

**CHAPTER 22****GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

This glossary contains definitions of terms frequently used in ICS documentation that are, for the most part, not defined elsewhere in this guide.

**29 CFR Part 1910.120.** Item 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1910.120 in the Hazardous Waste operations and Emergency Response reference document as required by SARA. This document covers employees involved in certain hazardous waste operations and any emergency response to incidents involving hazardous situations. Federal OSHA enforces this code.

**Access Control Point.** The point of entry and exit from control zones that regulate the traffic to and from the work areas and control zones.

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

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

**Air Monitoring.** The use of devices to detect the presence of known or unknown gases or vapors.

**Air Transportable Mobile Weather Unit (ATMWU).** A portable weather data collection and forecasting system used by a National Weather Service Fire Weather Forecaster.

**All Risk.** Any incident or event, natural or human-caused that warrants action to protect life, property, environment, public health or safety, and minimize disruption of government, social or economic activities.

**ALS (Advanced Life Support).** Allowable procedures and techniques utilized by EMT-P and EMT-II personnel to stabilize critically sick and injured patient(s) that exceed Basic Life Support procedures.

**ALS Responder.** Certified EMT-P or EMT-II.

**Area Command.** Area Command is an expansion of the incident command function primarily designed to manage a very large incident that has multiple incident management teams assigned. However, an Area Command can be established at any time that incidents are close enough that oversight direction is required among incident management teams to ensure conflicts do not arise.

**Assigned Resources.** Resources checked in and assigned work tasks on an incident.

**Assistant.** Title for subordinates of Command Staff positions. The title indicates a level of technical capability, qualifications, and responsibility subordinate to the primary positions. Assistants may also be used to supervise unit activities at camps.

**Assisting Agency.** An agency directly contributing suppression, rescue, support, or service resources to another agency.

**Available Resources.** Resources assigned to an incident and available for an assignment.

**Base.** That location 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 co-located with the base. There is only one base per incident.

**Basic Rope Rescue.** Rescue operations of a non-complex nature employing the use of ropes and accessory equipment.

**BLS (Basic Life Support).** Basic non-invasive first-aid procedures and techniques utilized by EMT-P, EMT-II, EMT-I, EMT-D and First Responder personnel to stabilize sick and injured patient(s).

**BLS Responder.** Certified EMT-I or First Responder.

**Boat drive-air.** A boat with a propulsion system using an aviation propeller or a ducted fan to generate thrust from the engine having an on-plane draft of zero to twelve inches. The typical boats of this category are the "Florida Swamp" boats and surface effect boats.

**Boat drive-jet.** A boat with a propulsion system using a water pump to generate thrust having an on-plane draft of six to twelve inches. They can be susceptible to damage from floating debris.

**Boat drive-propeller.** A boat with a propulsion system using a propeller to generate thrust having an on-plane draft of eighteen to twenty-four inches.

**Boat, non-powered.** A non-motorized vessel capable of safely transporting rescuers or victims (e.g., raft, skiff, johnboat, etc.).

**Boat, powered.** A motorized vessel capable of safely transporting rescuers or victims, (e.g. IRB: "Inflatable Rescue Boat", RHIB: "Rigid Hull Inflatable Rescue Boat", Rigid Hull Boat, PWC: "Personal Water Craft," "Airboat", etc.).

**Branch.** That organizational level having functional, geographical, or jurisdictional responsibility for major parts of the 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, by function, or jurisdictional name.

**California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 8, Section 5192, Subsection (q).** This section provides hazardous waste handling guidelines that are enforced by Cal-OSHA. Subsection (q) specifically deals with emergency response to a hazardous substance release.

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

**Chemical Protective Clothing.** Includes complete NFPA compliant ensembles (garment, gloves and boots) of individual replaceable elements (boots, gloves) designed and certified to provide protection for the wearer against the physical and chemical effects of hazardous materials.

**CHEMTREC.** Chemical Transportation Emergency Center operated as a public service of the Chemical Manufacturers Association.

**Clear-Text.** Use of plain English and common terminology understandable by all.

**Command.** The act of directing, ordering and/or controlling resources by virtue of explicit legal, agency, or delegated authority.

**Command Staff.** The Command Staff consists of the Public Information Officer, Safety Officer, and Liaison Officer who report directly to the Incident Commander.

**Company Unity.** A term to indicate that a fire company or unit shall remain together in a cohesive and identifiable working group, to ensure personnel accountability and the safety of all members. A company officer or unit leader shall be responsible for the adequate supervision, control, communication and safety of members of the company or unit.

**Compatibility.** The matching of personal protective equipment (PPE) to the hazards involved providing the best protection for the worker.

**Complex.** A complex is two or more individual incidents located in the same general proximity that is assigned to a single Incident Commander or Unified Command to facilitate management.

**Confined Space Rescue.** Rescue operations in an enclosed area, with limited access/egress, not designed for human occupancy and have the potential for physical, chemical or atmospheric injury.

**Contamination Control Line (CCL).** The established line that separates the Contamination Reduction Zone from the Support Zone.

**Contamination Reduction Corridor (CRC).** A corridor within the Contamination Reduction Zone where decontamination procedures are conducted.

**Contamination Reduction Zone (CRZ).** The area between the Exclusion Zone and the Support Zone that acts as a buffer to separate the contaminated area from the clean area.

**Control Zones.** The geographical areas within the control lines set up at a hazardous materials incident. Includes the Exclusion Zone, Contamination Reduction Zone and Support Zone.

**Cooperating Agency.** An agency supplying assistance other than direct suppression, rescue, support, or service functions to the incident control effort (e.g., Red Cross, telephone company, etc.).

**Coordination Center.** A facility that is used for the coordination of agency or jurisdictional resources in support of one or more incidents.

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

**Decontamination (DECON).** The physical and/or chemical process of removing or reducing contamination from personnel or equipment, or in some other way preventing the spread of contamination by persons and equipment.

**Delayed Treatment.** Second priority in patient treatment. These people require aid, but injuries are less severe.

**Delegation of Authority:** A statement provided to the Incident Commander by the Agency Executive delegating authority and assigning responsibility. The Delegation of Authority can include objectives, priorities, expectations, constraints, and other considerations or guidelines as needed. Many agencies require written Delegation of Authority to be given to Incident Commanders prior to their assuming command on larger incidents.

**Deputy.** An individual assigned to the Incident Commander, General Staff, or Branch Directors with equal qualifications and delegated authority when acting in their absence.

**Division.** That organization level having responsibility for operations within a defined geographic area. The Division level is organizationally between the Strike Team and the Branch (see also "Group").

**Emergency Traffic.** The term used to clear designated channels used at an incident to make way for important radio traffic for a firefighter emergency situation or an immediate change in tactical operations.

**EMT-I (Emergency Medical Technician-I).** An individual trained in Basic Life Support procedures and techniques and who has a valid EMT-I certificate.

**EMT-II (Emergency Medical Technician-II).** An individual with additional training in limited Advanced Life Support procedures and techniques according to prescribed standards and who has a valid EMT-II certificate.

**EMT-D (Emergency Medical Technician-Defibrillator).** An Emergency Medical Technician I with training and certification in automatic and semi-automatic external defibrillation.

**EMT-P (Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic).** An EMT-I or EMT-II who has received additional training in Advanced Life Support procedures and techniques and who has a valid EMT-P certificate or license.

**Environmental.** Atmospheric, Hydrologic and Geologic media (air, water and soil).

**Evacuation:** Organized, phased, and supervised withdrawal, dispersal, or removal of civilians from dangerous or potentially dangerous areas, and their reception and care in safe areas.

**Exclusion Zone (EZ).** The innermost area immediately surrounding a hazardous materials incident that corresponds with the highest degree of known or potential hazard, and where entry may require special protection.

**Expanded Medical Emergency.** Any medical emergency that exceeds normal first response capabilities.

**Field Testing.** The identification of chemical substances using a variety of sources and testing kits that assist in identifying associated chemical and physical properties of those tested chemicals.

**Fireline Emergency Medical Technician (FEMT).** The FEMT provides emergency medical care to personnel operating on the fireline.

**Flood Evacuation Boat (FEB).** Resource with personnel trained to operate in floodwaters with the specific task of evacuating persons or small domestic animals from isolated areas.

**General Staff.** The group of incident management personnel comprised of the Operations Section Chief, Planning Section Chief, Logistics Section Chief, and Finance/Administration Section Chief.

**Group.** Groups are established to divide the incident into functional areas of operation. Groups are located between Branches (when activated) and Resources in the Operations Section. (See Division).

**Hazardous Material.** Any solid, liquid, gas, or mixture thereof that can potentially cause harm to the human body through respiration, ingestion, skin absorption or contact and may pose a substantial threat to life, the environment, or to property.

**Hazardous Materials Categorization.** A process to determine hazardous materials classification, and chemical and physical properties of unknown substances.

**Hazardous Materials Categorization Test (HAZ CAT).** A field analysis to determine the hazardous characteristics of an unknown material.

**Hazardous Materials Company.** Any piece(s) of equipment having the capabilities, PPE, equipment, and complement of personnel as specified in the Hazardous Materials Company Types and Minimum Standards found in the Field Operations Guide (ICS 420-1).

**Hazardous Materials Incident.** The uncontrolled release or threat of release of a hazardous material that may impact life, the environment, or property.

**Hazardous Materials Incident Contingency Plan (HMICP).** Hazardous Materials Incident Contingency Plan (HMICP) Section 8574.16-8574.18 of the California Government Code. California State Toxic Disaster Plan that would provide for an integrated and effective state procedure to respond to the occurrence of toxic disasters within the state.

**Heavy Floor Construction.** Structures of this type are built utilizing cast-in-place concrete construction consisting of flat slab panel, waffle or two-way concrete slab assemblies. Pre-tensioned or post-tensioned reinforcing steel rebar or cable systems are common components for structural integrity. The vertical structural supports include integrated concrete columns, concrete enclosed or steel frame, that carry the load of all floor and roof assemblies. This type includes heavy timber construction that may use steel rods for reinforcing. Examples of this type of construction include offices, schools, apartments, hospitals, parking structures and multi-purpose facilities. Common heights vary from single-story to high-rise structures.

**Heavy Wall Construction.** Materials used for construction are generally heavy and utilize an interdependent structural or monolithic system. These types of materials and their assemblies tend to make the structural system inherently rigid. This construction type is usually built without a skeletal structural frame. It utilizes a heavy wall support and assembly system to provide support for the floors and roof assemblies. Occupancies utilizing tilt-up concrete construction are typically one to three stories in height and consist of multiple monolithic concrete wall panel assemblies. They also use an interdependent girder, column and beam system for providing lateral wall support of floor and roof assemblies. Occupancies typically include commercial, mercantile and industrial. Other examples of this type of construction include reinforced and un-reinforced masonry (URM) buildings typically of low-rise construction, one to six stories in height, and of any type of occupancy.

**Helibase.** A location within the general incident area for parking, fueling, maintenance, and loading of helicopters.

**Helicopter Rescue Operational.** Personnel trained and equipped to work with helicopters and crew, for hoist, short haul-line victim extraction, rappel, or low-level insertions.

**Helispot.** A location where a helicopter can take off and land.

**Helitanker.** A helicopter equipped with a fixed tank, Air Tanker Board Certified, capable of delivering a minimum of 1,000 gallons of water, retardant, or foam.

**Hospital Alert System.** A communications system between medical facilities and on-incident medical personnel that provides available hospital patient receiving capability and/or medical control.

**Immediate Treatment.** A patient who requires rapid assessment and medical intervention for survival.

**Incident Action Plan (IAP).** A plan that contains objectives that reflects the incident strategy and specific control actions for the current or next operational period.

**Incident Command Post (ICP).** That location at which the primary command functions are executed and usually collocated with the incident base.

**Incident Command System (ICS).** The combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications operating within a common organizational structure with responsibility for the management of assigned resources to effectively accomplish stated objectives pertaining to an incident.

**Incident Objectives.** Statements of guidance and direction that are achievable, measurable, and necessary for the selection of appropriate strategy (ies), and the tactical direction of resources.

**Infrared (IR).** A heat detection system used for fire detection, mapping and hot spot identification.

**Infrared (IR) Groundlink.** A capability through the use of a special mobile ground station to receive air-to-ground infrared imagery for interpretation.

**Initial Response.** Resources initially committed to an incident.

**IRB.** Inflatable rescue boat.

**Joint Information System (JIS):** Integrates incident information and public affairs into a cohesive organization designed to provide consistent, coordinated, timely information during crisis or incident operations. The mission of the JIS is to provide a structure and system for developing and delivering coordinated inter-agency messages; developing, recommending, and executing public information plans and strategies on behalf of the IC; advising the IC concerning public affairs issues that could affect a response effort; and controlling rumors and inaccurate information that could undermine public confidence in the emergency response effort.

**Jurisdictional Agency.** The agency having responsibility for a specific geographical area or function as designated by statute or contract.

**Light Frame Construction.** Materials used for construction are generally lightweight and provide a high degree of structural flexibility to applied forces, such as earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, etc. These structures are typically constructed with a skeletal structural frame system of wood or light gauge steel components, which provide support to the floor or roof assemblies. Examples of this construction type are wood frame structures used for residential, multiple low-rise occupancies and light commercial occupancies up to four stories in height. Light gauge steel frame buildings include commercial business and light manufacturing occupancies and facilities.

**Medical Supply Cache.** A cache consists of standardized medical supplies and equipment stored in a predetermined location for dispatch to incidents.

**Message Center.** The Message Center receives, records, and routes information about resources reporting to the incident, resource status, and administration and tactical traffic.

**MICU (Mobile Intensive Care Unit).** Refers to a vehicle equipped to support paramedic functions. It would include drugs, medications, cardiac monitors and telemetry, and other specialized emergency medical equipment.

**Minor Treatment.** These patients' injuries require simple rudimentary first-aid.

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

**Morgue (Temporary On-Incident).** Area designated for temporary placement of the dead.

**Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC).** The coordination of assisting agency resources and support to emergency operations.

**Multi-Agency Coordination System (MACS).** The combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications integrated into a common system with responsibility for coordination of assisting agency resources and support to agency emergency operations.

**Multi-Casualty.** The combination of numbers of injured personnel and type of injuries that exceed the capability of an agency's normal first response.

**Operational Period.** The period of time scheduled for execution of a given set of tactical actions as specified in the Incident Action Plan.

**Operations Coordination Center (OCC).** The primary facility of the Multi-Agency Coordination System. It houses the staff and equipment necessary to perform the MACS functions.

**Orthophoto Maps.** Aerial photographs corrected to scale so that geographic measurements may be taken directly from the prints.

**Out-of-Service Resources.** Resources assigned to an incident but unable to respond for mechanical, rest, or personnel reasons.

**Patient Transportation Recorder.** Responsible for recording pertinent information regarding off-incident transportation of patients.

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).** That equipment and clothing required to shield and/or isolate personnel from thermal, chemical, radiological, physical, or biological hazards.

**Personnel Accountability.** The ability to account for the location and status of personnel.

**Personnel Accountability Reports (PAR).** Periodic reports verifying the status of responders assigned to an incident.

**PFD.** Personal flotation device with a minimum U.S. Coast Guard rating of Type III or V.

**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.

**Pre-Cast Construction.** Structures of this type are built utilizing modular pre-cast concrete components that include floors, walls, columns and other sub-components that are field connected upon placement on site. Individual concrete components utilize imbedded steel reinforcing rods and welded wire mesh for structural integrity and may have either steel beam, column, or concrete framing systems utilized for the overall structural assembly and building enclosure. These structures rely on single or multi-point connections for floor and wall enclosure assembly and are a safety and operational concern during collapse operations. Examples of this type of construction include commercial, mercantile, office and multi-use or multi-function structures including parking structures and large occupancy facilities.

**Protective Actions.** The actions taken to preserve the health and safety of emergency responders and the public during an incident involving releases of hazardous materials. Examples would include evacuations or in-place protection techniques.

**PWC.** Personal watercraft (water bike, jet ski).

**Qualified.** A person meeting a recognized level of training, experience and certification for the assigned position.

**Radiation Monitoring and Detection.** The use of specialized devices to determine the presence, type and intensity of ionizing radiation, and to determine dosage over time.

**Radio Cache.** A cache may consist of a number of portable radios, a base station and, in some cases, a repeater stored in a predetermined location for dispatch to incidents.

**Rapid Intervention Crew/Company (RIC).** A crew or company designated to standby in a state of readiness to rescue emergency personnel.

**Refuge Area.** An area identified within the incident for the assembly of individuals in order to reduce the risk of further contamination or injury.

**Reinforced Response.** Those resources requested in addition to the initial response.

**Reporting Locations.** Any one of six facilities/locations where incident assigned resources may check in.

**Resources.** All personnel and major items of equipment available, or potentially available, for assignment to incident tasks on which status is maintained.

**Respiratory Protection.** The provision of a NIOSH approved breathing system to protect the respiratory system of the wearer from hazardous atmospheres.

**Responder Rehabilitation.** The rest and treatment of incident personnel who are suffering from the effects of strenuous work and/or extreme conditions.

**RHIB.** Rigid hull inflatable boat.

**Rigid Hull.** A boat constructed of wood, fiberglass, or aluminum with no inflated components.

**Safe Refuge Area (SRA).** A safe area within the Contamination Reduction Zone (CRZ) for the assembly of individuals who were on site at the time of the spill. Separation of any potentially contaminated or exposed persons from non-exposed persons should be accomplished in the SRA.

**Search Marking System.** A standardized marking system employed during and after the search of a structure for potential victims.

**SEAT.** Single Engine Airtanker.

**Section.** The organization level having functional responsibility for primary segments of incident management (Operations, Planning, Logistics, Finance/Administration). The Section level is organizationally between Branch and Incident Commander.

**SEMS (Standardized Emergency Management System).** California's Emergency Management System that facilitates priority setting, interagency cooperation, and the efficient flow of resources and information utilizing ICS principles including the five elements of Command, Operations, Planning, Logistics, and Finance/Administration. SEMS is used in California at five levels: Field Response, Local Government, Operational Areas, Regions, and State. SEMS incorporates the Incident Command System, Multi/Inter-Agency Coordination, Mutual Aid, and the Operational Area Concept.

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

**Site.** That area within the Contamination Reduction Control Line at a hazardous materials incident.

**Site Safety and Control Plan (ICS Form 208).** An emergency response plan describing the general safety procedures to be followed at an incident involving hazardous materials, and prepared in accordance with CCR Title 8, Section 5192, and 29 CFR 1910.120.

**Staging Area.** That location where incident personnel and equipment are assigned on a three-minute available status.

**Standby Members (2-in, 2-out).** Two personnel who remain outside the hazard area during the initial stages of an incident to rescue responders and who are responsible for maintaining a constant awareness of the number and identity of members operating in the hazardous area, their location and function, and time of entry.

**START - S.T.A.R.T.** Acronym for Simple Triage And Rapid Treatment.

**Strategy.** The general plan or direction selected to accomplish incident objectives.

**Strike Team.** Specified combinations of the same kind and type of resources, with common communications and a leader.

**Structure/Hazards Marking System.** A standardized marking system to identify structures in a specific area and any hazards found within or near the structure.

**Support Zone.** The area outside of the Contamination Control Line where equipment and personnel are assembled in support of incident operations, wherein such personnel and equipment are not expected to become contaminated.

**Swiftwater.** Water that is moving fast enough to produce sufficient force to present a significant life and safety hazard to a person entering the water.

### Training Levels:

**Awareness:** Knowledge based course of instruction, emphasizing hazards and personnel safety. Generally lecture only.

**Operational:** Participation based course of instruction; emphasizing personal safety, team safety and limited low risk victim rescue. The course generally includes objective evaluation and testing.

**Technician:** Performance based course of instruction emphasizing personnel safety, team safety, and mid to high-risk victim rescue. The course generally includes objective evaluation and testing.

**Tactics.** Deploying and directing resources on an incident to accomplish the objectives designated by current incident strategy.

**Task Force.** A group of resources with common communications and a leader that may be pre-established and sent to an incident, or formed at an incident.

**Technical Reference.** Access to, use of, and interpretation of various technical databases, chemical substance data depositories, response guidelines, regulatory documents, and other sources both in print and electronic format.

**Technical Specialists.** Personnel with special skills who are activated only when needed.

**Triage.** Screening and classification to determine priority needs in order to ensure the efficient use of personnel, equipment and facilities.

**Triage Tag (medical).** A tag used by triage personnel to identify and document the patient's medical condition.

**Unified Command.** Unified Command is a team effort that allows all agencies with jurisdictional 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.** An organizational element having responsibility for a specific function within the Operations, Plans, Logistics, or Finance Sections.

**Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Company.** Any ground vehicle(s) providing a specified level of US&R operational capability, rescue equipment, and personnel.

**Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Crew.** A pre-determined number of individuals who are supervised, organized and trained principally for a specified level of US&R operational capability. They respond without equipment and are used to relieve or increase the number of US&R personnel at the incident.

**Watershed Rehabilitation.** Restoration of watershed to, as near as possible, its pre-incident condition, or to a condition where it can recover on its own. Also known as "rehab".

**Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD).** Reference to those substances that can be weaponized and are developed for the purpose of creating widespread injury, illness and death. Agents are produced in quantity and/or filled into munitions in a specialized formulation with enhanced shelf life or dissemination properties.