

**GLOSSARY**  
**OF**  
**HEALTH EMERGENCY**  
**ALL HAZARD**  
**&**  
**INCIDENT MANAGEMENT**  
**TERMS**

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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**T**he *Glossary of Health Emergency, All Hazard & Incident Management Terms* has been created to give spokespersons, communicators, health care providers, and responders a common language to use in health emergencies. This glossary defines medical and response terms to address a broad range of health crises. The sources are listed on the last two pages.

Terms are included in the glossary which are derived from the NIMS Incident Command System Glossary. Those terms are marked with an asterisk (\*).

In an emergency, confidence depends on consistency in the messages delivered by authorities. Consensus on messages and consistency on issues and language are essential to public trust. Health care partners and emergency responders may have the responsibility to communicate complex messages to an anxious public. This document will serve as both a planning and response reference for leaders who must communicate during a crisis.

# A

Acute – sudden onset. (Compare with chronic)

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.

Aerosol – fine liquid or solid particles suspended in a gas or air.

AG – Attorney General (NM)

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 – a biological, chemical, or physical substance, process, product, or other entity, causing an effect. Exposure to an agent may cause adverse health effects to occur.

AIIR – Airborne Infectious Isolation Room

Air Operations Branch Director \* – 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.

All Hazard – covering all possible hazards whether natural, accidental, negligent or intentional.

All-Hazards Preparedness – preparedness for domestic terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies.

Allocated Resources \* – Resources dispatched to an incident.

Altered Standards of Care – new guidelines to allocate scarce medical resources to maximize recovery during a medical emergency.

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

Analgesic – a pain-relieving medication.

Anthrax – a non-contagious potentially fatal disease caused by breathing, eating, or skin contact with spores of the skin bacteria known as *Bacillus anthracis*.

Antibiotic – a substance produced by bacteria or fungi that destroys or prevents the growth of other bacteria and fungi.

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

Antigen – any foreign substance, usually a protein, that stimulates the body's immune system to produce antibodies. The name antigen reflects its role in stimulating an immune response – antibody generating.

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

Antivirals – drugs 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.

APIC – Association of Professionals in Infection Control

ARC – American Red Cross

ARDS – Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome; Patients with ARDS experience severe shortness of breath and often require mechanical ventilation (life support) because of respiratory failure.

Assigned Resources \* – resources checked in and assigned 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.

Avian Influenza (AI) – an infection of poultry caused either by any influenza A virus which has an intravenous pathogenicity index (IVPI) in 6-week old chickens greater than 1.2, or by an influenza A virus of H5 or H7 subtype.

## 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 that 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.

BHPP – Bioterrorism Hospital Preparedness Program (HRSA) – national program funded through cooperative agreement grant awarded to states, U.S. territories and large municipalities by Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The mission of the National Bioterrorism Hospital Preparedness Program is to ready hospitals and supporting health care systems to deliver coordinated and effective care to victims of terrorism and other public health emergencies. The prime focus of BHPP is to develop, implement and intensify regional terrorism preparedness plans and protocols for hospitals, outpatient facilities, EMS systems (both freestanding and fire-based) and poison control centers in collaborative statewide or regional models.

BIA – Bureau of Indian Affairs (US)

Biologic Monitoring – measuring hazardous substances.

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, negligent 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 the most stringent practices to protect against contact or release of the microorganisms and operate at Bio-Safety Level 4. (Contrast with Laboratory Levels)

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

BLM – Bureau of Land Management (US Department of the Interior)

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

Body Language – the gestures, movements, and mannerisms by which a person communicates with others.

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.).

Bronchitis – inflammation of the mucous membrane of the bronchial tubes.

BT – Bioterrorism

BTS – Directorate of Border and Transportation Security - within the US Department of Homeland Security. (US)

Business Continuity Plan – a comprehensive written plan to maintain or resume business in the event of a disruption. The term encompasses both disaster recovery planning and business resumption planning. The plan identifies procedures for sustaining essential business operations while recovering from a significant disruption.

## C

Cache \* – a pre-determined complement of tools, equipment, medicines 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.

Carrier – a person who is infected with an agent that causes a disease, who shows no sign of illness. Asymptomatic carriers shed the causative agent, such as a virus or bacteria, and so can pass the disease on to others. The most famous asymptomatic carrier was Mary Mallon, or Typhoid Mary.

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; 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 the setting of 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 WMD: Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosive

CDC – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (US HHS)

CERT – Community Emergency Response Team

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, Helibases, Helispots, 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, and to intentionally inflict harm upon others.

Chemoprophylaxis – the administration of a chemical, including antibiotics, to prevent the development of an infection or the progression of an infection to active manifest disease, or to eliminate the carriage 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 to limit its further progression.

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

Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) – the New Mexico state agency responsible for child welfare and juvenile justice. Child Protective Services receives and investigates reports of child abuse or neglect and manages the state's foster care and adoption systems. Juvenile Justice Services manages juvenile institutions and detention centers, and coordinates juvenile probation and parole.

CHR – Community Health Representative - a lay community health advisor/educator who works in Native American communities.

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

CISM – Critical Incident Stress Management

Citizen Corps – a component of USA Freedom Corps that was created in January 2002, to help coordinate volunteer activities regarding incident/emergency management. Citizen Corps is coordinated nationally by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Clear Text \* – the use of plain English in radio communications transmissions. No Ten Codes or agency-specific codes are used when utilizing Clear Text.

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, if possible, explore possible causes and contributing environmental factors.

CMPT – Consequence Management Planning Team (FEMA)

Colonia – rural communities and neighborhoods located within 150 miles of the U.S.-Mexico border that lack adequate infrastructure and frequently also lack other basic services.

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 Information Officer, Safety Officer, and Liaison Officer. They report directly to the Incident Commander. They may have an assistant or assistants, as needed.

Communicable Disease – an illness due to a specific infectious agent or to 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. A communicable disease cluster might represent a notifiable condition.

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, including arthropods.

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.

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.

Condition of Public Health Significance – a term defined in regulation (7NMAC 4.3) meaning a condition dangerous to the public health or safety. A Condition of Public Health Significance includes, but is not limited to, infectious diseases. (Contrast with threatening communicable diseases)

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

Contagious – 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 aerosols made by coughing or sneezing, contaminated food utensils, water or food.

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

Contingency Plan – targets a specific issue or event that may arise during the course of disaster operations and presents alternative actions to respond to the situation.

Continuity of Operations (COOP) – those activities, procedures, policies, and resources which are required for an agency, organization, or business to continue functioning during an emergency, including providing essential services and protecting vital assets.

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.).

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. 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 the limits established by specific agency delegations, procedures, legal authority, etc.

Covert – not openly practiced, avowed, engaged in, accumulated, or shown.

Credibility – the quality or power of inspiring belief.

Credible Threat – the FBI conducts an interagency threat assessment that indicates that the threat is credible and confirms the involvement of a WMD in a developing terrorist incident.

CREST – Critical Response and Emergency Systems Training - a health and medical emergency response training program provided by the University of New Mexico, School of Medicine, Center for Disaster Medicine. The program provides training to healthcare professionals so that they may recognize indications of a terrorist event or other public health emergencies; meet the acute care needs of patients; rapidly and effectively alert the public health system of such an event at the community, state, and national level; and participate in a coordinated, multidisciplinary response to terrorist events.

Crisis Management – a law enforcement function which 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 Incident Stress Management (CISM) – a combination of interventions designed to help responders, victims, and survivors deal with traumatic events. Sometimes called “psychological first aid,” CISM could include debriefing, venting emotions, learning about stress reactions, and referrals for further help if necessary. It is not psychotherapy.

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.

CYFD – Children, Youth and Families Department (NM)

# D

Damage Assessment – the process used to appraise or determine the number of injuries and deaths, damage to public and private property resulting from a man-made or natural disaster, 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, making harmless, or removing chemical, biological, or radiological material.

Delegation of Authority \* (CCT) – 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.

Department of Health Operations Center (DOC) – the facility, when activated, as needed, from which New Mexico Department of Health personnel monitor, coordinate, and support health, medical, and mortuary response activities. (Contrast with Emergency Operations Center)

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. 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.

Dermal – referring to the inner layer of skin. For example, dermal absorption means passing through the skin.

DFA – Department of Finance and Administration (NM)

DHS – Department of Homeland Security (US)

DIA – Department of Indian Affairs (NM)

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, a “dirty bomb” is not a nuclear blast, but rather an explosion with localized radioactive contamination.

Disaster (NM) – an event or imminent threat that causes or threatens widespread or severe damage, injury, loss of life or property resulting from a natural, technological, and/or national security incident or other disaster that may exceed the capabilities and resources of State, local government, or disaster relief organizations. A disaster is of greater impact than an emergency. (New Mexico All Hazard Emergency Operations Plan 1999)

Disease Prevention – measures used to prevent a disease or reduce its severity. Primary prevention are measures 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.

DMAT – Disaster Medical Assistance Team

DMORT – Disaster Mortuary Team

DOC – Department Operations Center (NMDOH)

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

DOD – Department of Defense (US)

DOE – Department of Energy (US)

DOH – Department of Health (NM)

DOI – Department of the Interior (US)

DOL – Department of Labor (US) and (NM)

DOS – Department of State (US)

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

DOT – Department of Transportation (US and NM)

DPMU – Deployable Portable Morgue Unit

DPS – Department of Public Safety (NM)

Drills – small-scale, internally conducted, activities aimed at providing a more “hands-on” teaching environment to familiarize staff with actual procedures necessary for emergency operations. They may be stopped and restarted in order to clarify a point, provide instruction, allow for observations from the evaluator and evaluatee, or to permit the evaluatee a second chance to perform a procedure or activity.

Dysphagia – difficulty in swallowing.

## E

EMAC – Emergency Management Assistance Compact

Emergency (NM) – (1) 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. Note: an emergency is of less impact than a disaster. (New Mexico All Hazard Emergency Operations Plan 1999); (2) any man-made or natural disaster causing or threatening widespread physical or economic harm that is beyond local control and requires the resources of the state. (NM Uniform Licensing Act)

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 to protect property and public health and safety, or to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe in any part of the United States. (From:

Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended by Public Law 106-390, October 30, 2000, Sec. 102)

Emergency Management – 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 Assistance Compact (EMAC) – organization providing interstate mutual aid. Through EMAC, a state can request and receive assistance from other member states quickly and efficiently, resolving two key issues upfront: liability and reimbursement.

Emergency Management Coordinator/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.

EMNRD – Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (NM)

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

EMSCOM – Emergency Medical Services Communications

EMT – Emergency Medical Technician

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.

EOC – Emergency Operations Center - the facility from which a jurisdiction or agency coordinates its response to major emergencies/disasters. There may be a state EOC or county EOC.

EOP – Emergency Operations Plan

EPA – Environmental Protection Agency (US)

Epidemic – an outbreak of infection that spreads rapidly and affects many individuals in a given area or population at the same time.

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.

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 – (1) 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; (2) an outbreak of disease in an animal population.

EPR – Epidemic Pandemic Alert and Response (World Health Organization)

ESF – Emergency Support Function (FEMA) - a functional area of response activity established to facilitate coordinated Federal delivery of assistance required during the response phase to save lives, protect property and health, and maintain public safety. These functions represent those types of Federal assistance which the State likely will need most because of the overwhelming impact of a catastrophic event on local and State resources.

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 movements, means, and direction of travel is unorganized and

unsupervised. *Voluntary Evacuation* – 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* – a warning to person 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.

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. (Contrast with incident)

Exercises – large-scale enactments of emergency situations to test the response system and plan. They are usually developed and evaluated by an external agency. An exercise is a test of knowledge and is not to be interrupted except for safety concerns or for a true emergency situation.

Exposure – contact of with an agent by swallowing, breathing or touching.

## F

FAA – Federal Aviation Administration (US)

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.

FBI – Federal Bureau of Investigation (US)

FCC – Federal Communications Commission (US)

FDA – United States Food and Drug Administration (US HHS)

Febrile – denoting or relating to fever.

FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency (US)

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.

First Responder – police, fire, emergency and health personnel responsible for the protection and preservation of life, property, evidence, and the environment, including emergency response providers.

Flu – a common, slang term for influenza infection, although it is often mistakenly used in reference to gastrointestinal and other types of clinical illness.

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.

Function \* – in ICS, function refers to the five major activities in the ICS, 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.

## G

GAR – Governor’s Authorized Representative. Acts on the Governor’s behalf in all matters supporting the State (New Mexico) effort to respond to and recover from a disaster.

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.

GOHS – Governor’s Office of Homeland Security (NM)

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. (Compare with surface water)

Group \* – 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. Groups are located between Branches (when activated) and Resources in the Operations Section.

GSA – General Services Administration (US)

GSD – General Services Department (NM)

## H

H2H – Human-to-human - when discussing contagious diseases, it refers to the ability of the bacteria or virus to pass from one person to another.

HAN – Health Alert Network - infrastructure for the secure transmission of health-related information between the NM Department of Health and local health jurisdictions, the State's emergency response community, and its other partners using the intergovernmental network as its backbone. It is part of a nationwide health alerting system coordinated by the CDC.

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 Materials (HazMat) – any material that is explosive, flammable, poisonous, corrosive, reactive, or radioactive, or any combinations thereof, and requires special care in handling because of the hazards it poses to public health, safety, and/or the environment.

HazMat – Hazardous Materials

Health Alert Network (NM) – the NM Health Alert Network (NMHAN) currently uses email and fax technologies to notify medical and emergency professionals of emergent situations effecting the public health. The NMHAN generates messages from the NM DOH to health care practitioners, emergency responders, DOH Staff and other affiliated professionals that contain important information for responding

to a health emergency. Health messages, commonly known as Alerts, are meant to get needed information quickly to health professionals, and may originate from the CDC or New Mexico.

Health Update – see under Health Alert Network (NM)

HHS – Department of Health and Human Services (US)

HICS – Hospital Incident Command System is an emergency management system which employs a logical management structure, defined responsibilities, clear reporting channels and a common nomenclature to help unify hospitals with other emergency responders.

High Risk Groups – those groups in which epidemiological evidence indicates there is an increased risk of contracting a disease.

HIPAA – Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act

HMRU - Hazardous Materials Response Unit (FBI)

HPV – Health Professional Volunteers

HRSA – Health Resources and Services Administration - an agency of the USPHS within the federal Department of Health and Human Services. HRSA administers the funding and implementation of the Cooperative Agreements for Bioterrorism Hospital Preparedness held with each State.

HSD – Human Services Department (NM)

HSPD – Homeland Security Presidential Directive

## I

IC – Incident Commander

ICS – Incident Command System - the direction and control scheme used by first response and other agencies to manage emergencies.

ICS National Training Curriculum \* – a series of 17 training modules consisting of instructor guides, visuals, tests, and student materials. The modules cover all aspects of ICS operations. The modules can be intermixed to meet specific training needs.

ICU – Intensive Care Unit

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

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

Immunize – to make immune, as in making able to resist a particular disease, most often through administration of a vaccine delivered by a needle.

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

Incident \* – an unexpected or unplanned occurrence. (Contrast with event)

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 forms as attachments (e.g., traffic plan, safety plan, communications plan, map, etc.).

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. There is only one Base per incident.

Incident Command Post (ICP) \* – the location at which the primary command functions are executed. The ICP may be collocated with the incident base or other incident facilities.

Incident Command System \* – a standardized on-scene emergency management concept specifically designed to allow its user(s) to adopt an integrated organizational structure equal 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 Communications Center \* – the location of the Communications Unit and the Message Center.

Incident Management – referring to the totality of activities to be aware of, prevent, prepare for response to, and recover from incidents.

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

Incident Objectives \* – statements of guidance and direction necessary for the selection of appropriate strategy(s), 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.

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

Infected Individual – a person or animal that harbors an infectious agent.

Infection – condition in which organisms multiply within the body and cause a response from the host's immune defenses. Infection may or may not lead to clinical 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)

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.

Information Overload – provision of information in excess of cognitive and emotional ability of an individual to process.

Influenza – a highly contagious infection of the respiratory tract (nose, throat, bronchial tubes, lungs) caused by the influenza virus. The illness is characterized by sudden onset, fever, cough, sore throat, malaise and general aches, and also by nausea/vomiting and diarrhea in children. In the very young, fever may not be

prominent. In geriatric age groups, persons often experience fever or feverishness with chills, but these symptoms may not be prominent. Influenza viruses cause annual influenza epidemics and occasional worldwide influenza pandemics.

#### Influenza Types:

Influenza type A – a category of influenza virus characterized by specific internal proteins. Influenza A viruses are further subgrouped according to variations in their two surface proteins, hemagglutinin (H) and neuraminidase (N) (e.g., H1N1, H3N2). Influenza A viruses infect animals as well as humans and causes annual influenza epidemics and occasional influenza pandemics.

Influenza type B – a category of influenza virus characterized by specific internal proteins. Influenza B viruses infect only humans, cause less severe clinical illness than type A, and spread in regional rather than pandemic outbreaks.

Influenza type C – a category of influenza virus characterized by specific internal proteins. Influenza C viruses do not cause significant clinical illness.

#### Influenza A Subtypes:

H1N1 – Influenza A subtype. A strain of this subtype caused the 1918-1919 influenza pandemic. This subtype continues to circulate in humans and is regularly included in annual human influenza vaccines.

H2N2 – Influenza A subtype. A strain of this subtype caused the 1957-58 influenza pandemic. This subtype continues to circulate in humans.

H3N2 – Influenza A subtype. A strain of this subtype caused the 1968-1969 influenza pandemic. This subtype continues to circulate in humans and is regularly included in annual human influenza vaccines. Of the three influenza viruses that currently circulate in humans (A/H1N1, A/H3N2, B), this type causes the greatest annual morbidity and mortality.

H5N1 – Influenza A subtype, currently avian. This subtype has caused poultry outbreaks and sporadic human infections. Of most significance, a strain of this subtype has caused widespread poultry and wild bird outbreaks. It has infected humans, many of whom died. Human infection is primarily through direct poultry contact, although there is concern that this subtype could mutate to become the next pandemic strain.

H7N3 – Influenza A subtype, currently avian only. A strain of this subtype caused a widespread poultry outbreak in the Fraser Valley of BC in spring 2004. Two humans became infected during this outbreak. Illness was mild and resolved quickly.

H7N7 – Influenza A subtype, currently avian only. A strain of this subtype caused a widespread poultry outbreak in the Netherlands in early 2003. Eighty-nine humans became infected during this outbreak. Illness was mostly mild and resolved quickly, although there was one case of serious illness resulting in death.

Ingestion – the act of swallowing something through eating, drinking, or mouthing objects. A hazardous substance can enter the body this way. (See route of exposure)

Inhalation – the act of breathing in. A hazardous substance can enter the body this way.

Initial Action \* – the actions taken by resources which are the first to arrive at an incident.

Initial Response \* – resources initially committed to an incident.

Inpatient – an individual who receives health care services while admitted in a health care facility overnight or longer.

INS – Immigration and Naturalization Services - defunct as of 03/01/03, with all functions incorporated into the new U.S. Department of Homeland Security. (US)

Isolation – the separation, for the period of communicability of the disease, of an infected person or animal from others in a place and under conditions to prevent the conveyance of the infectious agent to those others.

## J, K

JIC – Joint Information Center - a central point of contact for all news media near the scene of a large-scale disaster. 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, through the Joint Information System (JIS).

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 (e.g., city, county, state, or federal boundary lines) or functional (e.g., police department, health department, etc.). (See Multi-jurisdiction)

Jurisdictional Agency \* – the agency having jurisdiction and responsibility for a specific geographical area, or a mandated function.

Key messages – items of importance, the health risk information that needs to be communicated.

KISS! - Keep It Short and Simple

## L

Laboratory Biosafety Levels – four biosafety levels for activities involving infectious microorganisms and laboratory animals. BSL 1 - suitable for work involving well-characterized agents not known to consistently cause disease in healthy adult humans, and of minimal potential hazard to laboratory personnel and the environment. BSL 2 – similar to BSL 1 and is 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 individual risk of aerosol-transmitted laboratory infections and life-threatening disease.

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; and D - possessing sophisticated containment equipment and expertise to deal with the most dangerous, virulent pathogens and includes only CDC and Department of Defense labs, the FBI, and the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases.

Lead Agency – An agency charged with the responsibility to direct a specific functional response. A primary agency may have support from other agencies.

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

LEPC – Local Emergency Planning Committee

LFA – Lead Federal Agency

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 cooperating and assisting agencies.

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 harmful (adverse) health effects in people or animals.

## M

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, clothing, and other essential life support needs to those people that have been displaced from their homes because of a disaster or threatened 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 Monitoring – a set of medical tests and physical exams specifically designed to evaluate whether an individual's exposure could negatively affect that person's health.

Medical Reserve Corps – a component of the Citizen Corps which coordinates volunteer health professionals, as well as other citizens with an interest in health issues, to provide ongoing support for community public health needs and resources

during large-scale emergencies. Activities include assisting emergency response teams, providing care to victims with less serious injuries, and removing other burdens that inhibit the effectiveness of physicians and nurses.

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.

MEMS – Modular Emergency Medical System

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 \* – the Message Center is part of the Incident Communications Center and is located or placed adjacent to it. It receives, records, and routes information about resources reporting to the incident, resource status, and administrative and tactical traffic.

Message Maps – message maps are risk communication tools that help organize complex information and make it easier to express current knowledge. The key to message mapping is to develop three key messages, with a maximum of three supporting statements for each message.

Minimal Risk Level (MRL) – an estimate of daily human exposure to a hazardous substance at or below which that 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). MRLs should not be used as predictors of harmful (adverse) health effects.

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

MMRS – Metropolitan Medical Response System (HHS) - 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. In New Mexico, there is an MMRS in Albuquerque, and one in Doña Ana County that is shared with El Paso, Texas.

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.

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

Monitoring and Debriefing – it is the responsibility of the Public Information Officer and staff to monitor coverage, track and correct rumors, and debrief and evaluate public information efforts and results, during an emergency.

Morbidity – sickness

Moribund – dying; at the point of death.

Mortality – death. Usually the cause (a specific disease, a condition, or an injury) is stated.

MRC – Medical Reserve Corps

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 Coordination System (MACS) \* – the combination of personnel, facilities, equipment, procedures, and communications integrated into a common system. When activated, MACS has the responsibility for coordination of assisting agency resources and support in a multi-agency or multi-jurisdictional environment. A MAC Group functions within the MACS.

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

Multi-jurisdiction 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 permanent, transmissible change in the genetic material of a cell.

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 – filtering characteristic of an effective mask, resistant to aerosol hazards.

NACCHO – National Association of City and County Health Officials

National Incident Management System (NIMS) \* – a total systems approach to all-risk incident management.

NCID – National Center for Infectious Diseases - a branch of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

NDMS – National Disaster Medical System (FEMA)

NEDSS – National Electronic Disease Surveillance System - a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention initiative promoting the use of data and information system standards to improve disease surveillance systems at federal, state and local levels.

Negative Pressure Isolation Room – a room which 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.

New Mexico “All-Hazard” Emergency Operations Plan – this plan, prepared by the New Mexico Department of Public Safety, establishes State Government’s response to emergencies/disasters that provides for the safety and welfare of citizens. It outlines the responsibilities, tasks, and interface between State organizations, local governments, and the Federal Government. It also addresses the need for mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery activities that increase the State’s capability to cope with emergencies or disasters.

NGB – National Guard Bureau

NIH – National Institutes of Health (HHS)

NIMH – National Institutes of Mental Health (US)

NMDA – New Mexico Department of Agriculture

NMDOH – New Mexico Department of Health

NMDOH DOC – New Mexico Department of Health Department Operations Center. All Plan documents usually refer to the DOC as the NMDOH DOC.

NMDOH EOCR – New Mexico Department of Health Emergency Operations Center Representative (24/7/365) to the NM State Emergency Operations Center. The NMDOH EOCR is the "single point of contact" within NMDOH and has the responsibility and authority to coordinate and commit NMDOH response resources. In addition, the NMDOH EOCR will be responsible for maintaining situational awareness, including disseminating information to key staff concerning National and State terrorism threat levels, State EOC activation levels, initial situation analysis, recommendations to the Secretary concerning the need for a DOH SAT, or initiating the coordination required to activate the DOH SAT.

NMDOT – New Mexico Department of Transportation

NMED – New Mexico Environment Department

NMLB – New Mexico Livestock Board

NMRT – National Medical Response Team

Non-Threshold Substance – an agent for which it is assumed that there is risk associated with any amount of exposure, no matter how small (in other words, it is assumed that there is no threshold for effects). Examples include genotoxic carcinogens, such as ionizing radiation and certain types of chemicals, which cause cancer by damaging DNA.

Notifiable Conditions – incidences of communicable disease, traumatic injury, cancer or other health condition that a state requires health care providers to report to a central collecting agency.

Novel virus – a new, unusually virulent strain of virus arising from a mutation, which endows the virus with the capacity to be easily transmitted from one person to another.

NRC – National Regulatory Commission (US)

NRP – National Response Plan (US) – the single all-hazard incident management plan.

NRT – National Response Team (US)

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.

NWP – Neighborhood Watch Program (all are usually coordinated under the guidance of a community Citizen Corps Council)

NWS – National Weather Service (US)

## O

OEM – Office of Emergency Management (NM)

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

OHEM – Office of Health Emergency Management. OHEM is the primary agency for emergency/disaster management and response within NMDOH and is responsible for preparation and update of NMDOH response plans for emergency operations and coordinating health and medical response issues within NMDOH and with other State, Federal, and local governments as necessary.

OMI – Office of the Medical Investigator (NM)

Operational Period \* – the period of time scheduled for execution of a given set of operation actions as specified in the Incident Action Plan. Operational Periods can be of various lengths, although usually not over 24 hours.

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.

Opportunistic Infections – Infection in an immune compromised person caused by an organism that does not usually cause disease in healthy people. Many of these organisms are widely carried in the population in a latent state, and only cause disease when given the opportunity of a damaged/compromised immune system.

OSE – Office of the State Engineer (NM)

OSHA – Occupational Safety and Health Administration (USDOL)

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

Overt – open and observable; not hidden, concealed, or secret.

## P

PAPR – Positive Air Pressure Respirator

Palliative – treatment, which provides symptomatic relief, but is not a cure.

Pandemic – epidemic disease of widespread prevalence around the globe.

Paramedic – a practitioner credentialed by a state to function at the advanced life support level in the state EMS system.

Personal Protective Equipment – attire used by the workers to protect against airborne or droplet exposure and against exposure to blood and body fluids. PPE generally includes masks, eye goggles, face shields, gloves, gowns and foot-covers.

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

Pathogen – an agent or organism that can cause disease.

PCR – Polymerase chain reaction

PED – Public Education Department (NM)

Pesticide Poisoning – toxic effects of unprotected contact with a pesticide.

PHD – Public Health Division (New Mexico Department of Health)

PHEPRAC – Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Advisory Council; advisory body to New Mexico's CDC and HRSA emergency preparedness program.

PHERA – Public Health Emergency Response Act (NM)

PHIN – Public Health Information Network - standards providing the basis for information technology projects for CDC-funded programs including NEDSS, HAN, and others.

PHSS – Public Health Service Site (NM)

PIO – Public Information Officer

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.

Point of Exposure – path through which one is exposed or comes into contact with a substance present in the environment.

Populations with Special Response Needs – groups 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 populations with special response needs.

Potassium Iodide – potassium iodide is a nonprescription drug for use as a “blocking agent” to prevent the human thyroid gland from absorbing radioactive iodine.

ppb – parts per billion.

PPE – Personal Protective Equipment

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, the public sector, and the community as a whole.

Preparedness – refers to the existence of plans, procedures, policies, training, and equipment necessary at the Federal, State, and local levels to maximize the ability to prevent, respond to, and recover from major events. “Readiness” is used interchangeably with “Preparedness.”

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 reduce exposure or other risks, keep people from getting sick, or keep disease from getting worse.

Prevention (emergency management) – refers to activities undertaken by the first responder community during the early stages of an incident to reduce the likelihood or consequences of threatened or actual terrorist attacks.

Preventive Care – comprehensive type of care emphasizing priorities for prevention, early detection and early treatment of conditions, generally including routine physical examinations, immunization, and well-person care.

Preventive Medicine – taking measures for anticipation, prevention, detection, and early treatment of disease.

Primary Care – first level of care, and usually the first point of contact, that people have with the health care system. Primary care involves the provision of integrated, accessible health care services by clinicians who are responsible for addressing a large majority of personal health care needs, developing a sustained partnership with patients, and practicing in the context of family and community. It includes advice on health promotion and disease prevention, assessments of one's health, diagnosis and treatment of episodic and chronic conditions, and supportive and rehabilitative care.

*Promotora* – lay community health advisor; in New Mexico, primarily located in Hispanic communities.

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

Prophylaxis – prevention of, or protective treatment for, disease.

Prostration – a marked loss of strength, as in exhaustion.

Public Health – the maintenance and improvement of the health of all people through collective or social actions, emphasizing the prevention of disease and the health needs of the population as a whole. Public health is a social institution, a discipline, and a practice.

Public Health Division – New Mexico Department of Health

Public Information Officer (PIO) – a Federal, State, or local government official responsible for preparing and coordinating the dissemination of emergency public information.

Public Health Official – Secretary of Health (NMDOH) or designee, including a qualified public individual or group or a qualified private individual or group, as determined by the Secretary of Health.

Public Regulatory Commission – PRC (NM)

Push Package – a large shipment 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.

Pustule – an elevation of the cuticle with an inflamed base, containing pus.

## Q

Quarantine – The limitation of freedom of movement of a susceptible person or domestic animal, suspected of being or known to have been exposed to a communicable disease, for a period of time equal to the longest usual incubation period of that disease from the last date of exposure.

# R

Radiation – high-energy particles or gamma rays that are emitted by an atom as the substance undergoes radioactive decay. Particles can be either charged alpha or beta particles or neutral neutron or gamma rays.

Radiation Sickness – sickness resulting from excessive exposure of the 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.

Recorders \* – individuals within ICS organizational units who are responsible for recording information. Recordors may be found in Planning, Logistics, and Finance/Administration Units.

Recovery – actions taken to restore normalcy after a disaster.

Reference Dose (RfD) – an estimate 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. The estimate is calculated on a body weight basis.

Reservoir – any person, animal, arthropod, plant, soil or substance (or combination of these) 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.

Resilience – the capacity of communities, families and individuals to recover from an emergency or disaster.

Respiratory Hygiene – a.k.a. “cough etiquette” includes measures taken by individuals with signs and symptoms of a respiratory infection to contain respiratory secretions. These measures include: 1) Cover the nose/mouth when coughing or sneezing; 2) use tissues to contain respiratory secretions and dispose of them in the nearest waste receptacle after use; and 3) Perform hand hygiene (e.g., hand washing with non-antimicrobial soap and water, alcohol-based hand rub, or antiseptic handwash) after having contact with respiratory secretions and contaminated objects/materials.

Resistance – the sum total body mechanisms that interpose barriers to the invasion or multiplication of infectious agents, or to damage by their toxic products.

Resources \* – personnel and equipment available, or potentially available, for assignment to incidents. Resources are described by kind and type, e.g., ground, water, air, etc., and may be used in tactical support or overhead capacities at an incident.

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.

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 as well as executing the plan and resources created to preserve life, protect property and provide services.

Reverse 911™ – a Microsoft Windows program that facilitates communication with the public by telephone. Using a combination of database and computer mapping technologies, communities can quickly target a precise geographic area and saturate it with thousands of calls per hour. Public agencies can also create a list of individuals with common characteristics, such as emergency personnel, and contact them rapidly whenever necessary.

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 – 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 in order to promote a better understanding of the nature and scope of the hazard.

Risk Perception – the way that individuals intuitively see and judge risks.

RLD – Regulation and Licensing Department (NM)

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

Routine Practices - Infection prevention and control practices used in the routine care of all patients at all times in all health care settings. Routine practices outline the importance of hand washing; the need to use gloves, masks/eye protection/face shields and gown when splashes or sprays of blood, body fluids, secretions or excretions are possible; the cleaning of patient-care equipment, the environment, soiled linen; waste disposal; patient placement; and precautions to reduce the possibility of exposure to blood borne pathogens.

## S

Safety Officer \* – a member of the Command Staff responsible for monitoring and assessing safety hazards or unsafe situations, and for developing measures for ensuring personnel safety. The Safety Officer may have assistants.

SAIC – Special Agent In Charge (FBI)

Sample Size – the number of units chosen from a population or an environment.

SAR – Search and Rescue

SARS – Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome

SAT – Situation Analysis Team - group convened to decide if an emergency warrants the activation of an Emergency Operations Center.

Screening – procedures to differentiate “apparently well” persons who have a disease from those who do not.

Secondary Hazard – a threat resulting from another emergency. For example, dam failure might be a secondary hazard associated with earthquakes.

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

Sector \* – term used in some applications to describe an organizational level similar to an ICS Division or Group. Sector is not a part of ICS terminology.

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.

Sepsis – the poisoning of the system by 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.

SHA – School Health Advocate (NMDOH)

Shelter-in-Place – the strategy of encouraging populations to stay put and take shelter, rather than trying to evacuate.

Short-Term Outcomes – the impacts on those groups who are immediately affected by risk management strategies, including changes in service levels and behavior.

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.

Situation Analysis (SA) – a process of the Command and Control Function; it is conducted by a Situation Analysis Team (SAT). While NMDOH local level units are authorized to initiate response to an incident, SA serves the purpose of informing the Secretary, or designee, of the facts of a situation.

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.

SLD – State Laboratory Division (NMDOH)

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.

SMHA – School Mental Health Advocate (NMDOH)

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

Social Distancing – Increasing the distance or separation between people in everyday activities as a means of reducing the spread of contagious disease; discouraging or banning opportunities to infect others. Examples: closing schools, having employees work from home; canceling public gatherings such as sporting events.

SOG – Standard Operating Guidelines

Solvent – a liquid capable of dissolving or dispersing another substance (for example, acetone or mineral spirits).

SOP – Standard Operating Procedures

Source of Contamination – 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 optimum.

SPO – State Personnel Office (NM)

Spokesperson – Public Information Officer or other person designated to deliver messages to the media.

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.

Stakeholder – an individual, group, or organization who may be affected by or otherwise interested in a risk management decision.

Standard Precautions – infection control guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control in 1997 that synthesize the major features of Universal Precautions and Body Substance Isolation into a single set of precautions to be used for the care of all patients in hospitals regardless of their presumed infection status. Standard Precautions are supplemented with Transmission Specific Precautions, as necessary, given specific communicable disease.

START Triage – Simple Triage And Rapid Treatment/Transport is a rapid approach to triaging large number of casualties. START quickly 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. The categories are IMMEDIATE, DELAYED, MINOR, and DEAD/DYING.

Statistics – a branch of mathematics that deals with collecting, reviewing, summarizing, and interpreting data or information. Statistics are used to determine whether differences between study groups are meaningful.

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.

Subcutaneous – Beneath the skin; a route of immunization delivery.

Supervisor \* – the ICS 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, Finance/Administration Sections, or the Command Staff.

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, and medical plan.

Surface Water – water on the surface of the earth such as in lakes, rivers, streams, ponds, and spring. (Compare with groundwater)

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. Strengthening the capacity to handle medical surge and provide mass

prophylaxis is one of seven national priorities identified in the National Preparedness Goal.

Surge Endurance – how long an organization can maintain “surge capacity.”

Surveillance – disease 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, involving scrutiny of all aspects of occurrence and spread of a disease that are pertinent to effective control. Included are the systematic collection and evaluation of: morbidity and mortality reports; special reports of field investigations of epidemics and of individual cases; isolation and identification of infectious agents by laboratories; data concerning the availability, use and untoward effects of vaccines and toxins, immune globulins, insecticides, and other substances used in control; information regarding immunity levels in segments of the population; and other relevant epidemiological data.

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.

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 is greater than the sum of the effects of the substances acting by themselves.

## 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.

Taxation and Revenue Department (TRD) (NM)

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

Telehealth – a system that provides access, over distance, to medical care, health-related education and administrative functions through the use of interactive video conferencing, video phones, telemedicine consultations such as teleradiology, and other technology.

Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFR) \* – 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 a five-nautical-mile radius and 2000 feet in altitude.

Terrorism – the unlawful use of force or violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives.

Threatening Communicable Disease – term used in relation to the reporting of communicable diseases in the Public Health Act and defined in the Public Health Emergency Response Act to mean: a disease that causes death or great bodily harm that passes from one person to another and for which there are no means by which the public can reasonably avoid the risk of contracting the disease. The term does not include infection with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), or other infections attributable to infection with HIV. (Contrast with conditions of public health significance)

Threshold – the dose or exposure concentration below which a significant adverse effect is not expected to occur.

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

Toxic – poisonous

Toxic Agent – poisonous agent

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

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

Toxins – toxic agents of organic origin.

Transmission – mechanism by which an infectious agent is spread from a source or reservoir to a person: generally contact, droplet or aerosol.

Triage – system whereby a group of casualties or patients is sorted according to the seriousness of their illness or injuries, so that treatment priorities can be allocated between them. In emergency situations it is designed to maximize the number of survivors.

Type \* – refers to resource capability. A Type 1 resource provides a greater overall capability due to power, size, capacity, 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

Unified Area Command \* – a Unified Area Command is established when incidents under an Area Command are multi-jurisdictional. (See Area Command and Unified Command)

Unified Command \* – in ICS, Unified Command is a unified team effort which allows all agencies with responsibility for the incident, either geographical or functional, to manage an incident by establishing a common set of incident 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 planning, logistics, or finance/administration activity.

Unity Of Command \* – the concept by which each person within an organization reports to one and only one designated person.

US DHS – US Department Of Homeland Security

USAMRIID – U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases

USCIS – U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services - within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (US)

USDA - Department of Agriculture (US)

USFA – United States Fire Administration

USMBHC – United States-Mexico Border Health Commission

USPHS – United States Public Health Service (HHS)

USPS – United States Postal Service

USSS – United States Secret Service

UV – ultraviolet

## V

VA – Veterans Affairs (US)

Vaccinia Virus – the virus, related to the smallpox virus, on which the smallpox vaccine is based.

Vaccination – the injection, or inoculation, of a vaccine for the purpose of inducing active immunity.

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.

Variola Virus – the virus of smallpox.

Vector – a carrier, and often an intermediary vehicle. For example, in malaria where the mosquito serves as a vector that carries and transfers the infectious agent (Plasmodium) injecting it with a bite. In molecular biology, a vector may be a virus (or a plasmid); a piece of foreign DNA is inserted in the vector genome to be carried and introduced into a recipient (host) cell.

Vesicle – blister

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. They depend on living cells to multiply and cannot live long outside of a host. Types of viruses include smallpox, Ebola, Marburg, and Lassa fever.

VOAD – Volunteer Organizations Assisting in Disaster

## W

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.

WHO – World Health Organization

## 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.

\*NIMS INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM GLOSSARY

## SOURCES

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