fire whirls have the intensity of a small tornado.

---

**FIREFIGHTING RESOURCES**

---

All people and major items of equipment that can or potentially could be assigned to fires.

---

**FIRST RESPONDER**

---

Local police, fire, and emergency medical personnel who first arrive on the scene of an incident and take action to save lives, protect property, and meet basic needs. First responders may include federal, state, or local responders.

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**FIS**

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Flood Insurance Study

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**FLAME HEIGHT**

---

The average maximum vertical extension of flames at the leading edge of the fire front. Occasional flashes that rise above the general level of flames are not considered. This distance is less than the flame length if flames are tilted due to wind or slope.

---

**FLAME LENGTH**

---

The distance between the flame tip and the midpoint of the flame depth at the base of the flame (generally the ground surface); an indicator of fire intensity.

---

**FLAMING FRONT**

---

The zone of a moving fire where the combustion is primarily flaming. Behind this flaming zone combustion is primarily glowing. Light fuels typically have a shallow flaming front, whereas heavy fuels have a deeper front. Also called fire front.

---

**FLANKS OF A FIRE**

---

The parts of a fire's perimeter that are roughly parallel to the main direction of spread.

---

**FLASH FLOOD**

---

Follows a situation in which rainfall is so intense and severe and runoff so rapid that it precludes recording and relating it to stream stages and other information in time to forecast a flood condition.

---

**FDA**

---

U.S. Food and Drug Administration

---

**FLASH FUELS**

---

Fuels such as grass, leaves, draped pine needles, fern, tree moss and some kinds of slash that ignite readily and are consumed rapidly when dry. Also called fine fuels.

---

**FLOOD**

---

A general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of normally dry land areas from overflow of inland or tidal waters, unusual or rapid accumulation or runoff of surface waters, or mudslides/mudflows caused by accumulation of water.

---

**FMP**

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Fire Management Plan

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**FOCUS AREAS**

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Categories of emergency preparedness activities states must address in their Cooperative Agreements for Public Health Preparedness and Response for Bioterrorism. Focus areas cover the following topics:

- Focus Area A: Preparedness planning and readiness assessment
- Focus Area B: Disease detection and reporting
- Focus Area C: Laboratory readiness
- Focus Area E: Electronic information sharing
- Focus Area F: Public health communications
- Focus Area G: Education and training

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**FOG**

Field Operations Guide

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**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

Leads international efforts to defeat hunger. FAO serves both developed and developing countries and acts as a neutral forum where all nations meet as equals to negotiate agreements and debate policy.

---

**FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION**

The government agency responsible for protecting the public health by assuring the safety, efficacy, and security of human and veterinary drugs, biological products, medical devices, our nation's food supply, cosmetics, and products that emit radiation. FDA is one of 13 major operating components of the Department of Health and Human Services.

---

**FOOD UNIT**

Functional unit within the service branch of the logistics section responsible for providing meals for incident personnel.

---

**FORB**

A plant with a soft, rather than permanent woody stem, that is not a grass or grass-like plant.

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**FOSC**

Federal On-Scene Commander

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**FRERP**

Federal Radiological Emergency Response Plan

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**FRP**

Federal Response Plan

---

**FUEL**

Combustible material. Includes, vegetation, such as grass, leaves, ground litter, plants, shrubs and trees, which feed a fire. (See also Surface Fuels)

---

**FUEL BED**

An array of fuels usually constructed with specific loading, depth and particle size to meet experimental requirements; also, commonly used to describe the fuel composition in natural settings.

---

**FUEL LOADING**

The amount of fuel present expressed quantitatively in terms of weight of fuel per unit area.



---

**FUEL MODEL**

---

Simulated fuel complex (or combination of vegetation types) for which all fuel descriptors required for the solution of a mathematical rate of spread model have been specified.

---

**FUEL MOISTURE (FUEL MOISTURE CONTENT)**

---

The quantity of moisture in fuel expressed as a percentage of the weight when thoroughly dried at 212 degrees Fahrenheit.

---

**FUEL REDUCTION**

---

Manipulation, including combustion, or removal of fuels to reduce the likelihood of ignition and/or to lessen potential damage and resistance to control.

---

**FUEL TYPE**

---

An identifiable association of fuel elements of a distinctive plant species, form, size, arrangement, or other characteristics that will cause a predictable rate of fire spread or difficulty of control under specified weather conditions.

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**FUNCTION**

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In Incident Command System a function refers to the five major activities (i.e., command, operations, planning, logistics, and finance/administration). The term function is also used when describing the activity involved (e.g., the planning function).

---

**FUNCTIONAL AREA**

---

A major grouping of the functions and tasks that agencies perform in carrying out awareness, prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery activities.

---

**FUSEE**

---

A colored flare designed as a railway warning device and widely used to ignite suppression and prescription fires.

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**– G –**

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**GENERAL STAFF**

---

The group of incident management personnel reporting to the incident commander. They may each have a deputy, as needed. Staff consists of operations section chief, planning section chief, logistics section chief, and finance/administration section chief.

---

**GEOGRAPHIC AREA**

---

A political boundary designated by the wildland fire protection agencies, where these agencies work together in the coordination and effective utilization.

---

**GIS**

---

Geographic Information System

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**GOVERNOR'S AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE**

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The person empowered by the Governor to execute, on behalf of the state, all necessary documents for disaster assistance.

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**GROUND FUEL**

---

All combustible materials below the surface litter, including duff, tree or shrub roots, punchy wood, peat, and sawdust, which normally support a glowing combustion without flame.

---

**GROUND SUPPORT UNIT**

---

Functional unit within the support branch of the logistics section responsible for the fueling, maintaining, and repairing or vehicles, and the transportation of personnel and supplies.

---

**GROUPS**

---

Groups are established to divide the incident into functional areas of operation. Groups are composed of resources assembled to perform a special function not necessarily within a single geographic division. (See Division). Groups are located between branches (when activated) and resources in the operations section.

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**GRT**

---

Gross Registered Tonnage

– H –

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**H5N1**

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A variant of avian influenza, which is a type of influenza virulent in birds. It was first identified in Italy in the early 1900s and is now known to exist worldwide.

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**HAINES INDEX**

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An atmospheric index used to indicate the potential for wildfire growth by measuring the stability and dryness of the air over a fire.

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**HAN**

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Health Alert Network

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**HAN INFORMATION SERVICE**

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Health Alert Network Information Service provides information in a variety of media, along with announcements of upcoming conferences and briefings.

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**HAN LHAP**

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Health Alert Network Local Health Assistance Project

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**HAND LINE**

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A fireline built with hand tools.

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**HAZARD ANALYSIS**

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Provides information on situations that have the potential to cause injury or damage.

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**HAZARD MITIGATION**

---

Any action taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from hazards. The term is sometimes used in a stricter sense to mean cost-effective measures to reduce the potential for damage to a facility or facilities from a disaster event.

---

**HAZARD REDUCTION**

---

Any treatment of a hazard that reduces the threat of ignition and fire intensity or rate of spread.

---

**HAZARD AND RISK ANALYSIS**

---

Evaluation of the relative hazards and risks of materials to emergency response personnel, the public, and the environment.

---

**HAZARDOUS MATERIAL**

---

Any substance or material that when involved in an accident and released in sufficient quantities, poses a risk to people's health, safety, and/or property. These substances and materials include explosives, radioactive materials, flammable liquids or solids, combustible liquids or solids, poisons, oxidizers, toxins, and corrosive materials.

---

**HAZARDOUS MATERIAL SPECIALIST OR TECHNICIAN**

---

Levels of training and competency as defined by the National Fire Protection Association's Standard for Professional Competence of Responders to Hazardous Material Incidents (NFPA 472).

---

**HAZMAT**

---

Hazardous Material

---

**HEAD OF FIRE**

---

The side of the fire having the fastest rate of spread.

---

**HEALTH ALERT NETWORK**

---

The project helps local health jurisdictions enhance and maintain state of the art network and security operations, and achieve compliance with the PHIN standards.

---

**HEALTH ALERT NETWORK LOCAL HEALTH ASSISTANCE PROJECT**

---

The project helps local health jurisdictions enhance and maintain state of the art network and security operations, and achieve compliance with the PHIN standards.

---

**HEALTH ALERTS**

---

Urgent messages from the CDC to health officials requiring immediate action or attention. The CDC also issues health advisories containing less urgent information about a specific health incident or response that may or may not require immediate action, and health updates, which do not require action.

---

**HEALTHCARE FACILITY EVACUATION**

---

An event resulting in the need to evacuate any number of patients from a healthcare facility on a temporary basis when the movement of those patients exceeds the emergency medical and trauma services capabilities of the locality, hospital, jurisdiction, and/or region.

---

**HEALTH INSURANCE PORTABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1996**

---

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) is a comprehensive federal statute that is designed, in part, to provide national standards for the protection of certain health information. These statutory privacy provisions have been interpreted in a highly complex regulation issued by the federal Department of Health and Human Services and known as the HIPAA Privacy Rule.

---

**HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION**

---

A branch of the federal Department of Health and Human Services.

---

**HEAVY FUELS**

---

Fuels of large diameter such as snags, logs, large limb wood, which ignite and are consumed more slowly than flash fuels.

---

**HEICS**

---

Hospital Emergency Incident Command System

---

**HELIBASE**

---

The main location within the general incident area for parking, fueling, maintaining, and loading of helicopters operating in support of an incident. The helibase is usually located at or near the incident base.

---

**HELICOPTER**

---

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>SEATS</u>	<u>CARD WEIGHT</u>	<u>TANK GALLONS</u>
I	16	5,000	700
II	10	2,500	300
III	5	1,200	100
IV	3	600	75

---

**HELISPOT**

---

Any designated location where a helicopter can safely take off and land. Some helispots may be used for loading of supplies, equipment, or personnel. A natural or improved takeoff and landing area for temporary or occasional helicopter use. These are numbered H-1, etc. A temporary landing spot for helicopters.

---

**HELITACK**

---

The use of helicopters to transport crews, equipment, and fire retardants or suppressants to the fire line during the initial stages of a fire.

---

**HELITACK CREW**

---

A group of firefighters trained in the technical and logistical use of helicopters for fire suppression.

---

**HEMAGGLUTININ**

---

An important surface structure protein of the influenza virus that is an essential gene for the spread of the virus throughout the respiratory tract. This enables the virus to attach itself to a cell in the respiratory system and penetrate it. Referred to as the “H” in influenza viruses. (See also Neuraminidase)

---

**HHS**

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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

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**HIGH-HAZARD AREAS**

---

Geographic locations that for planning purposes have been determined through historical experience and vulnerability analysis to be likely to experience the effects of a specific hazard (e.g., hurricane, earthquake, hazardous materials accident, etc.) resulting in vast property damage and loss of life.

---

**HIGHLY PATHOGENIC FORM OF AVIAN INFLUENZA**

---

Highly Pathogenic form of Avian Influenza. Avian flu viruses are classified based upon the severity of the illness and HPAI is extremely infectious among humans. The rapid spread of HPAI, with outbreaks occurring at the same time, is of growing concern for human health as well as for animal health. (See also LPAI)

---

**HIPAA**

---

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996

---

**HOLDING ACTIONS**

---

Planned actions required to achieve wildland prescribed fire management objectives. These actions have specific implementation timeframes for fire use actions but can have less sensitive implementation demands for suppression actions.

---

**HOLDING RESOURCES**

---

Firefighting personnel and equipment assigned to do all required fire suppression work following fireline construction but generally not including extensive mop-up.

---

**HOMELAND SECURITY PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE – 5 (HSPD-5)**

---

A presidential directive issued on February 28, 2003, and intended to enhance the ability of the United States to manage domestic incidents by establishing a single, comprehensive national incident management system.

---

**HOMOLOGOUS**

---

Similar in position, structure, function, or characteristics.

---

**HOSE LAY**

---

Arrangement of connected lengths of fire hose and accessories on the ground, beginning at the first pumping unit and ending at the point of water delivery.

---

**HOST**

An organism on or in which a parasite lives.

---

**HOT ZONE**

The area surrounding a hazardous material incident site which is immediately dangerous to life and health. Entry in the zone is by only qualified responders with the appropriate personnel protective equipment. The hot zone is also called the exclusion zone.

---

**HOTSHOT CREW**

A highly trained fire crew used mainly to build fireline by hand.

---

**HOTSPOT**

A particular active part of a fire.

---

**HOTSPOTTING**

Reducing or stopping the spread of fire at points of particularly rapid rate of spread or special threat, generally the first step in prompt control, with emphasis on first priorities.

---

**HPAI**

Highly Pathogenic form of Avian Influenza

---

**HQs**

Headquarters

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**HRSA**

Health Resources and Services Administration

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**HSPD-5**

Homeland Security Presidential Directive – 5

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**HURRICANE**

A tropical cyclone, formed in the atmosphere over warm ocean areas, in which wind speeds reach 74 miles per hour or more and blow in a large spiral around a relatively calm center or "eye." Circulation is counter-clockwise in the Northern Hemisphere and clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere.

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**IAP**

Incident Action Plan

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**IC**

Incident Commander

---

**ICP**

Incident Command Post

---

**ICS**

Incident Command System

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**IFC**

International Fire Code

---

**IMMUNE SYSTEM**

The cells, tissues and organs that help the body to resist infection and disease by producing antibodies and/or altered cells that inhibit the multiplication of the infectious agent.

---

**INCIDENT**

An occurrence either human caused or by natural phenomena that requires action by emergency service personnel to prevent or minimize loss of life or damage to property and/or natural resources.

---

**INCIDENT ACTION PLAN**

Contains objectives reflecting the overall incident strategy and specific tactical actions and supporting information for the next operational period. The plan may be oral or written. When written, the plan may have a number of attachments, including: incident objectives, organization assignment list, division assignment, incident radio communication plan, medical plan, traffic plan, safety plan, and incident map.

---

**INCIDENT BASE**

Location at the incident where the primary logistics functions are coordinated and administered. (Incident name or other designator will be added to the term base.) The incident command post may be collocated with the base. (See Single Resource)

---

**INCIDENT COMMAND POST (ICP)**

Location at which primary command functions are executed. The incident command post may be collocated with the incident base or other incident facilities.

---

**INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM (ICS)**

A standardized organizational structure used to command, control, and coordinate the use of resources and personnel that have responded to the scene of an emergency. The concepts and principles for ICS include common terminology, modular organization, integrated communication, unified command structure, consolidated action plan, manageable span of control, designated incident facilities, and comprehensive resource management.

---

**INCIDENT COMMANDER (IC)**

Individual responsible for the management of all incident operations at the incident site.

---

**INCIDENT COMMUNICATIONS CENTER**

The location of the communications unit and the message center.

---

**INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM**

---

The incident commander and appropriate general or command staff personnel assigned to manage an incident. Incident management team is also referred to as an “emergency response team.”

---

**INCIDENT OBJECTIVES**

---

Statements of guidance and direction necessary for the selection of appropriate strategy(ies) and the tactical direction of resources. Incident objectives are based on realistic expectations of what can be accomplished when all allocated resources have been effectively deployed. Incident objectives must be achievable and measurable, yet flexible enough to allow for strategic and tactical alternatives.

---

**INCIDENT SUPPORT ORGANIZATION**

---

Includes any off-incident support provided to an incident. Examples would be agency dispatch centers, airports, mobilization centers, etc.

---

**INFECTIOUS AGENT**

---

Any organism, such as a pathogenic virus, parasite, or bacterium, that is capable of invading body tissues, multiplying, and causing disease.

---

**INFLUENZA**

---

A serious disease caused by viruses that infect the respiratory tract.

---

**INFORMATION OFFICER**

---

A member of the command staff responsible for interfacing with the public and media or with other agencies requiring information directly from the incident. There is only one information officer per incident. The information officer may have assistants.

---

**INFRARED DETECTION**

---

The use of heat sensing equipment, known as Infrared Scanners, for detection of heat sources that are not visually detectable by the normal surveillance methods of either ground or air patrols.

---

**INITIAL ACTION**

---

The actions taken by personnel (see First Responders) which are the first to arrive at an incident.

---

**INITIAL ATTACK**

---

The action taken by resources which are first to arrive at an incident. All wildland fires that are controlled by suppression forces undergo initial attack. The number and type of resources responding to initial attack varies depending upon fire danger, fuel type, values at risk, and other factors. Generally, initial attack involves relatives few resources and the incident size is small.

---

**INITIAL ATTACK FORCES**

---

Wildfire suppression resources of agencies initially dispatched to a fire in accordance with a pre-existing annual operating plan or mobilization guide.



---

**INITIAL ATTACK ZONE**

---

An identified area in which predetermined resources would normally be the initial resource to respond to an incident.

---

**INITIAL RESPONSE**

---

Resources initially committed to an incident.

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**IO**

---

Information Officer

---

**IRZ**

---

Immediate Response Zone

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**ISOLATE**

---

A pure strain that has been isolated as from diseased tissue, contaminated water, or the air.

– J –

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**JIC**

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Joint Information Center

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**JIS**

---

Joint Information System

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**JNACC**

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Joint Nuclear Accident Coordinating Center

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**JOB HAZARD ANALYSIS**

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This analysis of a project is completed by staff to identify hazards to employees and the public. It identifies hazards, corrective actions and the required safety equipment to ensure public and employee safety.

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**JOC**

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Joint Operations Center

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**JOINT INFORMATION CENTER**

---

A central point of contact for all news media near the scene of a large-scale disaster. News media representatives are kept informed of activities and events by public information officials who represent all participating federal, state, and local agencies that are collocated at the JIC. The center is staffed by public information officials who represent all participating federal, state, and local agencies to provide information to the media in a coordinated and consistent manner.

---

**JOINT INFORMATION SYSTEM**

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Under the FRP, connection of public affairs personnel, decision-makers, and news centers by electronic mail, fax, and telephone when a single federal-state-local JIC is not a viable option.

---

**JUMP SPOT**

---

Selected landing area for smokejumpers.

---

**JUMP SUIT**

---

Approved protection suite work by smokejumpers.

---

**JURISDICTION**

---

The range or sphere of authority. Public agencies have jurisdiction at an incident related to their legal responsibilities and authority for incident mitigation. Jurisdictional authority at an incident can be political/geographical (i.e., city, county, state, or federal boundary lines) or functional (e.g., law enforcement agency, health department, etc.). (See Multi-Jurisdictional Incident)

---

**JURISDICTIONAL AGENCY**

---

The agency having jurisdiction and responsibility for a specific geographical area, or a mandated function as defined by law.

– K –

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**KBDI**

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Keech Byram Drought Index

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**KEECH BYRAM DROUGHT INDEX**

---

Commonly-used drought index adapted for fire management applications, with a numerical range from 0 (no moisture deficiency) to 800 (maximum drought).

---

**KNOCK DOWN**

---

To reduce the flame or heat on the more vigorously burning parts of a fire edge.

– L –

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**LABORATORY INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

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LIMS connects the analytical instruments in the lab to one or more workstations or personal computers. A full-featured LIMS will forward data from lab instruments to a PC, organize it into meaningful information, and arrange it in required report formats.

---

**LABORATORY LEVELS (A,B,C,D)**

---

A system for classifying laboratories by their capabilities. Classifications are:

- A: Routine clinical testing. Includes independent clinical labs and those at universities and community hospitals.
- B: More specialized capabilities. Includes many state and local public health laboratories.
- C: More sophisticated public health labs and reference labs such as those run by CDC.
- D: Possessing sophisticated containment equipment and expertise to deal with the most dangerous, virulent pathogens and include only CDC and Department of Defense labs, the FBI, and the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases.

---

**LABORATORY RESPONSE NETWORK**

---

A national partnership of public health laboratories designed to coordinate and share resources for an effective response during a health emergency.

---

**LADDER FUELS**

---

Fuels which provide vertical continuity between strata, thereby allowing fire to carry from surface fuels into the crowns of trees or shrubs with relative ease. They help initiate and assure the continuation of crowning.

---

**LAL**

---

Lightning Activity Level

---

**LAPI**

---

Low Pathogenic form of Avian Influenza

---

**LARGE FIRE**

---

1) For statistical purposes, a fire burning more than a specified area of land (e.g., 300 acres). 2) A fire burning with a size and intensity such that its behavior is determined by interaction between its own convection column and weather conditions above the surface.

---

**LEAD AGENCY**

---

The agency designated by law or mandate to have overall responsibility for emergency preparedness and response for their respective government.

---

**LEAD PLANE**

---

Aircraft with pilot used to make dry runs over the target area to check wing and smoke conditions and topography and to lead air tankers to targets and supervise their drops.

---

**LEADER**

---

The Incident Command System title for an individual responsible for a task force, strike team, or functional unit.

---

**LEPC**

Local Emergency Planning Committee

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**LET IT BURN**

This is an old outdated term.

---

**LEVEL**

A numbered system to measure threat, generally 1-4 with 1 being the highest.

---

**LHJ**

Local Health Jurisdiction

---

**LIAISON OFFICER**

A member of the command staff responsible for coordinating with representatives from cooperating and assisting agencies.

---

**LIGHT (FINE) FUELS**

Fast-drying fuels, generally with comparatively high surface area-to-volume ratios, which are less than 1/4-inch in diameter and have a time lag of one hour or less. These fuels readily ignite and are rapidly consumed by fire when dry.

---

**LIGHTNING ACTIVITY LEVEL**

A number, on a scale of 1 to 6, which reflects frequency and character of cloud-to-ground lightning. The scale is exponential, based on powers of 2 (i.e., LAL 3 indicates twice the lightning of LAL 2).

---

**LIMS**

Laboratory Information Management System

---

**LINE SCOUT**

A firefighter who determines the location of a fire line.

---

**LITTER**

Top layer of the forest, scrubland, or grassland floor, directly above the fermentation layer, composed of loose debris of dead sticks, branches, twigs, and recently fallen leaves or needles, little altered in structure by decomposition.

---

**LIVE FUELS**

Living plants, such as trees, grasses, and shrubs, in which the seasonal moisture content cycle is controlled largely by internal physiological mechanisms, rather than by external weather influences.

---

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Refers to county level government and includes all legally recognized political subdivision therein, unless otherwise specified.

---

**LOGISTICS**

---

Provides support to meet incident needs, provides resources, and all other services needed to support the incident.

---

**LOGISTICS CHIEF**

---

A member of the general staff responsible for providing facilities, services, and material in support of the incident. The logistics chief participates in development and implementation of the incident action plan, and activates and supervises the units within the logistics section.

---

**LOGISTICS SECTION**

---

The section responsible for providing facilities, services, and materials for the incident.

---

**LOW PATHOGENIC FORM OF AVIAN INFLUENZA**

---

Most avian flu strains are classified as LPAI and typically cause little or no clinical signs in infected birds. However, some LPAI virus strains are capable of mutating under field conditions into HPAI viruses. (See also HPAI)

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**LRN**

---

Laboratory Response Network

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**– M –**

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**MAC**

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Multi-Agency Coordination

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**MAJOR DISASTER**

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As defined under the Stafford Act, any natural catastrophe (including any hurricane, tornado, storm, high-water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide, mudslide, snowstorm, or drought), or, regardless of cause, any fire, flood, or explosion, in any part of the United States, which in the determination of the President causes damage of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant major disaster assistance under the Stafford Act to supplement the efforts and available resources of states, local governments, and disaster relief organizations in alleviating the damage, loss, hardship, or suffering caused by the disaster.

---

**MANAGEMENT BY OBJECTIVES**

---

In ICS, this is a top-down management activity that involves a three-step process to achieve the incident goal. The steps are: (1) establishing the incident objectives; (2) selection of appropriate strategy(ies) to achieve the objectives; and (3) the tactical direction associated with the selected strategy. Tactical direction includes selection of tactics, selection of resources, resource assignments, and performance monitoring.

---

**MANAGERS**

---

Individuals within ICS organizational units that are assigned specific managerial responsibilities (e.g., staging area manager or camp manager).

---

**MASS CARE**

---

The actions that are taken to protect evacuees and other disaster victims from the effects of the disaster. Activities include providing temporary shelter, food, medical care, clothing, and other essential life support needs to those people that have been displaced from their homes because of a disaster or threatened disaster.

---

**MASS FATALITIES**

---

A situation where there are more fatalities than can be handled using local resources. In a disaster situation, identification of the fatalities is a critical issue. Therefore, security of the area in which the fatalities are located is critical. Close cooperation with the coroner, both in MCI preplanning and during the incident is essential.

---

**MBO**

---

Management By Objectives

---

**MEDICAL DIRECTOR / PHYSICIAN ADVISOR**

---

Person responsible for protocol development, continued training, quality assurance, and online and off-line medical control.

---

**MEDICAL READINESS, TRAINING, AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

---

A regional workgroup of state health agency representatives, including one from the Department of Health, which facilitates local-state-federal planning integration.

---

**MEDICAL UNIT**

---

Functional unit within the service branch of the logistics section responsible for the development of the medical emergency plan, and for providing emergency medical treatment of incident personnel.

---

**MESSAGE CENTER**

---

The message center is part of the incident communications center and is collocated or placed adjacent to it. It receives, records, and routes information about resources reporting to the incident, resource status, and administrative and tactical traffic.

---

**METROPOLITAN MEDICAL RESPONSE SYSTEM**

---

A program of the U.S. Health and Human Services Office of Emergency Preparedness intended to increase cities' ability to respond to a terrorist attack by coordinating the efforts of local law enforcement, fire, hazmat, EMS, hospital, public health, and other personnel.

---

**MICRO-REMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING SYSTEM (MICRO-REMS)**

---

Mobile weather monitoring station. A Micro-REMS usually accompanies an incident meteorologist and ATMU to an incident.

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**MINERAL SOIL**

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Soil layers below the predominantly organic horizons; soil with little combustible material.

---

**MITIGATION**

---

Those activities designed to alleviate the effects of a major disaster or long-term emergency or long-term activities to minimize the potentially adverse effects of a future disaster in affected areas.

---

**MMRS**

---

Metropolitan Medical Response System

---

**MOBILIZATION**

---

The process and procedures used by all organizations, federal, state and local for activating, assembling, and transporting all resources that have been requested to respond to or support an incident.

---

**MOBILIZATION CENTER**

---

An off-incident location at which emergency service personnel and equipment are temporarily located pending assignment, release, or reassignment.

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**MODE**

---

A numbering system used by the state to identify the size and scope of an incident.

---

**MODULAR AIRBORNE FIREFIGHTING SYSTEM (MAFFS)**

---

A manufactured unit consisting of five interconnecting tanks, a control pallet, and a nozzle pallet, with a capacity of 3,000 gallons, designed to be rapidly mounted inside an unmodified C-130 (Hercules) cargo aircraft for use in dropping retardant on wildland fires.

---

**MOP-UP**

---

To make a fire safe or reduce residual smoke after the fire has been controlled by extinguishing or removing burning material along or near the control line, felling snags, or moving logs so they won't roll downhill.

---

**MOU**

---

Memorandum of Understanding

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**MOVE UP AND COVER**

---

Identifies a relocation of fire suppression resources from their established location to a temporary location to provide fire protection coverage for an initial attack response area.

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**MPH**

---

Miles Per Hour

---

**MRTE**

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Medical Readiness, Training, and Education Committee

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**MULTI-AGENCY COORDINATION (MAC)**

---

A generalized term which describes the functions and activities of representatives of involved agencies and/or jurisdictions who come together to make decisions regarding the prioritizing of incidents, and the sharing and use of critical resources. The MAC organization is not a part of the on-scene ICS and is not involved in developing incident strategy or tactics.

---

**MULTI-AGENCY INCIDENT**

---

An incident where one or more agencies assist a jurisdictional lead (key) agency. May be single or unified command.

---

**MULTI-CASUALTY**

---

Sometimes called a mass casualty incident, an MCI is an event resulting from manmade or natural causes which results in illness and/or injuries which exceed the emergency medical and trauma services system (EMTS) capabilities of a hospital, locality, jurisdiction, and/or region.

---

**MULTI-JURISDICTION INCIDENT**

---

An incident requiring action from multiple agencies that have statutory responsibility for incident mitigation. In the Incident Command System these incidents will be managed under unified command.

---

**MUTATION**

---

Any alteration in a gene from its natural state. This change may be disease causing or a benign, normal variant. Specific mutations and evolution in influenza viruses cannot be predicted, making it difficult if not impossible to know if or when a virus such as H5N1 might acquire the properties needed to spread easily among humans.

---

**MUTUAL AID**

---

Assistance provided by a supporting agency at no cost to the protecting agency. Mutual aid is limited to those initial attack resources or move-up and cover assignments that have been determined to be appropriate and as each may be able to furnish and are documented in annual operating plans. Sometimes called "Reciprocal Fire Protection."

---

**MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT**

---

Written agreement between agencies and/or jurisdictions in which they agree to assist one another upon request by furnishing personnel and equipment.

---

**MUTUAL AID PERIOD**

---

The time period when the assisting/cooperating agency is providing assistance at no cost to the jurisdictional agency; sometimes called Reciprocal Fire Protection.

– N –

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**NACCHO**

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National Association of City and County Health Officials



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**NACO**

National Association of County Health Officials

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**NATIONAL CENTER FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

A branch of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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**NATIONAL ELECTRONIC DISEASE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM**

A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention initiative that promotes the use of data and information system standards to improve disease surveillance systems at federal, state, and local levels.

---

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)**

NEPA is the basic national law for protection of the environment, passed by Congress in 1969. It sets policy and procedures for environmental protection, and authorizes Environmental Impact Statements and Environmental Assessments to be used as analytical tools to help federal managers make decisions.

---

**NATIONAL FIRE DANGER RATING SYSTEM (NFDRS)**

A uniform fire danger rating system that focuses on the environmental factors that control the moisture content of fuels.

---

**NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NIMS)**

A system mandated by HSPD-5 that provides a consistent nationwide approach for federal, state, and local governments to work effectively and efficiently together to prepare for, respond to, and recover from domestic incidents, regardless of cause, size, or complexity. To provide for interoperability and compatibility among federal, state, and local capabilities, the NIMS includes a core set of concepts, principles, and terminology. HSPD-5 identifies these as the incident command system; multi-agency coordination systems; unified command; training; identification and management of resources (including systems for classifying types of resources); qualifications and certifications; and the collection, tracking, and reporting of incident information and incident resources.

---

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ALLERGY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

Conducts and supports basic and applied research to better understand, treat, and ultimately prevent infectious, immunologic, and allergic diseases. NIAID research has led to new therapies, vaccines, diagnostic tests, and other technologies that have improved the health of millions. NIAID is one of 13 major operating components of the Department of Health and Human Services.

---

**NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH**

A branch of the federal Department of Health and Human Services. The NIH encourages and oversees medical and behavioral research.

---

**NATIONAL PHARMACEUTICAL STOCKPILE**

A national cache of drugs, vaccines, and supplies that can be deployed to areas struck by disasters, including bioterrorism.

---

**NATIONAL VACCINE PROGRAM OFFICE**

---

Responsible for coordinating and ensuring collaboration among the many federal agencies involved in vaccine and immunization activities. It is part of the Department of Health and Human Services.

---

**NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP (NWCG)**

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A group formed under the direction of the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior and comprised of representatives of the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Association of State Foresters. The group's purpose is to facilitate coordination and effectiveness of wildland fire activities and provide a forum to discuss, recommend action, or resolve issues and problems of substantive nature. NWCG is the certifying body for all courses in the National Fire Curriculum.

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**NCID**

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National Center for Infectious Diseases

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**NCP**

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National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan

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**NDA**

---

National Defense Area

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**NDMS**

---

National Disaster Medical System

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**NEDSS**

---

National Electronic Disease Surveillance System

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**NEPA**

---

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969

---

**NEURAMINIDASE**

---

An important surface structure protein of the influenza virus that is an essential enzyme for the spread of the virus throughout the respiratory tract. It enables the virus to escape the host cell and infect new cells. Referred to as the "N" in influenza viruses. (See also Hemagglutinin)

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**NFA**

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National Fire Academy

---

**NFDRS**

---

National Fire Danger Rating System

---

**NFIP**

---

National Flood Insurance Program

---

**NIAID**

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

---

**NIH**

National Institutes of Health

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**NIMS**

National Incident Management System

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**NOAA**

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

---

**NOMEX®**

Trade name for a fire resistant synthetic material used in the manufacturing of flight suits and pants and shirts used by firefighters (see Aramid).

---

**NORMAL**

Conforming to a norm / average.

---

**NORMAL FIRE SEASON**

1) A season when weather, fire danger, and number and distribution of fires are about average. 2) Period of the year that normally comprises the fire season.

---

**NOTIFIABLE CONDITIONS**

Incidences of communicable disease, traumatic injury, cancer, or other health condition that a state requires healthcare providers to report to a central collecting agency.

---

**NOTICE TO AIRMEN**

Temporary airspace restrictions for non-emergency aircraft in the incident area.

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**NPS**

National Pharmaceutical Stockpile

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**NRC**

National Regulatory Commission; National Response Center

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**NRP**

National Response Plan

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**NRT**

National Response Team

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**NSA**

National Security Agency

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**NUCLEAR DETONATION**

---

An explosion resulting from fission and/or fusion reactions in nuclear material, such as that from a nuclear weapon.

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**NVPO**

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National Vaccine Program Office

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**NWCEPAC**

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Northwest Colorado Emergency Preparedness Advisory Council

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**NWCG**

---

National Wildfire Coordinating Group

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**NWS**

---

National Weather Service

– O –

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**OAA**

---

Older Americans Act

---

**OEM**

---

Offices of Emergency Management

---

**OER**

---

Office of Emergency Response

---

**OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DES EPIZOOTIES**

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World Organization for Animal Health, an international organization including 167 member countries that collects, analyses, and reports information on global animal disease situations.

---

**OFFICE OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

---

Division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

---

**OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

---

The office at state and local levels where all emergency management functions are housed and coordinated.

---

**OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS**

---

Office within the U.S. Office of Health and Human Services that provides coordination between the CDC and HRSAQ Cooperative Agreements.

---

**OFFICER**

---

The Incident Command System title for the personnel responsible for the command staff positions of safety, liaison, and information.

---

**OIE**

---

Office International des Epizooties

---

**OPA**

---

Oil Pollution Act

---

**OPEN BURNING**

---

The burning of materials wherein products of combustion are emitted directly into the ambient air without passing through a stack or chimney from an enclosed chamber. Open burning does not include road flares, smudgepots, and similar devices associated with safety or occupational uses typically considered open flames or recreational fires. For the purpose of this definition, a chamber shall be regarded as enclosed when, during the time combustion occurs, only apertures, ducts, stacks, flues, or chimneys necessary to provide combustion air and permit the escape of exhaust gas are open.

---

**OPERATIONAL PERIOD**

---

The period of time scheduled for execution of a given set of tactical/operation actions as specified in the incident action plan. Operational periods can be of various lengths, although usually not more than 24 hours.

---

**OPERATIONS**

---

Conducts tactical operation to carry out the incident action plan, develops the tactical objectives, organization, and directs all resources.

---

**OPERATIONS BRANCH DIRECTOR**

---

Person under the direction of the operations section chief who is responsible for implementing that portion of the incident action plan appropriate to the branch.

---

**OPERATIONS CHIEF**

---

A member of the general staff responsible for the management of all tactical operations in accordance with the incident action plan.

---

**OPERATIONS SECTION**

---

The section responsible for all tactical operations at the incident. Includes branches, divisions and/or groups, task forces, strike teams, single resources, and staging areas.

---

**OPHP**

---

Office of Public Health Preparedness

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**OSC**

---

On-Scene Coordinator

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**OSHA**

U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration

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**OTS**

Out of service.

---

**OUT-OF-SERVICE RESOURCES**

Resources assigned to an incident but unable to respond for mechanical, rest, or personnel reasons.

---

**OVERHEAD COSTS**

Indirect administrative costs that cannot be readily identified with specifically financed programs and functions.

---

**OVERHEAD PERSONNEL**

Personnel who are assigned to supervisory positions that include incident commander, command staff, general staff, directors, supervisors, and unit leaders. Members of an overhead incident management team.

– P –

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**PA**

Public Address

---

**PACK TEST**

Used to determine the aerobic capacity of fire suppression and support personnel and assign physical fitness scores. The test consists of walking a specified distance, with or without a weighted pack, in a predetermined period of time, with altitude corrections.

---

**PANDEMIC**

The worldwide outbreak of a disease in numbers clearly in excess of normal. (See also Epidemic)

---

**PANDEMIC INFLUENZA**

A widespread epidemic of influenza caused by a highly virulent strain of the influenza virus.

---

**PARACARGO**

Anything dropped, or intended for dropping, from an aircraft by parachute, by other retarding devices, or by free fall.

---

**PARASITE**

An organism living in, with, or on another organism.

---

**PATHOGEN**

Any agent or organism that can cause disease.

---

**PATHOGENIC**

---

Causing disease or capable of doing so.

---

**PAZ**

---

Protective Action Zone

---

**PDA**

---

Preliminary Damage Assessment

---

**PEAK FIRE SEASON**

---

That period of the fire season during which fires are expected to ignite most readily, to burn with greater than average intensity, and to crease damages at an unacceptable level.

---

**PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)**

---

All firefighting personnel must be equipped with proper equipment and clothing in order to mitigate the risk of injury from, or exposure to, hazardous conditions encountered while working. PPE includes, but is not limited to: 8-inch high-laced leather boots with lug soles, fire shelter, hard hat with chin strap, goggles, ear plugs, aramid shirts and trousers, leather gloves, and individual first aid kits.

---

**PHIN**

---

Public Health Information Network

---

**PHPPO**

---

CDC's Pubic Health Practice Program Office

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**PHTN**

---

Public Health Training Network

---

**PIO**

---

Public Information Officer

---

**PLANNING**

---

Develops the incident action plan to accomplish the objectives, collects and evaluates information, and maintains resource status.

---

**PLANNING CHIEF**

---

A member of the incident commander's general staff responsible for collection, evaluation, dissemination, and use of information about the development of the incident and status of resources. Information is needed to: (1) understand the current situation; (2) predict probable course of incident events; and (3) prepare alternative strategies and control operations for the incident.

---

**PLANNING MEETING**

---

A meeting held as needed throughout the duration of an incident to select specific strategies and tactics for incident control operations, and for service and support planning. On larger incidents, the planning meeting is a major element in the development of the incident action plan.

---

**PLANNING SECTION**

---

Responsible for the collection, evaluation, and dissemination of tactical information related to the incident, and for the preparation and documentation of incident action plans. The section also maintains information on the current and forecasted situation, and on the status of resources assigned to the incident. Includes the situation, resource, documentation, and demobilization units, as well as technical specialists.

---

**PPA**

---

Performance Partnership Agreement

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**PPE**

---

Personal Protective Equipment

---

**PRAIRIE AND FOREST FIRE**

---

A term used in old statutes to describe wildfire.

---

**PRE-HOSPITAL**

---

Actions performed prior to the arrival to a hospital facility.

---

**PRE-HOSPITAL EMS AGENCY**

---

Any volunteer, career, private, or governmental emergency medical service agency or service that is certified by the State of Colorado to render pre-hospital emergency care and provide emergency transportation of sick and/or injured people as described in CRS 25-3.5-203.

---

**PRELIMINARY DAMAGE ASSESSMENT**

---

A mechanism used to determine the impact and magnitude of damage and the resulting unmet needs of individuals, businesses, the public sector, and the community as a whole. Information collected is used by the state as a basis for the Governor's request for a Presidential declaration, and by FEMA to document the recommendation made to the President in response to the Governor's request. PDAs are made by at least one state and one federal representative. A local government representative familiar with the extent and location of damage in the community often participates; other state and federal agencies and voluntary relief organizations also may be asked to participate, as needed.



---

**PREPAREDNESS**

---

The activities necessary to build and sustain performance across all of the other domains. Preparedness is part of the life cycle of a specific incident in that it includes the range of deliberate, time-sensitive tasks that need to occur in the transition from prevention to response. Preparedness can also be characterized as a continuous process or cycle. Preparedness involves efforts at all levels of government and within the private sector to identify risks or threats, to determine vulnerabilities, to inventory resources available to address those vulnerabilities, and to identify requirements or shortfalls, resulting in a preparedness plan to remedy shortfalls over time.

---

**PRESCRIBED FIRE**

---

Any fire ignited by management actions under certain, predetermined conditions to meet specific objectives related to hazardous fuels or habitat improvement. A written, approved prescribed fire plan must exist, and NEPA requirements must be met, prior to ignition.

---

**PRESCRIBED FIRE PLAN (BURN PLAN)**

---

This document provides the prescribed fire burn boss information needed to implement an individual prescribed fire project.

---

**PRESCRIPTION**

---

Measurable criteria that define conditions under which a prescribed fire may be ignited, guide selection of appropriate management responses, and indicate other required actions. Prescription criteria may include safety, economic, public health, environmental, geographic, administrative, social, or legal considerations.

---

**PREVENTION**

---

Actions to avoid an incident, to intervene to stop an incident from occurring, or to mitigate an incident's effects. It involves actions to protect lives and property and to defend against attacks. It involves applying intelligence and other information to a range of activities that may include such countermeasures as deterrence operations; heightened inspections; improved surveillance and security operations; investigations to determine the full nature and source of the threat; public health surveillance, and testing processes; immunizations, isolation, or quarantine; and law enforcement operations aimed at deterring, preempting, interdicting, or disrupting illegal activity.

---

**PRIVATE SECTOR**

---

Non-governmental organizations, including voluntary organizations, provide essential services to victims regardless of their eligibility for federal or state assistance. Volunteers enhance community coordination and action at both the national and local levels.

---

**PROCUREMENT UNIT**

---

Functional unit within the finance/administration section responsible for financial matters involving vendor contracts.

---

**PROJECT FIRE**

---

A fire of such size or complexity that a large organization and prolonged activity is required to suppress it.

---

**PROPHYLACTIC**

A medical procedure or practice that prevents or protects against a disease or condition (e.g., vaccines, antibiotics, drugs).

---

**PROPOLAXIS**

Designed to prevent an undesirable affect or disease.

---

**PROTECTION AGENCY**

The agency or county responsible for providing direct wildland fire protection to a given area pursuant to an agreement.

---

**PROTECTION AREA MAPS**

Official maps of the annual operating plans.

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**PROTECTION BOUNDARIES**

Mutually agreed upon boundaries which identify areas of direct fire protection responsibility and are shown on maps in the annual operating plans.

---

**PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION NETWORK**

Standards that provide the basis for developing and implementing information technology projects for CDC-funded programs, including NEDSS, HAN, and others.

---

**PUBLIC HEALTH TRAINING NETWORK**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's distance learning system that uses instructional media ranging from print-based to videotape and multimedia to meet the training needs of the public health workforce nationwide.

---

**PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER**

Official at headquarters or in the field responsible for preparing and coordinating the dissemination of public information in cooperation with other responding federal, state, and local agencies.

---

**PULASKI**

A combination chopping and trenching tool, which combines a single-bitted axe-blade with a narrow adze-like trenching blade fitted to a straight handle. Useful for grubbing or trenching in duff and matted roots. Well-balanced for chopping.

---

**PUSH PACKAGE**

A delivery of medical supplies and pharmaceuticals sent from the National Pharmaceutical Stockpile for a state undergoing an emergency within 12 hours of federal approval of a request by the state's Governor.

---

**PZ**

Precautionary Zone

– Q –

**QI**

Qualified Individual

– R –

**RACES**

Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

**RADIANT BURN**

A burn received from a radiant heat source.

**RADIANT HEAT FLUX**

The amount of heat flowing through a given area in a given time, usually expressed as calories/square centimeter/second.

**RADIATION SICKNESS**

The symptoms characterizing the sickness known as radiation injury, resulting from excessive exposure of the whole body to ionizing radiation.

**RADIOLOGICAL MONITORING**

The process of locating and measuring radiation by means of survey instruments that can detect and measure (as exposure rates) ionizing radiation.

**RAP**

Radiological Assistance Program

**RAPPELLING**

Technique of landing specifically trained firefighters from hovering helicopters; involves sliding down ropes with the aid of friction-producing devices.

**RATE OF SPEED**

The relative activity of a fire in extending its horizontal dimensions. It is expressed as a rate of increase of the total perimeter of the fire, as rate of forward spread of the fire front, or as rate of increase in area, depending on the intended use of the information. Usually it is expressed in chains or acres per hour for a specific period in the fire's history.

**RAWS**

Remote Automatic Weather Station

**REACT**

Radio Emergency Associated Communications Teams

---

**REASSORTMENT**

---

The rearrangement of genes from two distinct influenza strains to produce a novel viral strain.

---

**REBURN**

---

The burning of an area that has been previously burned but that contains flammable fuel that ignites when burning conditions are more favorable; an area that has reburned.

---

**RECIPROCAL FIRE PROTECTION**

---

The time period when the assisting/cooperating agency is providing assistance at no cost to the jurisdictional agency; sometimes called mutual aid period.

---

**RECIPROCAL ZONE**

---

The area within one-half mile of a jurisdiction boundary.

---

**RECORDERS**

---

Individuals within Incident Command System organizational units who are responsible for recording information. Recorders may be found in planning, logistics, and finance/administration units.

---

**RECOVERY**

---

Those actions necessary to restore the community back to normal and to bring the perpetrators of an intentional incident to justice. It entails the development, coordination, and execution of service- and site-restoration plans; the reconstitution of government operations and services; individual, private-sector, and public assistance programs to provide housing and to promote restoration; long-term care and treatment of affected persons; additional measures for social, political, environmental, and economic restoration; evaluation of the incident to identify lessons learned; post-incident reporting; and development of initiatives to mitigate the effects of future incidents.

---

**RECREATIONAL FIRE**

---

An outdoor fire burning materials other than rubbish where the fuel being burned is not contained in an incinerator, outdoor fireplace, barbeque grill, or barbeque pit and has a total fuel area of three (3) feet (914 mm) or less in diameter and two (2) feet (610 mm) or less in height for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth, or similar purposes.

---

**RED CARD**

---

Fire qualification card issued to fire-rated persons showing their training needs and their qualifications to fill specified fire suppression and support positions in a large fire suppression or incident organization.

---

**RED FLAG WARNING**

---

Advises user agencies of the imminent or actual occurrence of red flag conditions. Red flag events normally require the combination of high to extreme fire danger and critical weather conditions. These weather conditions may include, but are not limited to:

- ◆ Significant increase in surface wind speeds;
- ◆ A dry thunderstorm outbreak;
- ◆ Significant decrease in relative humidity;
- ◆ Significant increase in temperature;
- ◆ First episode of thunderstorms after a hot, dry period;
- ◆ A Haines Index of 6; or
- ◆ Any combination of weather and fuel moisture conditions that, in the judgment of the forecaster, would cause extensive wildfire occurrences.

---

**REHABILITATION**

---

The activities necessary to repair damage or disturbance caused by wildland fires or the fire suppression activity.

---

**REIMBURSABLE (ASSISTANCE BY HIRE)**

---

Fire suppression resources that will be paid for by the requesting protecting agency per the conditions of an agreement and its annual operating plans. Excludes mutual aid.

---

**RELATIVE HUMIDITY (RH)**

---

The ratio of the amount of moisture in the air, to the maximum amount of moisture that air would contain if it were saturated. The ratio of the actual vapor pressure to the saturated vapor pressure.

---

**REMOTE AUTOMATIC WEATHER STATION (RAWS)**

---

An apparatus that automatically acquires, processes, and stores local weather data for later transmission to the GOES Satellite, from which the data is re-transmitted to an earth-receiving station for use in the National Fire Danger Rating System.

---

**REP**

---

Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program

---

**REPORTING LOCATIONS**

---

Locations or facilities where incoming resources can check in at the incident. (See Check-In)

---

**RESPONSE ACTIVITIES**

---

To address the immediate and short-term effects of an emergency or disaster. Response includes immediate actions to save lives, protect property, and meet basic human needs.

---

**RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

---

Efficient incident management requires a system to identify available resources at all intergovernmental levels in order to enable timely and unimpeded access to resources needed to prepare for, respond to, or recover from an incident. Resource management under the NIMS includes mutual-aid agreements, the use of special federal teams, and resources mobilization protocols.

---

**RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN (RMP)**

---

A document prepared by field office staff with public participation and approved by field office managers that provides general guidance and direction for land management activities at a field office. The RMP identifies the need for fire in a particular area and for a specific benefit.

---

**RESOURCE ORDER**

---

An order placed for firefighting or support resources.

---

**RESOURCE ORDERING AND STATUS SYSTEM (ROSS)**

---

A national system that provides automated support to interagency and agency dispatch and coordination offices. The system will provide current status of resources available to support all-risk activities; enable dispatch offices to exchange and track resource ordering information electronically; enable dispatch offices to rapidly and reliably exchange mission-critical emergency electronic messages.

---

**RESOURCE TYPING**

---

Refers to resource capability. A "Type 1" resource provides a greater overall capability due to power, size, capability, etc., than would be found in a "Type 2" resource. Resource typing provides managers with additional information in selecting the best resource for the task.

---

**RESOURCES**

---

1) All personnel and major sources of equipment, supplies, and facilities available, or potentially available, for assignment to incident or event tasks on which status is maintained. 2) The natural resources of an area, such as timber, grass, watershed values, recreation values, and wildlife habitat.

---

**RESOURCES**

---

Personnel and equipment available, or potentially available, for assignment to incidents. Resources are described by kind and type (e.g., ground vehicles, tankers, trailers, water vessels, skimmers, boom, air craft, etc.), and may be used in tactical support or overhead capacities at an incident.

---

**RESOURCES**

---

All personnel, items of equipment and aircraft available for assignment of tasks.

---

**RESOURCES UNIT**

---

Functional unit within the planning section responsible for recording the status of resources committed to the incident. The unit also evaluates resources currently committed to the incident, the impact that additional responding resources will have on the incident, and anticipated resource needs.

---

**RESPONSIBLE PARTY**

---

Refers to an agency or company taking responsibility for impact mitigation (e.g., cleanup, response management, etc.) – generally referred to as the “spiller” or “polluter.” Term not used to infer “fault” for the incident.

---

**RETARDANT**

---

A substance or chemical agent which reduces the flammability of combustibles.

---

**RH**

---

Relative Humidity

---

**RMP**

---

Resource Management Plan

---

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN COORDINATING GROUP**

---

A group consisting of the agency administrators or their designated representatives to oversee the terms of an agreement and to provide general oversight for interagency wildland fire activities in Colorado.

---

**ROSS**

---

Resource Ordering and Status System

---

**RRP**

---

Regional Response Plan

---

**RUN (OF A FIRE)**

---

The rapid advance of the head of a fire with a marked change in fire line intensity and rate of spread from that noted before and after the advance.

---

**RUNNING**

---

A rapidly spreading surface fire with a well-defined head.

– S –

---

**SAFETY BRIEFING**

---

A safety briefing emphasizes key safety concerns on the incident and is presented at each briefing session. The safety briefing should contain information to alert incident personnel of potential risk/hazard considered to be most critical.

---

**SAFETY OFFICER**

---

A member of the command staff responsible for monitoring and assessing safety hazards or unsafe situations, as well as developing measures for ensuring personnel safety. The safety officer may have assistants.

---

**SAFETY ZONE**

---

An area cleared of flammable materials used for escape in the event the line is outflanked or in case a spot fire causes fuels outside the control line to render the line unsafe. In firing operations, crews progress so as to maintain a safety zone close at hand allowing the fuels inside the control line to be consumed before going ahead. Safety zones may also be constructed as integral parts of fuelbreaks; they are greatly enlarged areas which can be used with relative safety by firefighters and their equipment in the event of blowup in the vicinity.

---

**SAME**

---

Specific Area Message Encoder

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**SARA**

---

Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act

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**SBA**

---

Small Business Administration

---

**SCBA**

---

Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus

---

**SEASONAL FLU**

---

A respiratory illness that can be transmitted person to person. Most people have some immunity, and a vaccine is available. This is also known as the common flu or winter flu.

---

**SECONDARY HAZARD**

---

A threat whose potential would be realized as the result of a triggering event that of itself would constitute an emergency. For example, dam failure might be a secondary hazard associated with earthquakes.

---

**SECTION**

---

The organizational level having functional responsibility for primary segments of incident operations such as operations, planning, logistics, and finance. The section level is organizationally between branch and incident commander.

---

**SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS (SCBA)**

---

Portable air (not oxygen) tanks with regulators which allow firefighters to breathe while in toxic smoke conditions. Usually rated for 30 minutes of service. Used primarily on fires involving structures or hazardous materials.



---

**SEGMENT**

---

A geographical area in which a task force/strike team leader or supervisor of a single resource is assigned authority and responsibility for the coordination of resources and implementation of planned tactics. A segment may be a portion of a division or an area inside or outside the perimeter of an incident.

---

**SEMA**

---

State Emergency Management Agency

---

**SERC**

---

State Emergency Response Commission

---

**SERVICE BRANCH**

---

A branch within the logistics section responsible for service activities at the incident. Includes the communications, medical, and food units.

---

**SHIFT**

---

The process in which the existing H (hemagglutinin) and N (neuraminidase) are replaced by significantly different H and Ns. These new H or H/N combinations are perceived by human immune systems as new, so most people do not have pre-existing antibody protection to these novel viruses. This is one of the reasons that pandemic viruses can have such a severe impact on the health of populations. (See also Drift)

---

**SHIFT PLAN**

---

See "Incident Action Plan"

---

**SINGLE RESOURCE**

---

An individual, a piece of equipment and its personnel complement, or a crew or team of individuals with an identified work supervisor that can be used on an incident.

---

**SITREP**

---

Situation Report

---

**SITUATION UNIT**

---

Functional unit within the planning section responsible for the collection, organization, and analysis of incident status information, and for analysis of the situation as it progresses. Reports to the planning section chief.

---

**SLG**

---

State and Local Guide

---

**SMOKEY BEAR**

---

The symbol of the Cooperative Forest Fire Prevention Program since 1945. Smokey's image is protected by U.S. Federal Law and is administered by the USDA Forest Service, the National Association of State Foresters and the Ad Council.

---

**SOP**

Standard Operating Procedure

---

**SPAN OF CONTROL**

Span of control means how many organizational elements another person may directly manage; usually from three (3) to seven (7), with one (1) to five (5) recommended.

---

**SPAN OF CONTROL**

The supervisory ratio of from three-to-seven individuals, with five-to-one being established as optimum.

---

**SPECIES**

A class of plants or animals having common attributes and designated by a common name. Theoretically, plants or animals of different species cannot interbreed. However, occasionally this does not hold true.

---

**SPOT WEATHER FORECAST**

A special forecast issued to fit the time, topography, and weather of a specific incident. These forecasts are issued upon request of the user agency and are more detailed, timely, and specific than zone forecasts. Usually, on-site weather observations or a close, representative observation is required for a forecast to be issued.

---

**STAGING AREA**

Staging areas are locations set up at an incident where resources can be placed while awaiting a tactical assignment. Staging areas are managed by the Operations Section.

---

**STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE**

A set of instructions constituting a directive, covering those features of operations which lend themselves to a definite, step-by-step process of accomplishment. SOPs supplement EOPs by detailing and specifying how tasks assigned in the EOP are to be carried out.

---

**STATE**

Board of Governors of the Colorado State University System acting by and through Colorado State University on behalf of the Colorado State Forest Service.

---

**STATE DEPARTMENTS**

All-inclusive term referring to all state level governmental departments, agencies, commissions, etc.

---

**STORM SURGE**

A dome of sea water created by the strong winds and low barometric pressure in a hurricane that causes severe coastal flooding as the hurricane strikes land.

---

**STRAIN**

A group of organisms within a species or variety.

---

**STRATEGY**

---

The general plan or direction selected to accomplish incident objectives.

---

**STRIKE TEAM**

---

Specified combinations of the same kind and type of resources with common communications and a leader.

---

**STRUCTURE FIRE PROTECTION**

---

The protection of homes or other structures from wildland fire.

---

**STRUCTURE FIRE SUPPRESSION**

---

All the work of confining and extinguishing a fire beginning with its discovery through the conclusion of the incident.

---

**SUPERVISOR**

---

An Incident Command System title for individuals responsible for command of a division or group.

---

**SUPPLY UNIT**

---

Functional unit within the support branch of the logistics section responsible for ordering equipment and supplies required for incident operations.

---

**SUPPORT BRANCH**

---

A branch within the logistics section responsible for providing personnel, equipment, and supplies to support incident operations. Includes the supply, facilities, and ground support units.

---

**SUPPORT RESOURCES**

---

Non-tactical resources under the supervision of the logistics, planning, and finance/administration sections or the command staff.

---

**SUPPORTING AGENCY**

---

The term used to designate assisting and cooperating agencies.

---

**SUPPORTING MATERIALS**

---

Refers to the several attachments that may be included with an incident action plan (e.g., communications plan, map, safety plan, traffic plan, medical plan, etc.).

---

**SUPPRESSION**

---

All the work of extinguishing or confining a fire beginning with its discovery.

---

**SURGE CAPACITY**

---

Ability of institutions such as clinics, hospitals, or public health laboratories to respond to sharply increased demand for their services during a public health emergency.

---

**SURVEILLANCE**

---

The systematic ongoing collection, collation, and analysis of data and the timely dissemination of information to those who need to know so that action can be taken. Surveillance is the essential feature of epidemiological practice.

– T –

---

**TACTICAL DIRECTION**

---

Direction given by the operations section chief which includes the tactics appropriate for the selected strategy, the selection and assignment of resources, tactics, implementation, and performance monitoring for each operational period.

---

**TASK FORCE**

---

Any combination of single resources assembled for a particular tactical need, with common communications and a leader. A task force may be pre-established and sent to an incident or formed at an incident.

---

**T-CARD**

---

Cards filled out with essential information for each resource they represent. The cards are color-coded to represent different types of resources.

---

**TEAM**

---

(See Single Resource)

---

**TECHNICAL SPECIALISTS**

---

Personnel with special skills that can be used anywhere within the ICS organization.

---

**TERRORISM**

---

A terrorist incident is a violent act, or an act dangerous to human life, property, livestock, or a hoax in violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of Colorado, to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof in the furtherance of political or social objects. Categories of terrorist attack:

- ◆ Threats and hoaxes
- ◆ Small-scale conventional attack
- ◆ Large improvised explosives
- ◆ Chemical attack
- ◆ Biological attack
- ◆ Radiological attack
- ◆ Nuclear attack
- ◆ Cyber attack

---

**TEMPORARY FLIGHT RESTRICTIONS**

---

Temporary airspace restrictions for non-emergency aircraft in the incident area. TFRs are established by the FAA to ensure aircraft safety, and are normally limited to five-nautical-mile radius and 2,000 feet in altitude.

---

**TFR**

Temporary Flight Restrictions

---

**TIME UNIT**

Functional unit within the finance/administration section responsible for recording time for incident personnel and hired equipment.

---

**TMH**

The Memorial Hospital (in Craig, Colorado)

---

**TORNADO**

A local atmospheric storm, generally of short duration, formed by winds rotating at very high speeds, usually in a counter-clockwise direction. The vortex, up to several hundred yards wide, is visible to the observer as a whirlpool-like column of winds rotating about a hollow cavity or funnel. Winds may reach 300 miles per hour or higher.

---

**TOXIN**

Poison from organisms.

---

**TSUNAMI**

Sea waves produced by an undersea earthquake. Such sea waves can reach a height of 80 feet and can devastate coastal cities and low-lying coastal areas.

---

**TYPE**

Refers to resource capability. A "Type 1" resource provides a greater overall capability due to power, size, capability, etc., than would be found in a "Type 2" resource. Resource typing provides managers with additional information in selecting the best resource for the task.

- U -

---

**UNCONTROLLED FIRE**

Any fire which threatens to destroy life, property, or natural resources, and (a) is not burning within the confines of firebreaks, or (b) is burning with such intensity that it could not be readily extinguished with ordinary tools commonly available.

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**UNDERBURN**

A fire that consumes surface fuels but not trees or shrubs. (See also Surface Fuels)

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**UNIFIED AREA COMMAND**

A unified area command is established when incidents under an area command are multi-jurisdictional. (See Area Command and Unified Command)

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**UNIFIED COMMAND**

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In ICS, unified command in a unified team effort which allows all agencies with responsibility for the incident, either geographic or functional, to manage an incident by establishing a common set of incident objectives and strategies. This is accomplished without losing or abdicating authority, responsibility, or accountability.

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**UNIT**

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The organizational element having functional responsibility for a specific incident planning, logistics, or finance/administration activity.

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**UNIT ADMINISTRATOR (LINE OFFICER)**

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The individual assigned administrative responsibilities and delegated signing authority for an established organizational unit, such as Forest supervisors or District Rangers for the Forest Service, District Manager for the Bureau of Land Management, Area Forester, District Forester, or State Forester as designated for the State Forest Service, Agency Superintendent for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Park Superintendent for the National Park Service, and Refuge Manager (Project Leader) for Fish and Wildlife Service. May also include a county commissioner at the local level.

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**UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

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Provides foreign assistance to developing countries in order to further America's foreign policy interests in expanding democracy and free markets while improving the lives of the citizens of the developing world.

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**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

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The government agency responsible for regulating the safety and development of food, agriculture, and natural resources.

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**UNITY OF COMMAND**

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The concept by which each person within an organization reports to one and only one designated person.

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**USAID**

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United States Agency for International Development

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**USDA**

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U.S. Department of Agriculture

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**USGS**

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U.S. Geological Survey

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**US&R**

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Urban Search and Rescue

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**VACCINE**

A preparation consisting of antigens of a disease-causing organism which, when introduced into the body, stimulates the production of specific antibodies or altered cells. This produces an immunity to the disease-causing organism. The antigen in the preparation can be whole disease-causing organisms (killed or weakened) or parts of these organisms.

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**VALUES TO BE PROTECTED**

Include property, structures, physical improvements, natural and cultural resources, community infrastructure, and economic, environmental, and social values.

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**VECTOR**

Animal that carries a disease from animal to human (usually insects).

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**VECTORS**

Directions of fire spread as related to rate of spread calculations (in degrees from upslope).

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**VFD**

Volunteer Fire Department

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**VIRULENT**

Highly lethal; causing severe illness or death.

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**VIRUS**

Infectious agent.

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**VIRUS**

Any of various simple submicroscopic parasites of plants, animals, and bacteria that often cause disease and that consist essentially of a core of RNA or DNA surrounded by a protein coat. Unable to replicate without a host cell, viruses are typically not considered living organisms.

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**VOAD**

Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster

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**VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

A fire department of which some or all members are unpaid.

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**WARNING**

The alerting of emergency response personnel and the public to the threat of extraordinary danger and the related effects that specific hazards may cause. A warning issued by the NWS (e.g., severe storm warning, tornado warning, tropical storm warning) for a defined area indicates that the particular type of severe weather is imminent in that area.

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**WATCH**

Indication by the NWS that, in a defined area, conditions are favorable for the specified type of severe weather (e.g., flash flood watch, severe thunderstorm watch, tornado watch, tropical storm watch).

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**WATERFOWL**

Birds that swim and live near water, including ducks, geese, and swans.

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**WEAPON OF MASS DESTRUCTION (WMD)**

Title 18, U.S.C. 2332a, defines a weapon of mass destruction as (1) any destructive device as defined in Section 921 of this title, (which reads) any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas, bomb, grenade, rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, mine or similar to the above; (2) poison gas; (3) any weapon involving a disease organism; or (4) any weapon that is designed to release radiation or radioactivity at a level dangerous to human life.

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**WET LINE**

A fire control line, usually temporary, prepared by treating the fuels with water and/or chemical, which halt the spread of the fire.

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**WFSA**

Wildland Fire Situation Analysis

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**WHO**

World Health Organization

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**WILDFIRE**

Uncontrolled fire burning in forest, brush, prairie, or cropland fuels, or conflagrations involving such fuels and structures.

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**WILDLAND**

An area in which development is essentially non-existent, except for roads, railroads, power lines, and similar transportation facilities. Structures, if any, are widely scattered.

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**WILDLAND**

Lands with few or no permanent improvements.



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**WILDLAND FIRE**

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Any non-structure fire, other than prescribed fire, that occurs in the wildland.

- ♦ An unplanned wildland fire requiring suppression action, or other action according to agency policy, as contrasted with prescribed fire burning within prepared lines enclosing a designated area, under prescribed conditions.
- ♦ A free burning wildfire unaffected by fire suppression measures.

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**WILDLAND FIRE SITUATION ANALYSIS (WFSA)**

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A decision-making process that evaluates alternative wildfire suppression strategies against selected environmental, social, political, and economic criteria, and provides a record of those decisions.

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**WILDLAND FUELS**

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Any organic material, living or dead, in the ground, on the ground, or in the air that will ignite and burn.

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**WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE (WUI)**

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The line, area, or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels.

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**WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE AREA**

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An area where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland. Areas that retain most of their natural character, including vegetation, but which also include human-built structures.

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**WIND**

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The horizontal movement of air relative to the surface of the earth.

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**WIND-DRIVEN WILDFIRE**

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A wildland fire that is controlled by a strong consistent wind.

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**WMD**

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Weapon of Mass Destruction

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**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION**

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An agency of the United Nations established in 1948 to further international cooperation in improving health conditions.

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**WUI**

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Wildland Urban Interface

– X –

– Y –

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**YVMC**

Yampa Valley Medical Center (in Steamboat Springs, Colorado)

– Z –

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**ZONE WEATHER FORECAST**

A portion of the general fire weather forecast on a regular basis during the normal fire season specifically to fit the requirements of fire management needs (i.e., time, areas, and weather elements). These zones or areas are a combination of administrative and climatological areas, usually nearly the size of an individual forest or district.

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**ZOONOSES**

Diseases that are transferable from animals to humans.