

## APPENDIX C

### Glossary

#### A

*Abatement* – actions taken to reduce or relieve the adverse effects of a material or incident.

*Absorption* – the “picking up” of a liquid material to prevent its spread.

*Acceptable Risk* - risk that is so small, consequences are so slight, or associated benefits (perceived or real) are so great that persons or groups in society are willing to take or be subjected to that risk.

*Active Immunization* - the act of artificially stimulating the body to develop antibodies against infectious disease by the administration of vaccines or toxoids. Vaccination is an act, where immunization is a response. (Contrast with passive immunization)

*Acute* - sudden onset. (Compare with chronic)

*Additive Effect* - a biologic response to exposure to multiple substances that equals the sum of responses of all the individual substances added together. Contrast with synergistic effect.

*Adenopathy* - swelling or enlargement of the lymph nodes.

*Adjuvant* – a substance added to a vaccine to improve immune response so that less vaccine is required.

*Advanced Life Support Ambulance (ALS)* - an ambulance service capable of delivering advanced skills performed by an EMS practitioner, e.g. intravenous fluids and drug administration.

*Adverse Health Effect* - any effect resulting in anatomical, functional, or psychological impairment that may affect the performance of the whole organism.

*Aerosol* - fine liquid or solid particle suspended in a gas or air.

*Agency* - a division of government with a specific function, or a nongovernmental organization (e.g., private contractor, business, etc.) that offers a particular kind of assistance. In ICS, agencies are defined as jurisdictional (having statutory responsibility for incident mitigation) or assisting and/or cooperating (providing resources and/or assistance).

*Agency Dispatch* - the agency or jurisdictional facility from which resources are allocated to incidents.

*Agency Executive or Administrator* - chief executive officer (or designee) of the agency or jurisdiction that has responsibility for the incident.

*Agency Representative* - an individual assigned to an incident from an assisting or cooperating agency who has been delegated authority to make decisions on matters affecting that agency's participation at the incident. Agency representatives report to the Incident Liaison Officer.

*Agent* - producer of an effect; a biological, chemical or physical substance, process, product or other entity. Exposure to an agent under specific conditions may cause adverse health effects to occur.

*All Hazard* - covering all possible hazards whether natural, accidental, or intentional.

*All-Hazards Preparedness* - preparedness for domestic terrorist attacks, natural disasters and other emergencies.

*Alternate Care Site* - a location on or off campus of a hospital that provides nursing and medical care to patients when a hospital has reached surge capacity. Such sites are covered by the license of the hospital and are administered by the hospital. Staffing may be provided by the State's ESAR-VHP/credentialing program or local MRCs.

*Allocated Resources* - Resources dispatched to an incident.

*Ambient* - surrounding (for example, *ambient* air).

*Analgesic* - a compound capable of producing analgesia, i.e., relieves pain by altering perception of stimuli without producing anesthesia or loss of consciousness. Characterized by reduced response to painful stimuli.

*Analysis* - the systematic application of specific theories and methods, including those from natural science, statistics, probability theory, social science, engineering, decision science, logic, mathematics, and law, for the purpose of collecting and interpreting data and drawing conclusions about phenomena.

*Anthrax* - a non-contagious, but potentially fatal bacteria that causes illness by breathing, eating, or having skin contact with spores of *Bacillus anthracis*.

*Antibody* – a protein produced by the body’s immune system that recognizes and helps fight infections and other foreign substances in the body.

*Anticonvulsant* - an agent that prevents or arrests seizures.

*Antigen* – a foreign substance to the body that stimulates the production of antibodies by the immune system.

*Antitoxin* - an antibody formed in response to and capable of neutralizing a biological poison; an animal serum containing antitoxins.

*Antiviral* – a medicine that specifically targets a virus and requires physician consultation and prescription.

*Area Command* - an organization established to: 1) oversee the management of multiple incidents that are each being handled by an Incident Command System organization; or 2) 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.

*Aseptic* - free of pathogenic microorganisms.

*Assigned Resources* - resources checked in and given work tasks on an incident.

*Assignments* - tasks given to resources to perform within a given operational period, based upon tactical objectives in the Incident Action Plan.

*Assistant* - title for subordinates of the Command Staff positions. The title indicates a level of technical capability, qualifications, and responsibility subordinate to the primary positions.

*Assisting Agency* - an agency directly contributing tactical or service resources to another agency.

*Available Resources* - incident-based resources that are ready for deployment.

## **B**

*Background Level* - an average or expected amount of a substance or radioactive material in a specific environment, or typical amounts of substances that occur naturally in an environment.

*Bacteria* - single-celled organisms that multiply by cell division and may colonize or infect humans, plants, or animals.

*Base* - the location at which primary logistics functions for an incident are coordinated and administered. There is only one Base per incident. (Incident name or other designator will be added to the term Base.) The Incident Command Post may be collocated with the Base.

*Basic Life Support Ambulance (BLS)* - an ambulance service capable of delivering basic emergency interventions performed by EMS practitioners trained and credentialed to do so, e.g., splinting, bandaging, oxygen administration.

*Biodegradation* - decomposition or breakdown of a substance through the action of microorganisms (such as bacteria or fungi) or other natural physical processes (such as sunlight).

*Biological Agent* - living organisms or the materials derived from them that cause disease in, or harm, humans, animals, plants, or cause deterioration of material. Biological agents may be found as liquid droplets, aerosols, or dry powders. A biological agent can be adapted and used as a terrorist weapon, such as anthrax, tularemia, cholera, encephalitis, plague, and botulism. There are three different types of biological agents: bacteria, viruses, and toxins.

*Biological Attack* - the deliberate release of germs or other biological substances that can cause sickness.

*Biological Incident* - a natural, accidental, or deliberate exposure involving biological agents.

*Bio-Safety Level* - a system for classifying laboratory safety practices, in four levels, by degree of protection provided to personnel, the environment, and the community for laboratories dealing with infectious microorganisms. Laboratories dealing with microorganisms not known to consistently cause disease in healthy humans require no special practices and operate at Bio-Safety Level 1. Laboratories dealing with the most dangerous and exotic microorganisms that pose high risk of life threatening disease require stringent practices to protect against contact or release of the microorganisms and operate at Bio-Safety Level 4. (Contrast with Laboratory Levels)

*Bioterrorism (BT)* - the use of a biological agent in a terrorist incident; the intentional use of a microorganism or toxins derived from living organisms to produce death or disease in humans, animals, or plants.

*Blood Lead Level* - a measurement of lead content in whole blood.

*Branch* - 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. Branches are identified by the use of Roman Numerals or by functional name (e.g., medical, security, etc.).

## C

*Cache* - a pre-determined complement of tools, equipment, and/or supplies stored in a designated location, available for incident use.

*Camp* - 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.

*Cancer* - anyone of a group of diseases that occur when cells in the body become abnormal and grow or multiply out of control.

*Carcinogen* - a substance that causes cancer.

*Carrier* - a person or animal that harbors a specific infectious agent without discernible clinical disease and serves as a potential source of infection.

*Case Study* - a report of an investigation of a situation.

*Case-Control Study* - a study that compares exposures of people who have a disease or condition (cases) with people who do not have the disease or condition (controls).

*Case-Fatality Rate* - usually expressed as the percentage of persons diagnosed as having a specified disease who die as a result of that illness within a given period.

*Catalyst* - a substance that increases the rate of a chemical reaction.

*Category A Agents* - the biological terrorism agents having the greatest potential for adverse public health impact with mass casualties. The Category "A" diseases are: smallpox; anthrax; plague; botulism; tularemia; and viral hemorrhagic fevers (e.g. Ebola and Lassa viruses).

*Category-B Agents* - could be used to contaminate food or water sources. Agents are more readily available, may not necessarily cause mass casualties, and their use may often be found more often in biological crime or extortion than terrorism.

*Category-C Agents* - emerging infectious diseases or agents with characteristics that could be exploited for deliberate dissemination.

*CBRNE* - types of weapons of mass destruction and stands for Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive

*CDC Type C Facility* - an isolation facility that is a structure with non-shared air conditioning, heating, and ventilating systems that exhausts 100% of air to the outside through HEP A filter or is located at least 100 yards from any other occupied building or area. Such a facility provides assistance with activities of daily living and tertiary medical care of residents, including supportive care with IV fluids, antibiotics, skin care, oxygen monitoring, vital signs monitoring, cardiac and respiratory resuscitation, ventilator support, suctioning, basic laboratory evaluations, and radiology. A Type C facility is appropriate for confirmed, probable, and suspected smallpox cases.

*CDC Type R Facility* - (R = residential) may be the person's own home. A Type R facility is appropriate for asymptomatic contacts (not infectious).

*CDC Type X Facility* - meets the same isolation and general supply requirements as a Type C Facility. However, Type X Facilities need to supply only basic medical care functions such as monitoring vital signs.

*Central Nervous System* - the part of the nervous system that consists of the brain and the spinal cord.

*Chain Of Command* - a series of management positions in order of authority.

*Check-In* - the process whereby resources first report to an incident. Check-in locations include: Incident Command Post (Resources Unit), Incident Base, Camps, Staging Areas, and Division Supervisors (for direct line assignments).

*Chemical Agent* - a chemical substance that produces incapacitation, serious injury or death.

*Chemical Attack* - the deliberate release of a toxic gas, liquid, or solid that can poison people and the environment.

*Chemical Incident* - an accidental or deliberate exposure involving chemical agents.

*Chemical Terrorism* - the use of a chemical agent in a terrorist incident to intentionally inflict harm upon others.

*Chemoprophylaxis* - the administration of a chemical, including antibiotics, to prevent the development or progression of an infection, or eliminate the carrying of a specific infectious agent to prevent transmission and disease in others. Chemotherapy, on the other hand, refers to use of a chemical to treat a clinically manifest disease or limit its further progression.

*CHEMPACK* - a federal program created to pre-deploy federally owned, sustainable repositories of nerve agent antidotes to the states.

*Citizen Corps Program (CCP)* - brings community and government leaders together in coordinating the involvement of community members in emergency preparedness, planning, mitigation, response and recovery. CCP builds on the successful efforts in place in many communities to prevent crime and respond to emergencies by promoting local innovation and local participation in community safety. The program is overseen by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Community Preparedness Division. Components of the Citizen Corps include: Community Emergency Response Team and the Medical Reserve Corps.

*Chief* - the ICS title for individuals responsible for command of functional sections, including Operations, Planning, Logistics, and Finance/Administration.

*Chronic* - occurring over a long time (Compare with acute).

*Chronic Exposure* - contact with a substance that occurs over a long time (more than 1 year).

*Chronic Toxicity* - effects that persist over a long time, whether or not they occur immediately or are delayed.

*Clear Text* - the use of English language in radio communications transmissions. No Ten Codes or agency-specific codes are used when Clear Text is required.

*Cluster Investigation* - investigation of a group of cases. Cluster investigations are designed to confirm case reports; determine whether they represent an unusual disease occurrence; and explore possible causes.

*Cohort Study* - an epidemiological (human) study that observes subjects in different exposed groups and compares the incidence of symptoms. Although ordinarily prospective in nature, such a study is sometimes carried out retrospectively, using historical data.

*Cold Zone* – the area outside of the warm zone where equipment and personnel would not become contaminated; also known as the support zone.

*Command* - the act of directing and/or controlling resources by virtue of explicit legal, agency, or delegated authority. May also refer to the Incident Commander.

*Command Staff* - the Command Staff consists of the Public Information Officer, Safety Officer, and Liaison Officer. They report directly to the Incident Commander and may have an assistant or assistants, as needed.

*Communicable Disease* - an illness due to a specific infectious agent or toxic products that arises through transmission of that agent or its products from an infected person or animal to a susceptible host. (Contrast with infectious disease)

*Communicable Disease Cluster* - two or more cases of a confirmed or suspected communicable disease with a suspected common source diagnosed or exposed within a twenty-four hour period.

*Communicable Period* - the time during which an infectious agent may be transferred directly or indirectly from an infected person to another person, from an infected animal to humans, or from an infected person to animals.

*Communication* - the transmitting of a message.

*Communications* - the system by which the message is communicated.

*Communications Unit* - 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.

*Compacts* - formal working agreements among agencies to obtain mutual aid.

*Compensation Unit/Claims Unit* - functional unit within the Finance/ Administration Section responsible for financial concerns resulting from property damage, injuries, or fatalities at the incident.

*Complex Incident* - two or more individual incidents located in the same general area that are assigned to a single Incident Commander or Unified Command.

*Compound* - a substance composed of two or more elements. For example, table salt (sodium chloride, or NaCl) is a compound.

*Concentration* - the amount of a substance present in a certain amount of soil, water, air, food, blood, hair, urine, breath, or any other media.



*Consequence Management* - refers to measures to protect public health and safety, restore essential government services, and provide emergency relief to governments, businesses, and individuals affected by the consequences of terrorism. (Contrast with crisis management).

*Contact* - a person or animal that has been exposed to an infected person or animal or a contaminated environment.

*Contaminant* - a substance that is present in an environment where it does not belong and may be harmful.

*Contamination* – the presence of a biological toxin or chemical, radioactive or any other substance sufficient to pose a substantial risk of death, disability, injury or harm to persons.

*Contingency Plan* - targets a specific issue or event that arises during the course of disaster operations and presents alternative actions to respond to the situation.

*Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)* - a plan to maintain essential operations when staff and other resources are in short supply due to an on-going emergency.

*Cooperating Agency* - an agency supplying assistance other than direct tactical or support functions or resources to the incident control effort (e.g., Red Cross, telephone company, etc.).

*Cooperative Agreement* - a federal grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR).

*Coordination* - 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.

*Coordination Center* - term used to describe any facility that is used for the coordination of agency or jurisdictional resources in support of one or more incidents.

*Cost-Sharing Agreements* - agreements between agencies or jurisdictions to share designated costs related to incidents.

*Cost Unit* - functional unit within the Finance/Administration Section responsible for tracking costs, analyzing cost data, making cost estimates, and recommending cost-saving measures.

*Countermeasure* - a pharmaceutical such as a vaccine or antiviral, and the supplies needed for their dispensing, that are distributed and dispensed to persons that have, or have been exposed to, a virus, bacterium or other pathological agent.

*Counterterrorism* - the full range of activities directed against terrorism, including preventive, deterrent, response and crisis management efforts.

*Covert* - not openly practiced, avowed, engaged in, or shown.

*Credible Threat* - an FBI threat assessment that indicates the threat is credible and confirms the involvement of weapons of mass destruction in a developing terrorist incident.

*Crisis Management* - a law enforcement function that includes measures to identify, acquire, and plan the use of resources needed to anticipate, prevent, and/or resolve a threat or act of terrorism. (Contrast with Consequence Management).

*Critical Agent* - a biological or chemical substance or compound likely to be used in weapons of mass destruction and other bioterrorist attacks.

*Critical Care Transport (CCT)* - an ambulance transport of a patient from a scene or a clinical setting.

*Cutaneous* - relating to the outer layer of the skin.

## **D**

*Damage Assessment* - 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, fire and police stations, communication networks, water and sanitation systems, utilities, and transportation networks.

*Decontamination* - the process of making people, objects, or areas safe by absorbing, destroying, neutralizing, or removing chemical, biological or radiological material.

*Delayed Health Effect* - a disease or an injury that happens as a result of exposures that have occurred in the past.

*Delegation of Authority* - 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 larger incidents.

*Demobilization Unit* - functional unit within the Planning Section responsible for assuring orderly, safe, and efficient demobilization of incident resources.

*Deputy* - 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. A Deputy could act as relief for a superior and could be assigned to the Incident Commander, Command Staff, and Branch Directors.

*Dermal* - refers to the inner layer of skin.

*Descriptive Epidemiology* - study of the amount and distribution of a disease in a specified population by person, place, and time.

*Detection Limit* - the lowest concentration of a chemical that can reliably be distinguished from zero concentration.

*Director* - the ICS title for individuals responsible for supervision of a Branch.

*Dirty Bomb* - the use of common explosives to spread radioactive materials over a targeted area. Also known as a radiation attack, it is not a nuclear blast, but rather an explosion with localized radioactive contamination.

*Disaster* - any naturally occurring (hurricane, flooding, snowstorm, pandemic) or manmade event that causes damage of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant assistance from other jurisdictions (local, state or federal) and/or emergency relief organizations.

*Disaster Recovery Center* - places established in the area of a Presidential declared major disaster, as soon as practical, to provide victims the opportunity to apply in person for assistance and/or obtain information relating to that assistance.

*Disease of Suspected Bioterrorism Origin* - a disease caused by viruses, bacteria, fungi, or toxins from living organisms that are used to produce death or disease in humans, animals, or plants. Many of these diseases may have nonspecific presenting symptoms.

*Disease Prevention* - measures used to prevent a disease or reduce its severity. Primary prevention measures are used to prevent the occurrence of disease; secondary prevention prevents near term complications of disease; tertiary prevention is applied to the distant complications of disease.

*Disease Registry* - a system of ongoing registration of all cases of a particular disease or health condition in a defined population.

*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 are assigned to an incident.

*Division* - divisions are used to divide an incident into geographical areas of operation. A Division is located within the ICS organization between the Branch and the Task Force/Strike Team. (See Group.) Divisions are identified by alphabetic characters for horizontal applications and, often, by floor numbers when used in buildings.

*Documentation Unit* - functional unit within the Planning Section responsible for collecting, recording, and safeguarding all documents relevant to the incident.

*Dose* - the amount of a substance to which a person is exposed over some time period. Dose is a measurement of exposure.

*Drill* - A coordinated, supervised activity usually employed to test a single specific operation or function in a single agency. Drills are commonly used to provide training with new equipment, develop or test new policies or procedures, or practice and maintain current skills.

*Dysphasia* - difficulty in swallowing.

## **E**

*Emergency* – any event or occurrence for which, in the determination of the Governor, State assistance is needed to supplement local efforts and capabilities to save lives, protect property, provide for the public health and safety, and to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe.

*Emergency (federal)* - any occasion or instance for which, in the determination of the President, Federal assistance is needed to supplement State and local efforts and capabilities to save lives and protect property, public health and safety, or to lessen or avert a catastrophe in any part of the United States.

*Emergency Management* - a systematic program of activities that government 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 Director* - the individual within each political subdivision that has coordination responsibility for jurisdictional emergency management.

*Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)* - a health care specialist with particular skills and knowledge in pre-hospital emergency medicine.

*Emergency Operations Center (EOC)* - a pre-designated facility established by an agency or jurisdiction to coordinate the overall agency or jurisdictional response and support to an emergency.

*Emergency Operations Plan* - the plan that each jurisdiction has and maintains for responding to appropriate hazards.

*Emergency Support Function (ESF)* - a functional area of response activity established to facilitate coordinated delivery of assistance required during the response phase. They represent the types of assistance likely needed most during a catastrophic event. Public Health and Medical Services is Emergency Support Function 8.

*Empirical* - originating in or based on observation or experiment.

*Empowerment* - a mechanism by which people, organizations, and communities gain mastery over their affairs.

*EMS* - Emergency Medical Services.

*Encephalitis* - inflammation of the brain.

*Endemic* - the constant presence of a disease or infectious agent within a given geographic area; it may also refer to the usual prevalence of a given disease within such area. Hyperendemic expresses a constant presence at a high level of incidence, and holoendemic a high level of prevalence with infections beginning early in life and affecting most of the population, e.g., malaria in some places.

*Enteric* - relating to the intestines, alimentary.

*Enzootic* - persistent presence of disease or infection in animals other than humans.

*Epidemic* - the occurrence in a community or region of cases of an illness (or an outbreak) with a frequency clearly in excess of normal expectancy.

*Epidemiologist (EPI)*- 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.

*Epidemiology* - the study of the distribution and determinants of disease or health status in a population; the study of the occurrence and causes of health effects in humans; the study of how often and why diseases occur in different groups of people

*Epizootic* - denoting a temporal pattern of disease occurrence in an animal population in which the disease occurs with a frequency clearly in excess of the expected frequency in that population during a given time interval; an outbreak of disease in an animal population.

*Evacuation* – an organized, phased and supervised dispersal of people from dangerous or potentially dangerous areas.

*Evacuation, Mandatory* - a required dispersal of people within a designated area to whom a warning is given that an imminent threat to life and property exists.

*Evacuation, Voluntary* - a non-required dispersal of people within a designated area to whom a warning is given that a threat to life and property exists or is likely to exist in the immediate future.

*Evaluation* - an empirically-based analysis of the results of risk management strategies or programs that provide senior managers, other authoritative bodies or the public with relevant, objective, timely and well-documented findings and recommendations.

*Event* - a planned activity.

*Exercise* – A coordinated, supervised activity where simulated situations are used to assess plans, policies and procedures; to simulate actions by personnel and equipment that drive further activity; or the actual mobilization of personnel and equipment.

*Explosive* – a chemical compound, mixture or device where the primary purpose is to function by explosion.

*Exposure* - contact with an agent by swallowing, breathing or touching.

## F

*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.

*Febrile* - denoting or relating to fever.

*Field Operations Guide (FOG)* - a pocket-size manual of instructions detailing the application of a program or 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.

*First Responder* - an individual who in the early stages of an incident is responsible for the protection and preservation of life, property, evidence and the environment.

*Food Unit* - functional unit within the Service Branch of the Logistics Section responsible for providing meals for incident personnel.

*Full Disclosure* - provision of all possible information.

*Fume* – airborne dispersion consisting of minute solid particles arising from the heating of a solid material.

*Function* - the five major activities in ICS: Command, Operations, Planning, Logistics, and Finance/Administration; also used when describing the activity involved, e.g., the planning function.

## G

*Gas* – a state of matter in which a material has very low density and viscosity, and can greatly expand and contract in response to temperature and pressure changes.

*General Staff* - the group of incident management personnel reporting to the Incident Commander. They may each have a deputy, as needed. The General Staff consists of: Operations Section Chief, Planning Section Chief, Logistics Section Chief, and the Finance/Administration Section Chief

*Ground Support Unit* - functional unit within the Support Branch of the Logistics Section responsible for the fueling, maintaining, and repairing of vehicles, and the transportation of personnel and supplies.

*Groundwater* - water beneath the earth's surface in the spaces between soil particles and rock surfaces.

*Group* - functional areas of operation responding to an incident. Groups are composed of resources assembled to perform a special function not necessarily within a single geographic division. Groups are located between Branches (when activated) and Resources in the Operations Section.

## H

*Half-life (t<sub>1/2</sub>)* - In the environment, the half-life is the time it takes for half the original amount of a substance to disappear when it is changed to another chemical by bacteria, fungi, sunlight, or other chemical processes. In the human body, the half-life is the time it takes for half the original amount of the substance to disappear, either by being changed to another substance or by leaving the body. In the case of radioactive material, the half-life is the amount of time necessary for one half the initial number of radioactive atoms to change or transform into another atom (that is not radioactive). After two half-lives, 25% of the original number of radioactive atoms remains.

*Hazard* - a source of potential harm from past, current or future exposures.

*Hazard Mitigation* - any action taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from hazards.

*Hazard Vulnerability Analysis* - the identification of potential emergencies and the direct and indirect effects these emergencies may have on the health care organization's operations and demand for service.

*Hazardous Material (HazMat)* - any material that is explosive, flammable, poisonous, corrosive, reactive, or radioactive, or any combination and requires special care in handling because of the hazards it poses to public health, safety, and/or the environment.



*Hazardous Waste* – a potentially harmful substance that has been released or discarded into the environment.

*Health Alert* – an urgent message to health officials that requires immediate action or attention.

*Health Alert Network (CDC)* - a national effort to provide timely health information to public health emergency responders in the event of a natural or manmade public health emergency. Health messages from the CDC are distributed to each state, which decides if and how to redistribute them locally.

*Health Alert Network (CT HAN)* – technology for notifying local health officials and providers of emergent situations affecting the public health in Connecticut; technology includes phone, Fax and electronic mail capabilities where messaging can be sent to large numbers of people in a short amount of time.

*High-Hazard Areas* - geographic locations that have been determined through historical experience and vulnerability analysis 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.

*HIPAA* - Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

*Hospital Emergency Incident Command System (HEICS)* - an emergency management system which employs a logical management structure, defined responsibilities, clear reporting channels and a common nomenclature to help link hospitals with other emergency responders.

*Hot Zone* – an area immediately surrounding a hazardous materials incident; it extends far enough to prevent adverse effects to persons outside the zone; also known as the exclusion zone.



*Immune Individual* - a person producing specific antibodies or cells that protect against infectious or toxic agents.

*Immunity* - resistance usually associated with the presence of antibodies or cells having a specific action on a toxic agent.

*In Vitro* - in an artificial environment outside a living organism or body. For example, some toxicity testing is done on cell cultures or slices of tissue grown in the laboratory, rather than on a living animal (Compare in vivo).

*In Vivo* - within a living organism or body. For example, some toxicity testing is done on whole animals, such as rats or mice (Compare with *in vitro*).

*Incidence* - the number of new cases of disease in a defined population over a specific time period.

*Incident* - an unexpected or unplanned occurrence.

*Incident Action Plan* - a document containing objectives reflecting the overall incident strategy and specific tactical actions and supporting information for the next operational period. It may have a number of attachments (e.g., worker safety plan, communications plan, maps, etc.).

*Incident Base* - location at the incident where the primary logistics functions are coordinated and administered. The Incident Command Post may be co-located with the base. There is only one base per incident.

*Incident Command Post (ICP)* - location where the primary command functions are executed. The ICP may be co-located with the incident base or other incident facilities.

*Incident Command System (ICS)* - a standardized emergency management organizational structure that can be adapted to the complexity and demands of single or multiple incidents, without being hindered by jurisdictional boundaries.

*Incident Commander* - the individual responsible for the management of all incident operations at the incident site.

*Incident Management* - the totality of activities to be aware of, prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from incidents.

*Incident Management Team* - the Incident Commander and appropriate Command and General Staff assigned to an incident.

*Incident Objectives* - statements of guidance and direction necessary for the selection of an appropriate strategy and 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 include dispatch centers, airports, family assistance centers.

*Incubation Period* - the time interval between initial contact with an infectious agent and the onset of disease.

*Infected Individual* - a person that harbors an infectious agent.

*Infection* - the entry and development or multiplication of an infectious agent in the body of persons or animals. Infection is not synonymous with infectious disease.

*Infectious Agent* - an organism (virus, rickettsia, bacteria, fungus, protozoan, or helminth) that is capable of producing infection or infectious disease.

*Infectious Disease* - a clinically manifest disease of humans or animals resulting from an infection. (Contrast with communicable disease.)

*Infestation* - for persons or animals, the lodgment, development and reproduction of arthropods on the surface of the body or in the clothing.

*Influenza* – an illness or disease caused by viruses that infect the respiratory tract.

*Influenza, Avian* – Influenza A subtypes H5 and H7 commonly found in fowl; also known as H5N1 influenza.

*Influenza, Novel H1N1* – a subtype of the Influenza A virus that was highly transmittable among humans during the 2009-10 influenza pandemic.

*Influenza, Seasonal* – a respiratory illness transmitted person to person that commonly appears during the fall and winter seasons.

*Influenza-Like Illness (ILI)* – the presence of fever of at least 100 degrees F, with cough and/or sore throat.

*Ingestion* - the act of swallowing something through eating, drinking, or mouthing objects.

*Inhalation* - the act of breathing.

*Initial Response* - resources initially committed to an incident.

*Isolation* - physical separation of persons who are infected or believed to be infected with a potentially threatening communicable disease to protect against the transmission of the disease to non-isolated persons.

## J

*Joint Information Center (JIC)* - a central point of contact for all news media 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.

*Jurisdiction* - the sphere of authority or control; territorial range over which authority controls

*Jurisdictional Agency* - the agency having responsibility for a specific geographical area or a mandated function.

## K

*Key Message* - an item of importance; the health risk information that needs to be communicated.

## L

*Laboratory Biosafety Levels* – the four classifications for activities involving infectious microorganisms and laboratory animals: BSL 1 - suitable for work involving well-characterized agents of minimal potential hazard to laboratory personnel and the environment; BSL 2 - suitable for work involving agents of moderate potential hazard to personnel and the environment; BSL 3 - applicable to clinical, diagnostic, teaching, research or production facilities in which work is done with indigenous or exotic agents which may cause serious or potentially lethal disease as a result of exposure by the inhalation route; BSL 4 - required for work with dangerous and exotic agents that pose a high risk of aerosol-transmitted laboratory infections and life-threatening disease.

*Laboratory Levels* - a system for classifying laboratories by their capabilities. Classifications include: 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 the CDC; D - possessing sophisticated containment equipment and expertise to deal with the most dangerous, virulent pathogens (CDC, Department of Defense, FBI and the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases).

*Laboratory Response Network (LRN)* - a national partnership of public health laboratories designed to coordinate and share resources for an effective response during a health emergency.

*Leader* - the ICS title for an individual responsible for a Task Force, Strike Team, or functional unit.

*Liaison* - an agency official sent to another agency to facilitate interagency communications and coordination.

*Liaison Officer* - a member of the Command Staff responsible for coordinating with representatives from assisting agencies.

*Life Safety* - refers to the joint consideration of both the life and physical well being of individuals.

*Logistics Section* - the Section responsible for providing facilities, services, and materials for the incident.

*Lowest Observed Adverse Effect Level (LOAEL)* - the lowest tested dose of a substance that has been reported to cause adverse health effects.

## **M**

*Major events* - domestic terrorist attacks, major disasters and other emergencies of considerable magnitude.

*Malaise* - a vague feeling of discomfort in the body, as at the onset of illness.

*Management By Objectives* - in ICS, a top-down management activity involving a three-step process to achieve the incident goal: (1) establishing incident objectives, (2) setting strategies to achieve the objectives, and (3) identifying the tactics for the selected strategy.

*Managers* - individuals within ICS organizational units that are assigned specific managerial responsibilities; e.g., Staging Area Manager or Camp Manager.

*Mass Care* - actions taken to protect evacuees and other disaster victims from the effects of a disaster.

*Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)* - maximum permissible level of a contaminant delivered to any user of a public drinking water system. An MCL is an enforceable federal regulation.

*Medical Emergency* – an occurrence that results in sudden illness, injury and/or trauma causing medical conditions so acute and severe as to require immediate medical attention to prevent permanent damage to health.

*Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)* - a component of the Citizen Corps that coordinates volunteer health professionals and citizens with an interest in health issues to provide ongoing support for community public health needs and resources during large-scale emergencies.

*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.

*Meningitis* - inflammation of the brain and the spinal cord, most often caused by a bacterial or viral infection and characterized by fever, vomiting, intense headache, and stiff neck.

*Message Center* - part of the Incident Communications Center that receives, records and routes information about resources reporting to the incident.

*Message Maps* - risk communication tools that help organize complex information and make it easier to express current knowledge; involves three main messages, with a maximum of three supporting statements for each message.

*Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS)* - a program 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.

*Minimal Risk Level (MRL)* - an estimate of daily human exposure to a hazardous substance at or below which the substance is unlikely to pose a measurable risk of harmful (adverse) noncancerous effects. MRLs are calculated for a route of exposure (inhalation or oral) over a specified time period (acute, intermediate, or chronic).

*Mitigation* - ongoing effort to lessen the adverse effect disasters have on people and property.

*Mobilization* - the process and procedures used by federal, state, and local organizations 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.

*Monitoring* - the repetitive and continued observation, measurement and evaluation of an activity, output, or situation to detect changes in human health or the environment over a period of time.

*Morbidity* - sickness.

*Mortality* - death.

*Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC)* - a generalized term that describes the functions and activities of involved agencies and/or jurisdictions that come together to make decisions regarding the prioritizing of incidents, and the sharing and use of critical resources. The MAC organization is not part of the on-scene ICS.

*Multi-Agency Incident* - an incident where one or more agencies assist a jurisdictional agency or agencies; may be single or unified command.

*Multijurisdictional Incident* - an incident requiring action from multiple agencies that have a statutory responsibility for incident mitigation. In ICS, these incidents will be managed under Unified Command.

*Mutation* - a change (damage) to the DNA, genes or chromosomes of living organisms.

*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.

## **N**

*N95* – respirator that is resistant to aerosol hazards.

*National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NEDSS)* - a CDC initiative promoting the use of data and information system standards to improve disease surveillance at federal, state and local levels.

*National Incident Management System (NIMS)* - an all-hazard incident management system required by Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 that governs the management of the National Response Framework.

*National Response Framework (NRF)* - presents the guiding principles that enables all response partners to prepare for and provide a unified national response to disasters and emergencies - from the smallest incident to the largest catastrophe. It establishes a comprehensive, national, all-hazards approach to domestic incident response. The National Response Framework replaced the National Response Plan in March 2008.

*Negative Pressure Isolation Room* - a room that has negative air pressure in relation to the corridor and surrounding areas with exhaust externally vented away from air intakes or where people may pass.

*Non-Carcinogen* - an agent that does not cause cancer.

*Non-Threshold Substance* - an agent for which it is assumed there is risk associated with any amount of exposure, no matter how small.

*Nuclear Blast* - an explosion due to nuclear fission or fusion, with intense light and heat, a damaging pressure wave, and widespread radioactive material that can contaminate the air, water, and ground surfaces for miles around.

## O

*Officer* - the ICS title for the personnel responsible for the Command Staff positions of Safety, Liaison, and Information.

*Operational Period* - the period of time (generally not more than 24 hours) scheduled for execution of a given set of actions as specified in the Incident Action Plan.

*Operations* – the coordinated response of all field 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.

*Outbreak* - the occurrence of a number of cases of disease or condition in any area over a given period of time in excess of the expected number of cases.

*Out-Of-Service Resources* - resources assigned to an incident that are unable to respond for mechanical, rest or personnel reasons.

## P

*Paramedic* - a practitioner credentialed by a state to function at the advanced life support level in emergency medical services.

*Particulate Matter* - airborne materials that can, depending on their size and composition, lodge in various areas of the respiratory tract.



*Passive Immunization* - Treatment that provides immunity through the transfer of antibodies obtained from an immune individual.

*Pathogen* - an agent or organism that can cause disease.

*Phases of Incident Management* - a doctrine described in the National Response Framework that suggests incident management progresses through 5 phases: awareness, prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.

*Planning Meeting* - a meeting held throughout the duration of an incident to select specific strategies and tactics, and develop the Incident Action Plan.

*Planning Section* - the Section of ICS 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.

*Point of Exposure* – the path through which a person comes into contact with a substance present in the environment.

*Potassium Iodide* - a nonprescription drug for use as a "blocking agent" to prevent the human thyroid gland from absorbing radioactive iodine.

*ppb* - parts per billion

*ppm* - parts per million

*Preliminary Damage Assessment* - a mechanism used to determine the impact and magnitude of damage and the resulting unmet needs of individuals, businesses, public sector, and community as a whole.

*Preparedness* - plans, procedures, policies, training and exercising necessary at the federal, state, regional and local levels to maximize the ability to prevent, respond to and recover from major events.

*Prevalence* - the number of existing disease cases in a defined population at specific time point in time, expressed as a rate.

*Prevalence Survey* - the measure of the current level of disease(s) or symptoms and exposures through a questionnaire that collects self-reported information from a defined population.

*Prevention (clinical)* - actions that keep people from getting sick or keep disease from worsening.

*Primary Agency* – the organization charged with a specific emergency function during a response. Assignment of primary agency is based on an agency's mission and statutory authority; it does not imply that a given agency is charged with the overall coordination or response to an emergency.

*Procurement Unit* - the functional unit within the Finance/Administration Section responsible for financial matters involving vendor contracts.

*Prophylaxis* - a treatment that prevents disease or stops it from spreading.

*Prostration* - a marked loss of strength, as in exhaustion.

*Public Health* - organized efforts to protect, promote and restore people's health; focuses on the maintenance and improvement of the health of all people through collective or social actions, with an emphasis on disease prevention and health needs of the population as a whole; goals are to reduce the amount of disease, premature death and disease-produced discomfort and disability in the population.

*Public Health Advisory* - a statement containing a finding that a release of hazardous substances poses a significant risk to human health recommending measures to be taken to decrease exposure and eliminate or substantially mitigate the risk to human health.

*Public Health Emergency (Connecticut definition)* - an occurrence or imminent threat of a communicable disease, except sexually transmitted disease, or contamination caused or believed to be caused by bioterrorism, an epidemic or pandemic disease, a natural disaster, a chemical attack or accidental release or a nuclear attack or accident that poses a substantial risk of a significant number of human fatalities or incidents of permanent or long-term disability. [C.G.S. PA-03-236] ~~the principal population health and hygiene conditions, as well as to the extent that~~

*Public Health Information Network (PHIN)* – a CDC national initiative to improve the capacity of public health to use and exchange information electronically by promoting the use of standards and defining functional and technical requirements.

*Public Health Official* - a qualified individual charged with protecting, promoting and restoring the health of the general public.

*Public Information Officer* - a member of the Command Staff responsible for interfacing with the public and media or with other agencies requiring information about the incident.

*Push Package* - a delivery of medical supplies and pharmaceuticals sent from the Strategic National Stockpile to a state undergoing an emergency within 12 hours of federal approval of a request by the state's governor.

## Q

*Quarantine* - precautionary physical separation of persons who have or may have been exposed to a threatening communicable disease, but do not presently show signs or symptoms, to protect against the transmission of the disease to non-quarantined persons.

## R

*Radiation* - high-energy particles or gamma rays emitted by an atom as the substance undergoes radioactive decay; particles can be charged alpha or beta particles, neutral neutron, or gamma rays.

*Radiation Sickness* - sickness resulting from excessive exposure to ionizing radiation.

*Radioactive* – the spontaneous disintegration of unstable nuclei accompanied by emission of nuclear 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.

*Recorder* - an individual within ICS organizational units (usually the Planning, Logistics and Finance/ Administration Units) responsible for recording information.

*Recovery* - actions taken to restore normalcy after a disaster.

*Reference Dose (RID)* - an estimate, calculated on body weight, of the intake of a chemical to which it is believed a person can be exposed daily over a lifetime without experiencing adverse health effects.

*Release* – any spilling, leaking, disposing, pouring, emitting, dumping, etc. into the environment.

*Reportable Diseases* - incidences of communicable disease, traumatic injury, cancer or other health conditions that a state requires health care providers to report to a central collecting agency.

*Reporting Location* – a place or facility where incoming resources can check in.

*Reservoir* - any person, animal, arthropod, plant, soil or substance in which an infectious agent normally lives and multiplies, on which it depends primarily for survival, and where it reproduces itself in such manner that it can be transmitted to a susceptible host.

*Respiratory Hygiene* - measures taken by individuals with signs and symptoms of a respiratory infection to contain respiratory secretions. These measures include: 1) covering the nose/mouth when coughing or sneezing; 2) using tissues to contain respiratory secretions and dispose of them in the nearest waste receptacle after use; and 3) hand washing with non-antimicrobial soap and water, alcohol-based hand rub, or antiseptic after having contact with respiratory secretions and contaminated objects/materials.

*Resistance* - the sum total of body mechanisms that provide barriers to the invasion or multiplication of infectious agents.

*Resources* - personnel and equipment available for assignment to incidents.

*Resources Unit* - a 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, and anticipated resource needs.

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

*Risk* - a measure of the harm to human health that results from being exposed; uncertainty that surrounds future events and outcomes.

*Risk Assessment* - a process that involves determining the likelihood that a specific adverse health effect will occur in an individual or population, following exposure to a hazardous agent.

*Risk Communication* – the exchange of information concerning the existence, nature, form, severity or acceptability of health or environmental risks. Effective risk communication involves determining the types of information that interested and affected parties need and want, and presenting this information to them in a useful and meaningful way.

*Risk Comparison* - the practice of comparing one risk to another to promote a better understanding of the nature and scope of the hazard.

*Risk Perception* - the way individuals intuitively see and judge risks.

*Route of Exposure* - the means by which agents enter the body such as through eating, drinking, breathing or skin contact.

## S

*Safety Officer* - a member of the Command Staff responsible for monitoring and assessing worker safety hazards and unsafe situations, and for developing measures for ensuring worker health and safety.

*Sample* - a portion, piece, or segment that is representative of a whole; a small part or quantity of something such as blood or soil, for scientific or medical examination or analysis

*Screening* - to test or examine for the presence of something, such as disease; persons are screened during vaccination or prophylaxis to rule out conditions or other factors that may cause a harmful reaction to the vaccine or medication

*Secondary Hazard* - a threat resulting from another emergency; e.g., a dam failure associated with an earthquake.

*Section* - the organization level with responsibility for a major functional area of the incident; e.g., Operations, Planning, Logistics, and Finance/Administration. The Section is organizationally between Branch and Incident Commander.

*Sepsis* - poisoning via the introduction of toxin-producing microorganisms into the blood.

*Septicemia* - a systemic syndrome caused by pathogenic organisms or their toxins in the bloodstream.

*Service Branch* - a branch within the Logistics Section responsible for service activities at the incident; includes the communications, medical and food units.

*Shelter-in-Place* - the strategy of encouraging populations to remain at their present locations and take shelter rather than attempting to evacuate to another location.

*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 in an incident.

*Situation Analysis Team (SAT)* – a group convened to decide if an emergency event warrants the activation of an emergency operations center.

*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.

*Smallpox* - variola, a virus that causes a serious, contagious and sometimes fatal disease, producing substantial morbidity and mortality. There is no specific treatment for smallpox and the only prevention is vaccination.

*Solvent* - a liquid capable of dissolving or dispersing another substance; e.g., acetone or mineral spirits.

*SOP* - standard operating procedure.

*Source of Contamination* – the point where a hazardous substance originates, such as a landfill, waste pond, incinerator, storage tank or drum.

*Source of Infection* - the host which first introduces an infection into a population.

*Span Of Control* - the supervisory ratio of from three to seven individuals, with five-to-one being established as the optimum ratio.

*Special Populations* - people who might be more sensitive or susceptible to exposure to hazardous substances because of factors such as age, occupation, sex, or behaviors (for example, cigarette smoking); populations with special needs for translations, special services or alternative channels of communication (such as the deaf); populations with distinct cultural or community needs. Children, pregnant women, and older people are often considered special populations.

*Spokesperson* – a public information officer or other person designated to deliver messages to the media.

*Staging Area* - a location established at an incident and managed by the Operations Section where resources can be placed while awaiting a tactical assignment.

*Stakeholder* - an individual, group or organization that may be affected by or otherwise interested in a risk management decision.

*Standard Precautions* - guidelines recommended by the CDC for reducing the risk of transmission of blood-borne and other pathogens in hospitals. The standard precautions synthesize the major features of universal precautions (designed to reduce the risk of transmission of bloodborne pathogens) and body substance isolation (designed to reduce the risk of pathogens from moist body substances) and apply them to all patients receiving care in hospitals regardless of their diagnosis or presumed infection status. Standard precautions apply to (1) blood; (2) all body fluids, secretions, and excretions *except sweat*, regardless of whether or not they contain blood; (3) nonintact skin; and (4) mucous membranes. The precautions are designed to reduce the risk of transmission of microorganisms from both recognized and unrecognized sources of infection in hospitals.

*START (Simple Triage And Rapid Treatment/Transport)* - a rapid approach to triaging large numbers of casualties that distinguishes between critically ill victims and the less-severely injured. Following a specific algorithm, a first responder quickly assesses airway, respiration, pulse and level of consciousness to categorize a patient's condition.

*Statistics* - a branch of mathematics that deals with collecting, reviewing, summarizing, and interpreting data or information.

*Strain* – a group of organisms within a species or variety.

*Strategic National Stockpile (SNS)* - a national cache of drugs, vaccines, and supplies that can be deployed to areas struck by disasters.

*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.

*Supervisor* - the ICS title for an individual responsible for command of a division or group.

*Supply Unit* – the functional unit within the Support Branch of the Logistics Section responsible for ordering equipment and supplies required for incident operations.

*Support Branch* - within the Logistics Section, the group 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, Finance/Administration Sections or the Command Staff.

*Supporting Materials* - the several attachments that may be included with an Incident Action Plan, e.g., communications plan, safety plan, and medical plan.

*Surface Water* - water on the surface of the earth such as in lakes, rivers, streams, ponds and springs.

*Surge Capacity* - the accommodation by the health system to a transient sudden rise in demand for health care following an incident with real or perceived adverse health effects.

*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 of Disease* - an essential feature of epidemiology; scrutiny of all aspects of occurrence and spread of a disease that are pertinent to effective control. Includes the systematic collection and evaluation of: morbidity and mortality reports; special reports of field investigations of epidemics and individual cases; isolation and identification of infectious agents by laboratories; data concerning the availability, use and untoward effects of vaccines and toxoids, immune globulins, insecticides, and other substances used in control; and information regarding immunity levels in segments of the population.

*Suspected Case* - a person whose diagnosis is likely to be a particular disease or condition, with diagnosis based on signs, symptoms and findings in the absence of confirmation.

*Symptom* – subjective evidence of a disease or physical condition.

*Syndromic* – occurring as part of a set of signs and symptoms suggesting the existence of an undesirable condition or disease.

*Synergistic Effect* - a biologic response to multiple substances where one substance worsens the effect of another substance. The combined effect of the substances acting together often is greater than the sum of the effects of the substances acting by themselves.

*Systemic* – pertaining to the internal structures and organs of the body.



# 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* - a combination of single resources assembled for a particular tactical need, with common communications and a leader.

*Technical Specialists* - personnel with special skills that can be used anywhere within the ICS organization.

*Terrorism* - the unlawful use of force or violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government or the civilian population in furtherance of political or social objectives.

*Threatening Communicable Disease* – a disease that causes death or great bodily harm by passing from one person to another and for which there are no means the public can reasonably avoid the risk of contracting the disease.

*Threshold* - the dose or exposure concentration below that a significant adverse effect is not expected to occur.

*Time Unit* – the functional unit within the Finance/Administration Section responsible for recording time for incident personnel and hired equipment.

*Toxic* - poisonous.

*Toxicity* - a measure of the harmful effects produced by a given amount of a toxin on a living organism.

*Toxicological Profile* - an Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) document that examines, summarizes and interprets information about a hazardous substance to determine harmful levels of exposure and associated health effects.

*Toxicology* - the study of the harmful effects of substances on humans or animals.

*Toxin* – a toxic agent of organic origin.

*Transmission of Infectious Agent* - mechanism by which an infectious agent is spread from a source or reservoir to a person generally through contact, droplet or aerosol.

*Transmission Specific Precautions* - infection control guidelines issued by the CDC based on the routes of transmission: contact, droplet, and airborne. Transmission Specific Precautions are used in addition to Standard Precautions when caring for an individual with known or suspected infectious disease.

*Treatment* – the application of medical care to cure disease, heal injuries, or ease symptoms.

*Triage* - prioritization of patients for medical treatment; the process of prioritizing sick or injured people for treatment according to the seriousness of the condition or injury.

*Type* - a resource capability classification; e.g., a Type 1 resource provides a greater overall capability due to power, size, capacity, etc., than would be found in a Type 2 resource.

## U

*Unified Area Command* – an organization established when incidents under an Area Command are multijurisdictional.

*Unified Command* - in ICS, a team effort which allows all agencies with responsibility for the incident, either geographical or functional, to manage the incident by establishing a common set of objectives and strategies. This is accomplished without losing or abdicating agency authority, responsibility or accountability.

*Unit* - the organizational element having functional responsibility for a specific incident.

*Unity of Command* - hierarchical organization principle that no subordinate should report to more than one boss

## V

*Vaccination* - the injection or inoculation of a vaccine for the purpose of inducing active immunity.

*Vector* - a carrier and often an intermediary vehicle; e.g., in malaria, the mosquito serves as a vector that carries and transfers the infectious agent by injecting it with a bite

*Virulence* - the degree of pathogenicity (ability to produce pathogens) of an infectious agent, indicated by case-fatality rates and/or the ability of the agent to invade and damage tissues of the host.

*Virus* - the simplest type of microorganisms, lacking a system for their own metabolism and dependent on cells for multiplication.

*Virus, Novel* – a virus rarely or not previously known to affect humans.

## W

*Warm Zone* – the area where personnel and equipment decontamination and hot zone support takes place; also known as the contamination reduction zone.

*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.

*Weapon of Mass Destruction (WMD)* - any device, material or substance used with the intent to cause death or serious injury to persons or significant damage to property.

*Weapons-Grade Material* - nuclear material considered most suitable for a nuclear weapon

## X, Y, Z

*Zoonosis* - an infection or infestation shared in nature by humans and other animals that are the normal or usual host; a disease of humans acquired from an animal source.

Portions of this glossary were obtained from the *New Mexico Department of Health All-Hazard Incident Management Glossary, January 2004*.