

Disaster Acronyms and Glossary

ACE – Area Coordination Exercises

ASTM (ASTM Standard 2413) – ASTM is an international organization that establishes standards and norms. Standard 2413 is a guide for standard hospital preparedness and response.

CBRNE – Chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, explosive

CI/KR - critical infrastructures and key resources

COG – continuity of government, also council of governments

CONOPS - Unified Concept of Operations Development

COOP – continuity of operations

DCO – Defense Coordinating Officer. If appointed by the Department of Defense (DOD), the DCO serves as Dept. of Defense's (DOD's) single point of contact at the Joint Field Office (JFO). With few exceptions, requests for Defense Support for Civil Authorities (DSCA) originating at the JFO will be coordinated with and processed through the DCO.

DDC - Disaster District Committee

DEST - Domestic Emergency Support Team. The DEST may be deployed to provide technical support for management of potential or actual terrorist incidents.

EOC - Emergency Operations Center. The physical location at which the coordination of information and resources to support local or State incident management activities normally takes place.

ERT-A - Emergency Response Team-Advance Element. The ERT-A conducts assessments, and initiates coordination with the State and initial deployment of Federal resources. It is headed by a team leader from FEMA and is composed of program and support staff and representatives from selected ESF primary agencies.

ERT-N -National Emergency Response Team. The ERT-N deploys for large-scale, high-impact events, or as required. An ERT-N may pre-deploy based on threat conditions.

ESF - Emergency Support Function. A grouping of government and certain private-sector capabilities into an organizational structure to provide the support, resources, program implementation, and services that are most likely to be needed to save lives, protect property and the environment, restore essential services and critical

infrastructure, and help victims and communities return to normal, when feasible, following domestic incidents. The ESFs serve as the primary operational-level mechanism to provide assistance to State, local, and tribal governments or to Federal departments and agencies conducting missions of primary Federal responsibility.

ESF 8 – Resources provided by FEMA are grouped into 12 emergency support functions (ESFs). ESF 8 is “Health and Medical Services. Providing assistance for public health and medical care needs. Lead agency for ESF 8 is the U.S. Public Health Service under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

FCO - Federal Coordinating Officer. The Federal officer who is appointed to manage Federal resource support activities related to Stafford Act disasters and emergencies. The FCO is responsible for coordinating the timely delivery of Federal disaster assistance resources and programs to the affected State and local governments, individual victims, and the private sector.

FEMA - Federal Emergency Management Agency

FIRST - Federal Incident Response Support Team. The FIRST is a forward component of the ERT-A that provides on-scene support to the local Incident Command or Area Command structure in order to facilitate an integrated interjurisdictional response. The FIRST is designed to be a quick and readily deployable resource to support the Federal response to Incidents of National Significance.

FRC - Federal Resource Coordinator. The FRC manages Federal resource support activities related to non-Stafford Act Incidents of National Significance when Federal-to-Federal support is requested from the Department of Homeland Security by another Federal agency.

GAR - Governor's Authorized Representative. The GAR represents the Governor of the impacted State.

GDEM – Governor’s Division of Emergency Management

HRSA – Health Resources Services Administration, a division of the US Dept. of Health and Human Services

HSAS - Homeland Security Advisory System. The HSAS, created by HSPD-3 and administered by DHS/IAIP, is a comprehensive and effective means for disseminating information regarding the risk of terrorist attacks and coordinating appropriate response measures across jurisdictions and with the private sector.

HSGP – Homeland Security grant program

HSOC - Homeland Security Operations Center. The HSOC is the primary national hub for domestic incident management operational coordination and situational awareness.

HSIN-CI - Homeland Security Information Network-Critical Infrastructure

IAIP - Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection. A FEMA directorate that is an element of the Homeland Security Operations Center (HSOC).

ICP - Incident Command Post. The field location at which the primary tactical-level, on-scene incident command functions are performed. The ICP may be collocated with the incident base or other incident facilities and is normally identified by a green rotating or flashing light.

ICS - Incident Command System. A standardized on-scene emergency management construct specifically designed to provide for the adoption of an integrated organizational structure that reflects the complexity and demands of single or multiple incidents, without being hindered by jurisdictional boundaries. ICS is the combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications operating with a common organizational structure, designed to aid in the management of resources during incidents. ICS is used for all kinds of emergencies and is applicable to small as well as large and complex incidents. ICS is used by various jurisdictions and functional agencies, both public and private, or organized field-level incident management operations.

IIMG - Interagency Incident Management Group. The IIMG is a Federal headquarters-level multi-agency coordination entity that facilitates Federal domestic incident management for Incidents of National Significance. The Secretary of Homeland Security activates the IIMG based on the nature, severity, magnitude, and complexity of the threat or incident.

JFO - Joint Field Office. The JFO is a temporary Federal facility established to coordinate operational Federal assistance activities to the affected jurisdiction(s) during Incidents of National Significance. The JFO is a multi-agency center that provides a central point of coordination for Federal, State, local, tribal, nongovernmental, and private-sector organizations with primary responsibility for threat response and incident support and coordination.

JIC - Joint Information Center. A facility established to coordinate all incident-related public information activities. It is the central point of contact for all news media at the scene of the incident. Public information officials from all participating agencies should collocate at the JIC.

JOC - Joint Operations Center. The JOC Branch is established by the Senior Federal Law Enforcement Officer (SFLEO) (e.g., the FBI Special Agent in Charge during terrorist incidents) to coordinate and direct law enforcement and criminal investigation activities related to the incident. The JOC Branch ensures management and coordination of Federal, State, local, and tribal investigative/law enforcement activities. The emphasis of the JOC is on prevention as well as intelligence collection, investigation, and prosecution of a criminal act. This emphasis includes managing

unique tactical issues inherent to a crisis situation (e.g., a hostage situation or terrorist threat).

JTTF - Joint Terrorism Task Force. One of 66 task forces located throughout the United States that receives and processes terrorism information and intelligence.

MESL – Master Scenario Events List

MMRS - Metropolitan Medical Response System

NCTC - National Counterterrorism Center. The NCTC serves as the primary Federal organization for analyzing and integrating all intelligence possessed or acquired by the U.S. Government pertaining to terrorism and counterterrorism, excepting purely domestic counterterrorism information. The NCTC may, consistent with applicable law, receive, retain, and disseminate information from any Federal, State, or local government or other source necessary to fulfill its responsibilities.

NDMS - National Disaster Medical System, a nation-wide mutual aid network consisting of federal agencies, businesses, and other organizations that coordinates disaster medical response, patient evacuation, and definitive medical care. At the federal level, it is a partnership between Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and FEMA. Non-federal participants include major pharmaceutical companies and hospital suppliers, the national Foundation for Mortuary Care, and certain international disaster response and health organizations.

NERRTC (pronounced “nertsy”) - National Emergency Response and Rescue Training Center

NICC - National Infrastructure Coordinating Center. Managed by the DHS Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Directorate, the NICC monitors the Nation's critical infrastructure and key resources on an ongoing basis. In the event of an incident, the NICC provides a coordinating vehicle to share information with critical infrastructure and key resources information-sharing entities.

NIMS - National Incident Management System. A system mandated by HSPD-5 that provides a consistent, nationwide approach for Federal, State, local, and tribal governments; the private sector; and NGOs to work effectively and efficiently together to prepare for, respond to, and recover from domestic incidents, regardless of cause, size, or complexity. To provide for interoperability and compatibility among Federal, State, local, and tribal capabilities, the NIMS includes a core set of concepts, principles, and terminology. HSPD-5 identifies these as the ICS; multiagency coordination systems; training; identification and management of resources (including systems for classifying types of resources); qualification and certification; and the collection, tracking, and reporting of incident information and incident resources.

NIPP – national infrastructure protection plan

NJTTF - National Joint Terrorism Task Force. The NJTTF is housed in the FBI Strategic Information and Operations Center (SIOC). The mission of the NJTTF is to enhance communications, coordination, and cooperation among Federal, State, local, and tribal agencies representing the intelligence, law enforcement, defense, diplomatic, public safety, and homeland security communities by providing a point of fusion for terrorism intelligence and by supporting Joint Terrorism Task Forces (JTTFs) throughout the United States.

NRCC - National Response Coordination Center. The NRCC is a multiagency center that provides overall Federal response coordination for Incidents of National Significance and emergency management program implementation. The NRCC monitors potential or developing Incidents of National Significance and supports the efforts of regional and field components. The NRCC resolves Federal resource support conflicts and other implementation issues.

ODP – Office of Domestic Preparedness

PFO - Principal Federal Official. The Federal official designated by the Secretary of Homeland Security to act as his/her representative locally to oversee, coordinate, and execute the Secretary's incident management responsibilities under HSPD-5 for Incidents of National Significance.

POETE – planning, organization, equipment, training, exercise

RCC – Regional Coordination Center

RLO – Regional Liaison Officer

RRCC - Regional Response Coordination Center. The RRCC is a standing facility operated by FEMA that is activated to coordinate regional response efforts, establish Federal priorities, and implement local Federal program support. The RRCC establishes communications with the affected State emergency management agency and the National Response Coordination Center (NRCC), coordinates deployment of the Emergency Response Team-Advance Element (ERT-A) to field locations, assesses damage information, develops situation reports, and issues initial mission assignments.

RUC – Regional Unified Command. The RUC is a structure that brings together the "Incident Commanders" of all major organizations involved in the incident in order to coordinate an effective response while at the same time carrying out their own jurisdictional responsibilities. The RUC links the organizations responding to the incident and provides a forum for these entities to make consensus decisions. Under the RUC, the various jurisdictions and/or agencies and non-government responders may blend together throughout the operation to create an integrated response team.

The RUC is responsible for overall management of the incident. The RUC directs incident activities, including development and implementation of overall objectives and strategies, and approves ordering and releasing of resources. Members of the RUC work together to develop a common set of incident objectives and strategies, share information, maximize the use of available resources, and enhance the efficiency of the individual response organizations.

SAA – state administrative agency, in Texas, the SAA is the Texas Engineering Extension Service, affiliated with Texas A&M University

SAC - Special Agent-in-Charge. Local FBI Agent who, during a terrorist incident, normally serves as the Senior Federal Law Enforcement Official (SFLEO).

SHGP – state homeland security grant program

SIOC- Strategic Information and Operations Center (SIOC). The FBI SIOC is the focal point and operational control center for all Federal intelligence, law enforcement, and investigative law enforcement activities related to domestic terrorist incidents or credible threats, including leading attribution investigations.

SAC - Special Agent-in-Charge. Local FBI Agent who, during a terrorist incident, normally serves as the Senior Federal Law Enforcement Official (SFLEO).

SCO - State Coordinating Officer. The SCO serves as the State counterpart to the FCO and manages the State's incident management programs and activities.

SFLEO - Senior Federal Law Enforcement Official. The SFLEO is the senior law enforcement official from the agency with primary jurisdictional responsibility as directed by statute, Presidential directive, existing Federal policies, and/or the Attorney General. The SFLEO directs intelligence/investigative law enforcement operations related to the incident and supports the law enforcement component of the Unified Command on-scene. In the event of a terrorist incident, this official will normally be the FBI Special Agent-in-Charge (SAC).

SFO - Senior Federal Official. An individual representing a Federal department or agency with primary statutory responsibility for incident management. SFOs utilize existing authorities, expertise, and capabilities to aid in management of the incident working in coordination with other members of the JFO Coordination Group.

SNS – CDC's Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) has large quantities of medicine and medical supplies to protect the American public if there is a public health emergency (terrorist attack, flu outbreak, earthquake) severe enough to cause local supplies to run out. Once Federal and local authorities agree that the SNS is needed, medicines will be delivered to any state in the U.S. within 12 hours. Each state has plans to receive and

distribute SNS medicine and medical supplies to local communities as quickly as possible.

SOPs - Standard Operating Procedures

Special Needs Individuals/Groups – (Division of Emergency Management Definition) - Includes the elderly, medically fragile, mentally and/or physically challenged or handicapped, individuals with mental illness, and the developmentally delayed. These groups may need specially trained health care providers to care for them, special facilities equipped to meet their needs, and require specialized vehicles and equipment for transport. This population requires specialized assistance in meeting daily needs and may need special assistance during emergency situations.

TCL – target capabilities list. A central objective of Capabilities-Based Planning is the identification of target levels of capabilities that Federal, State, local, and tribal entities must achieve to perform critical tasks for homeland security missions. Capabilities are combinations of resources that provide the means to achieve a measurable outcome resulting from performance of one or more critical tasks, under specified conditions and performance standards.

TCLEOSE – Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education

TEEX – Texas Engineering Extension Service

TRRN – Texas Regional Response Network

UASI – urban areas security initiative

UTL – universal task list

VOAD - Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster