

## **GLOSSARY OF TERMS (CPG-47)**

**This Glossary contains definitions of terms commonly used in the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS).**

### **A**

**Advance Element of the Emergency Response Team (ERT-A):** The portion of the Emergency Response Team (ERT) which is the first group deployed to the field to respond to a disaster incident.

**Action Plan:** "Action Plan" means the plan prepared in the EOC containing the emergency response objectives of that SEMS level reflecting overall priorities and supporting activities for a designated period. The plan is shared with supporting agencies.

**Activate:** At a minimum, a designated official of the emergency response agency that implements SEMS as appropriate to the scope of the emergency and the agency's role in response to the emergency.

**Aerial Reconnaissance:** An aerial assessment of the damaged area which includes gathering information on the level and extent of damage and identifying potential hazardous areas for on-site inspections.

**After Action Report:** A report covering response actions, application of SEMS, modifications to plans and procedures, training need, and recovery activities. After action reports are required under SEMS after any emergency which requires a declaration of an emergency. Reports are required within 90 days.

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

**Agency Assistance:** Grants for projects or planning activities, loans, and all other forms of financial or technical assistance provided by the Agency.

**Agency Dispatch:** The agency or jurisdictional facility from which resources are allocated to incidents.

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

**Agency Representative:** An individual assigned to an incident or to an EOC from an assisting or cooperating agency who has delegated authority to make decisions on matters affecting that agency's participation at the incident or at the EOC. Agency Representatives report to the Liaison Officer at the incident, or to the Liaison Coordinator at SEMS EOC levels.

**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.

**Allocated Resources:** Resources dispatched to an incident.

**American Red Cross:** A quasi-governmental volunteer agency that provides disaster relief to individuals and families.

**Area Command:** An organization established to: 1) oversee the management of multiple incidents that are each being handled by an Incident Command System organization; or 2) to oversee the management of a very large incident that has multiple Incident Management Teams assigned to it. Area Command has the responsibility to set overall strategy and priorities allocate critical resources based on priorities, ensure that incidents are properly managed, and ensure that objectives are met and strategies followed.

**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 or EOC Action Plan.

**Assistant:** Title for subordinates of the Command Staff positions at the Field SEMS level. 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 tactical or service resources to another agency.

**Available Resources:** Incident-based resources which are available for immediate assignment.

## **B**

**Base:** The location at an incident 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.

**Base Flood:** A term used in the National Flood Insurance Program to indicate the minimum size flood to be used by a community as a basis for its floodplain management regulations; presently required by regulation to be that flood which has a one-percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. also known as a 100-year flood or one-percent chance flood.

**Base Flood Elevation (BFE):** The elevation for which there is a one-percent chance in any given year that flood levels will equal or exceed it. The BFE is determined by statistical analysis for each local area and designated on the Flood Insurance Rate Map. It is also known as the 100-Year Flood.

**Branch:** The organizational level at the SEMS Field 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.). Branches are also used in the same sequences at the SEMS EOC Levels.

**Branch Director:** The ICS title for individuals responsible for supervision of a Branch at the Field Level. At SEMS EOC levels, the title Branch Coordinator is preferred.

**C**

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

**California Emergency Council:** The official advisory body to the Governor on all matters pertaining to statewide emergency preparedness.

**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 the incident personnel.

**Care and Shelter:** A phase of operations that meets the food, clothing, and shelter needs of people on a mass care basis.

**Casualty Collection Points (CCP):** A location within a jurisdiction which is used for the assembly, triage (sorting), medical stabilization, and subsequent evacuation of casualties. It may be used for the receipt of incoming medical resources (doctors, nurses, supplies, etc. Preferably the site should include or be adjacent to an open area suitable for use as a helicopter pad.

**Catastrophic Disaster:** Although there is no commonly accepted definition of a catastrophic disaster the term implies an event or incident which produces severe and widespread damages of such a magnitude as to result in the requirement for significant resources from outside the affected area to provide the necessary response.

**Catastrophic Disaster Response Group (CDRG):** The national-level group of representatives from the Federal department and agencies under the Plan. The CDRG serves as a centralized coordinating group which supports the on-scene Federal response and recovery efforts. Its members have access to the appropriate policy-makers in their respective parent organizations to facilitate decisions on problems and policy issues.

**Chain of Command:** A series of management positions in order of authority.

**Check-in:** The process whereby resources first report to an incident or into an EOC/ Check-in locations at the SEMS Field level include: Incident Command Post (Resources Unit), Incident Base, Camps, Staging Areas, Helibases, Helispots, and Division Supervisors (for direct line assignments).

**checklist:** A list of actions taken by an element of the emergency organization in response to a particular event or situation.

**Civil Air Patrol:** A civilian auxiliary of the United States Air Force which provides personnel, services, and equipment for specified missions in support of state and local emergency operations.

**Civil Disorder:** Any incident intended to disrupt community affairs that requires police intervention to maintain public safety including riots and mass demonstrations as well as terrorist attacks.

**Civil Preparedness Guidance (CPG):** A series of FEMA Policy documents.

**Clear Text:** The use of plain English in radio communications transmissions. No Ten Codes or agency

specific codes are used when utilizing Clear Text.

**Code of Federal Regulations (CFR):** "49 CFR" refers to Title 49, the primary volume regarding hazmat transportation regulations.

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

**Command Post:** (See Incident Command Post)

**Command Staff:** The Command Staff at the SEMS Field level 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. These functions may also be found at the EOC levels in SEMS. At the EOC, they would report to the EOC Director but may be designated as Coordinators. At EOCs, the functions may also be established as Sections, or Branches to accommodate subsequent expansion.

**Communications Unit:** An organizational unit in the Logistics Section responsible for providing communication services at an incident or an EOC. 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.

**Community Right-to-Know:** Legislation requiring the communicating of chemical formation to local agencies or the public.

**Compact:** Formal working agreements among agencies to obtain mutual aid.

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

**Complex:** Two or more individual incidents located in the same general area which are assigned to a single Incident Commander or to a Unified Command.

**Comprehensive Emergency Management (CEM):** An integrated approach to the management of emergency programs and activities for all four emergency phases (mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery), for all types of emergencies and disaster (natural, manmade, and attack), and for all levels of government (local, State, and Federal) and the private sector.

**Computerized Hazard Identification Program (CHIP):** Part of FEMA's Integrated Emergency Management System, this evaluation program identifies the hazards posing the greatest threat to State and local governments and the capabilities of existing programs to respond (formerly referred to as Hazard Identification and Capability Assessment).

**Continuity of Government (COG):** All measures that may be taken to ensure the continuity of essential functions of governments in the event of emergency conditions, including line-of-succession for key decision makers.

**Contingency Plan:** A sub or supporting plan which deals with one specific type of emergency, its probable effect on the jurisdiction, and the actions necessary to offset these effects.

**Cooperating Agency:** An agency supplying assistance other than direct tactical or support functions or resources to the incident control effort (e.g., American 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 inter-agency) does not involve dispatch actions. However, personnel responsible for coordination may perform command or dispatch functions within the limits established by specific agency delegations, procedures, legal authority, etc. Multi-agency or Inter-agency coordination is found at all SEMS levels.

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

**Cost Sharing Agreements:** Agreements between agencies or jurisdictions to share designated costs related to incidents. Cost sharing agreements are normally written but may also be verbal between authorized agency or jurisdictional representatives at the incident.

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

**CPG 1-5: Objectives for Local Emergency Management,** prepared by FEMA. Describes and explains functional objectives that represent a comprehensive and integrated emergency management program.

**CPG 1-8: Guide for Development of State and Local Emergency Operations Plans,** prepared by FEMA.

**CPG 1-8a: Guide for the Review of State and Local Emergency Operations Plans,** prepared by FEMA. Provides FEMA staff with a standard instrument for assessing EOPs that are developed to satisfy the eligibility requirement to receive Emergency Management Assistance (EMA) funding. Also called the "crosswalk" checklist.

**CPG 1-35: Hazard Identification, Capability Assessment, and Multi-Year Development Plan** for local governments, prepared by FEMA. A planning tool to guide local jurisdictions through a logical sequence for identifying hazards, assessing capabilities, setting priorities, and scheduling activities to improve capability over time.

## **D**

**Damage Assessment:** The process utilized to determine the magnitude of damage and the unmet needs of individuals, businesses, the public sector, and the community caused by a disaster or emergency event.

**Dam Failure:** Part or complete collapse of a dam causing downstream flooding.

**Declaration:** The formal action by the President to make a State eligible for major disaster or emergency assistance under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, PL 3-288, as amended (the Stafford Act).

**Declaration Process:** When a disaster strikes, local authorities and individuals request help from private relief organizations and their State government, which give all assistance possible. If assistance is beyond their capability, the Governor requests a Presidential declaration of a major disaster or an emergency.

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

**Demobilization Unit:** Functional unit within the Planning Section responsible for assuring orderly, safe and efficient demobilization of incident or EOC assigned resources.

**Department Operations Center:** A EOC used by a distinct discipline, such as fire, medical, hazardous material, or a unit, such as Department of Public Works, Department of Health or local water district. Department operations centers may be used at all SEMS levels above the field response level depending upon the impacts of the emergency.

**Deputy Incident Commander (Section Chief or Branch Director):** 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 may also be found as necessary at all SEMS EOC levels.

**Designated Area:** Any emergency or major disaster-affected portion of a State that has been determined eligible for Federal assistance.

**Designation:** The action by the Associate Director, SLPSD, to determine the type of assistance to be authorized under the Stafford Act for a particular declaration; and the action by the FEMA Regional director to determine specifically what counties, or county equivalents, are eligible for such assistance.

**Direction and Control (Emergency Management):** The provision of overall operational control and/or coordination of emergency operations at each level of the Statewide Emergency Organization, whether it be the actual direction of field forces or the coordination of joint efforts of governmental and private agencies in supporting such operations.

**Disaster:** A sudden calamitous emergency event bringing great damage loss or destruction.

**Disaster Application Center:** A facility jointly established by the Federal and State Coordinating Officers within or adjacent to a disaster impacted area to provide disaster victims a "one-stop" service in meeting their emergency representatives of local, state, and federal governmental agencies, private service organizations and certain representatives of the private sector.

**Disaster Assistance Program:** A program that provides state funding or reimbursement for local government response related personnel costs incurred in response to an incident as defined in Section 2402 (i).

**Disaster Field Office:** A central facility established by the Federal Coordinating Office within or immediately adjacent to disaster impacted areas to be utilized as a point of coordination and control for

state and federal governmental efforts to support disaster relief and recovery operations.

**Disaster Preparedness Improvement Grant Program (DPIG):** Authorized under Section 201 of the Stafford Act. Annual matching awards are provided to States to improve or update their disaster assistance plans and capabilities.

**Disaster Recovery Manager (DRM):** The person appointed to exercise the authority of a Regional Director for a particular emergency or disaster.

**Disaster Service Worker:** Includes public employees and any unregistered person impressed into service during a State of War emergency, a State of emergency, or a Local Emergency by a person having authority to command the aid of citizens in the execution of his duties. It does not include any member registered as an active fire fighting member of any regularly organized volunteer fire department, having official recognition, and full or partial support of the county, city, town or district in which such fire department is located.

**Disaster Support Area (DSA):** A predesignated facility anticipated to be at the periphery of a disaster area, where disaster relief resources (manpower and material) can be received, accommodated or stockpiled, allocated, and dispatched into the disaster area. A separate portion of the area may be used for receipt and emergency treatment of casualty evacuees arriving via short-range modes of transportation (air and ground) and for the subsequent movement of casualties by heavy, long-range aircraft, to adequate medical care facilities.

**Disaster Welfare Inquiry (DWD):** A service that provides health and welfare reports about relatives and certain other individuals believed to be in a disaster area and when the disaster caused dislocation or disruption of normal communications facilities precludes normal communications.

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

**Dispatch Center:** A facility from which resources are assigned to an incident.

**Division:** Divisions are used to divide an incident into geographical areas of operation. Divisions are identified by alphabetic characters for horizontal applications and, often, by numbers when used in buildings. Divisions are also used at SEMS EOC levels and are found organizationally between Branches and Units.

**Division or Group Supervisor:** The position title for individuals responsible for command of a Division or Group at an Incident. At EOC level, the title is Division Coordinator.

**Documentation Unit:** Functional unit within the Planning Section responsible for collecting, recording and safeguarding all documents relevant to an incident or within an EOC.

**Dose:** Accumulated or total exposure to gamma radiation, commonly expressed in REM.

**Dosimeter:** An instrument for measuring and registering total accumulated exposure to gamma radiation.

## **E**

**Earthquake Advisory:** A statement issued by the State of California Office of Emergency Services (OES), usually following a medium-sized earthquake, regarding scientific opinion that there is an enhanced likelihood for additional seismic activity within a specified period (usually three to five days).

**Economic Stabilization:** The intended result of governmental use of direct and indirect controls to maintain and stabilize the nation's economy during emergency conditions. Direct controls include such actions as the setting or freezing of wages, prices, and rents or the direct rationing of goods. Indirect controls can be put into effect by government through use of monetary, credit, tax, or other policy measures.

**Emergency:** A condition of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property caused by such conditions as air pollution, fire, flood, hazardous material incident, storm, epidemic, riot, drought, sudden and severe energy shortage, plant or animal infestations or disease, the Governor's warning of an earthquake or volcanic prediction, or an earthquake or other conditions, other than conditions resulting from a labor controversy.

**Emergency Broadcast System:** A system that enables the President and federal, state, and local governments to communicate through commercial radio and television broadcast stations with the general public in the event of a disaster.

**Emergency Management (Direction and Control):** The provision of overall operational control and/or coordination of emergency operations at each level of the Statewide Emergency Organization, whether it be the actual direction of field forces or the coordination of joint efforts of governmental and private agencies in supporting such operations.

**Emergency Management Coordinator:** The individual within each jurisdiction that is delegated the day to day responsibility for the development and maintenance of all emergency management coordination efforts.

**Emergency Management Director (Emergency Services Director):** The individual within each political subdivision that has overall responsibility for jurisdiction emergency management coordination efforts.

**Emergency Medical Services:** Treatment of casualties necessary to maintain their vital signs prior to treatment at a medical center.

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

**Emergency Operations:** Those actions taken during the emergency period to protect life and property, care for the people affected, and temporarily restore essential community services.

**Emergency Operations Center (EOC):** A location from which centralized emergency management can be performed. EOC facilities are established by an agency or jurisdiction to coordinate the overall agency or jurisdictional response and support to an emergency.

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

**Emergency Period:** A period which begins with the recognition of an existing, developing, or impending situation that poses a potential threat to a community. It includes the warning (where applicable) and impact phase and continues until immediate and ensuing effects of the disaster no longer constitute a hazard to life or threat to property.

**Emergency Plans:** Those official and approved documents which describe principles, policies, concepts of operations, methods and procedures to be applied in carrying out emergency operations or rendering mutual aid during emergencies. These plans include such elements as continuity of government, emergency functions of governmental agencies, mobilization and application of resources, mutual aid, and public information.

**Emergency Public Information (EPI):** Information disseminated to the public by official sources during an emergency, using broadcast and print media. EPI includes: (1) instructions on survival and health preservation actions to take (what to do, what not to do, evacuation procedures, etc.), (2) status information on the disaster situation (number of deaths, injuries, property damage, etc.), and (3) other useful information (state/federal assistance available).

**Emergency Public Information System:** The network of information officers and their staffs who operate from EPICs (Centers) at all levels of government within the state. The system also includes the news media through which emergency information is released to the public.

**Emergency Response Agency:** Any organization responding to an emergency, whether in the field, at the scene of an incident, or to an EOC, in response to an emergency, or providing mutual aid support to such an organization.

**Emergency Response Personnel:** Personnel involved with an agency's response to an emergency.

**EOC Action Plan:** The plan developed at SEMS EOC levels which contains objectives, actions to be taken, assignments and supporting information for the next operational period.

**Essential Facilities:** Facilities that are essential for maintaining the health, safety, and overall well-being of the public following a disaster (e.g., hospitals, police and fire department buildings, utility facilities, etc.). May also include buildings that have been designated for use as mass care facilities (e.g., schools, churches, etc.).

**Evacuee:** An individual who moves or is moved from a hazard area to a less hazardous area with anticipation of return when the hazard abates.

**Event:** A planned, non-emergency activity. ICS can be used as the management system for a wide range of events, e.g., parades, concerts or sporting events.

**Exercise:** Maneuver or simulated emergency condition involving planning, preparation, and execution; carried out for the purpose of testing, evaluating, planning, developing, training, and/or demonstrating emergency management systems and individual components and capabilities, to identify areas of strength and weakness for improvement of an emergency operations plan (EOP).

**Exercise Scenario:** Background detail (domestic, international, political, military) against which an exercise is conducted.

**Expedient Shelter:** Any shelter constructed in an emergency or crisis period on a "crash basis" by individuals, single families, or small groups of families.

## **F**

**Facilities Unit:** Functional unit within the Support Branch of the Logistics Section at the SEMS Field Response Level that provides fixed facilities for the incident. these facilities may include the Incident Base, feeding areas, sleeping areas, sanitary facilities, etc.

**Federal Agency (Federal Definition):** Any department, independent establishment, government corporation, or other agency of the executive branch of the federal government, including the United States Postal Service, but not including the American Red Cross.

**Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO):** The person appointed by the President to coordinate federal assistance following an emergency or major disaster declaration.

**Federal Disaster Assistance:** Provides in-kind and monetary assistance to disaster victims, state, or local government by federal agencies under the provision of the Federal Disaster Relief Act and other statutory authorities of federal agencies.

**Federal Disaster Relief Act:** Public Law 93-288, as amended, that gives the President broad powers to supplement the efforts and available resources of state and local governments in carrying out their responsibilities to alleviate suffering and damage resulting from major (peacetime) disasters.

**Federal Emergency Management Agency:** This agency was created in 1979 to provide a single point of accountability for all Federal activities related to disaster mitigation and emergency preparedness, response, and recovery.

**Federal Hazard Mitigation Officer (FHMO):** The FEMA employee responsible for representing the agency for each declaration in carrying out the overall responsibilities for hazard mitigation and for Subpart M, including coordinating post-disaster hazard mitigation actions with other agencies of government at all levels.

**Federal Insurance Administration (FIA):** the government unit, a part of FEMA, that administers the National Flood Insurance Program.

**FEMA-State Agreement:** A formal legal document between FEMA and the affected State stating the understandings, commitments, and binding conditions for assistance applicable as the result of the major disaster or emergency declared by the President. It is signed by the FEMA Regional director, or designee, and the Governor.

**Field Coordination Center:** A temporary facility established by the Office of Emergency Services within or adjacent to areas affected by a disaster. It functions under the operational control of the OES mutual aid regional manager and is supported by mobile communications and personnel provided by OES and other state agencies.

**Field Operations Guide:** A pocket-size manual of instructions on the application of the Incident Command System.

**Finance/Administration Section:** One of the five primary functions found at all SEMS levels which is responsible for all costs and financial considerations. At the incident the Section can include the Time Unit, Procurement Unit, Compensation/Claims Unit and Cost Unit.

**Flood Hazard Boundary Map (FHBM):** the official map of a community that shows the boundaries of the flood plain and special flood hazard areas that have been designated. It is prepared by FEMA, using the best flood data available at the time a community enters the emergency phase of the NFIP. It is superseded by the FIRM after a more detailed study has been completed.

**Flood Insurance:** The insurance coverage provided under the National Flood Insurance Program.

**Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM):** The official map of a community prepared by FEMA, which shows the base flood elevation, along with the special hazard areas and the risk premium zones. the study is funded by FEMA and is based on detailed surveys and analysis of the site-specific hydrologic characteristics.

**Food Unit:** Functional unit within the Service Branch of the Logistics Section responsible for providing meals for incident and EOC personnel.

**Function:** In ICS, function refers to the five major activities in the ICS, i.e., Command, Operations, Planning, Logistics and Finance/Administration. The same five functions also are found at all SEMS EOC levels. At the EOC, the term Management replaces Command. The term function is also used when describing the activity involved, e.g., "the planning function."

**Functional Element:** Refers to a part of the incident, EOC or DOC organization such as section, branch, group or unit.

## **G**

**General Staff:** The group of management personnel reporting to the Incident Commander or to the EOC Director. They may each have a deputy, as needed. At the Field SEMS level, the General Staff consists of:

- Operations Section Chief
- Planning/Intelligence Section Chief
- Logistics Section Chief
- Finance/Administration Section Chief

**Generic ICS:** Refers to the description of ICS that is generally applicable to any kind of incident or event.

**Ground Support Unit:** Functional unit within the Support Branch of the Logistics Section at the SEMS Field Response Level that is responsible for the fueling, maintaining and repairing of vehicles, and the transportation of personnel and supplies.

**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. (See Division.) Groups are located between Branches (when activated) and Resources in the Operations Section.

## **H**

**Hazard:** Any source of danger or element of risk to people or property.

**Hazard Area:** A geographically defined area in which a specific hazard presents a potential threat to life and property.

**Hazardous Material:** A substance or combination of substances which, because of quantity, concentration, physical chemical, radiological, explosive, or infectious characteristics, poses a substantial presents or potential danger to humans or the environment. Generally, such materials are classed as explosives and blasting agents, flammable and nonflammable gases, combustible liquids, flammable liquids and solids, oxidizers, poisons, disease-causing agents, radioactive materials, corrosive materials, and other materials including hazardous wastes.

**Hazardous Material Incident (Stationary):** Any uncontrolled release of material capable of posing a risk to health, safety, and property. Areas at risk include facilities that produce, process, or store hazardous materials well as all sites that treat, store, and dispose of hazardous material.

**Hazardous Material Incident (Transportation):** Any spill during transport of material that is potentially a risk to health and safety

**Hazard Mitigation:** An cost effective measure that will reduce the potential for damage to a facility from a disaster event.

**Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program:** Authorized under Section 404 of the Stafford Act. Provided funding for hazard mitigation projects that are cost effective and complement existing post-disaster mitigation programs and activities by providing funding for beneficial mitigation measures that are not funded through other programs.

**Hazard Mitigation Plan:** The plan resulting from a systematic evaluation of the nature and extent of vulnerability to the effects of natural hazards present in society that includes the actions needed to minimize future vulnerability to hazards.

**Helibase:** The main location for parking, fueling, maintenance, and loading of helicopters operating in support of an incident. It is usually located at or near the incident base.

**Helispot:** Any designated location where a helicopter can safely take off and land. Some helispots may be used for loading of supplies, equipment, or personnel.

**Hierarchy of Command:** (See Chain of Command)

## **I**

**Incident:** An occurrence or event, either human-caused or by natural phenomena, that requires action by emergency response personnel to prevent or minimize loss of life or damage to property and/or natural resources.

**Incident Action Plan:** The plan developed at the field response level which 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.

**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 Commander:** The individual responsible for the command of all function at the field response level.

**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 (ICS):** The nationally used 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. ICS is the combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications operating within a common organizational structure, with responsibility for the management of resources to effectively accomplish stated objectives pertinent to an incident.

**Incident Communication Center:** The location of the Communications Unit and the Message Center.

**Incident Management Team:** The Incident commander and appropriate General and Command 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.

**Individual Assistance (IA):** Supplementary Federal assistance provided under the Stafford Act to individuals and families adversely affected by a major disaster or an emergency. Such assistance may be provided directly by the Federal Government or through State or local governments or disaster relief organizations.

**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. This position is also referred to as Public Affairs or Public Information Officer in some disciplines. At SEMS EOC levels, the information function may be established as a Coordinator or as a section or branch reporting directly to the EOC Director.

**Initial Action:** The Actions taken by resources which are the first to arrive at an incident.

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

**Integrated Emergency Management System (IEMS):** Strategy for implementing emergency management activities which builds upon those functions common to preparedness for any type of occurrence and provides for special requirements of individual emergency situations. Seeks function - based plan annexes that can be adapted to varied hazard events.

**Intermediate-Term Prediction:** A prediction of an earthquake that is expected within a period of a few weeks to a few years.

## **J**

**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., special district 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.

## **L**

**Landing Zone:** (See Helispot)

**Leader:** The ICS title for an individual responsible for a functional unit, task forces, or teams.

**Liaison Officer:** A member of the Command Staff at the Field SEMS level responsible for coordinating with representatives from cooperating and assisting agencies. At SEMS EOC levels, the function may be done by a Coordinator and/or within a Section or Branch reporting directly to the EOC Director.

**Lifelines:** A general term including all systems for storing, treating, and distributing fuel, communications, water, sewage, and electricity.

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

**Local Emergency:** The duly proclaimed existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the territorial limits of a county, city and county, or city, caused by such conditions as air pollution, fire, flood, storm, epidemic, riot, or earthquake or other conditions, other than conditions resulting from a labor controversy, which conditions are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of that political subdivision and required the combined forces of political subdivisions to combat.

**Local Government:** Means local agencies defined in Government Code 8680.2 and special district as defined in California Code of Regulations, Title 19 Division 2, Chapter 5, NDAA,2900(y).

**Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC):** Committees established by the Director of OES to provide a forum for the exchange of information among the cities and counties of a Mutual Aid region. The LGAC may develop a consensus of action and policy among local emergency managers on issues,

policies, and programs of concern to local governments, and if necessary bring such concerns to the attention of OES Executive Management.

**Logistics Section:** One of the five primary functions found at all SEMS levels. The Section responsible for providing facilities, services and materials for the incident or at an EOC.

**Long-Term Earthquake Potential:** No specific time frame. Can refer to decades, centuries or millennia.

**Long-Term Prediction:** A prediction of an earthquake that is expected within a few years up to a few decades.

## **M**

**Major Disaster:** Any hurricane, tornado, storm, flood, high-water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide, mudslide, snowstorm,, drought, fire, explosions, or other catastrophe in any part of the United States which, in the determination of the President, causes damage of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant major disaster assistance under the Federal Disaster Relief Act, above and beyond emergency services by the Federal Government, to supplement the efforts and available resources of States, local governments, and disaster relief organizations in alleviating the damage, loss, hardship, or suffering caused thereby.

**Management by Objectives:** In SEMS field and EOC levels, this is a top-down management activity which involves a three-step process to achieve the desired goal. The steps are: establishing the objectives, selection of appropriate strategy(s) to achieve the objectives; and the direction or assignments associated with the selected strategy.

**Marshaling Area:** An area used for the completed mobilization and assemblage of personnel and resources prior to their being sent directly to the disaster affected area. Marshaling Areas area utilized particularly for disasters outside of the continental United States.

**Mass Care Facility:** A location where temporary services are provided to disaster victims during an emergency which may include lodging, food, clothing, registration, welfare inquiry, first aid, and essential social services.

**Master Mutual Aid Agreement:** An agreement entered into by and between the State of California, its various departments and agencies, and the various political subdivision, municipal corporations, and other public agencies of the State of California to assist each other by providing resources during an emergency. Mutual aid occurs when two or more parties agree to furnish resources and facilities and to render services to each other to prevent and combat any type of disaster or emergency.

**Media:** All means of providing information and instructions to the public, including radio, television, and newspapers.

**Medical Unit:** Functional unit within the Service Branch of the Logistics Section at SEMS Field levels responsible for the development of the Medical Emergency Plan, and for providing emergency medical treatment of incident personnel.

**Message Center:** The Message Center is part of the Incident or EOC Communications Center is collocated or placed adjacent to it. It receives, records, and routes information to appropriate locations at an incident or within an EOC.

**Mitigation:** Pre-event planning and actions which aim to lessen the effects of potential disaster. (See also Comprehensive Emergency Management).

**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 area temporarily located pending assignment to incidents, release, or reassignment.

**Medical Self-Help:** The medical treatment provided for the sick and injured by citizens and emergency forces in the absence of professional care.

**Multi-Agency Coordination:** The functions and activities of representatives of involved agencies and/or jurisdictions who make decisions regarding the prioritizing of incidents and the sharing and allocations of critical resources.

**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-jurisdiction environment. A MAC Group functions within the MACS. MACS organizations are used within the California Fire Services.

**Multi-Agency Incident:** An incident where one or more agencies assist a jurisdictional agency or agencies. The incident may be managed under 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.

**Multi-purpose Staging Area (MSA):** A predesignated location such as a County/District Fairgrounds having a large parking areas and shelter for equipment and operator, which provides a base for coordinated localized emergency operations, a rally point for mutual aid coming into an area, and a site for post-disaster population support and recovery or emergency.

**Mutual Aid Agreement:** Written agreement between agencies and/or jurisdictions in which they agree to assist one another upon request, by furnishing personnel and equipment.

**Mutual Aid Coordinator:** An individual at local government, operational area, region or state level that is responsible to coordinate the process of requesting, obtaining, processing and using mutual aid resources. Mutual Aid Coordinator duties will vary depending upon the mutual aid system.

**Mutual Aid Region:** A mutual aid region is a subdivision of state OES established to assist in the coordination of mutual aid and other emergency operations within a geographical area of the state, consisting of two or more county (operational) areas.

**Mutual Aid Staging Area:** A temporary facility established by the State Office of Emergency Services within, or adjacent to, affected areas. It may be supported by mobile communications and personnel provided by field or headquarters staff from state agencies, as well as personnel from local jurisdictions throughout the state.

## **N**

**National Emergency Training Center (NETC):** FEMA's campus in Emmitsburg, Maryland, composed of the United States Fire Administration (USFA) and the Emergency Management Institute (EMI).

**National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP):** The Federal program, created by an act of Congress in 1968, that makes flood insurance available in communities that enact satisfactory floodplain management regulations.

**National Warning System:** The federal portion of the civil defense warning system, used to disseminate warning and other emergency information from the warning centers or regions to warning points in each state.

**Nuclear Incident (Fixed Facility):** Any occurrence at a nuclear power plant resulting in a potential or actual release of radioactive material in sufficient quantity which threatens the health and safety of nearby populations.

## **O**

**Office of Emergency Services:** The Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

**One Hundred (100)-Year Flood:** The flood elevation that has a one-percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. It is also known as the base flood elevation.

**Operational Area:** An intermediate level of the state emergency organization, consisting of a county and all political subdivisions within the county area.

**Operational Area Coordinator:** The individual within the operational area responsible for a specific function such as law enforcement, coroner's services, or emergency medical services.

**Operational Area Satellite Information System (OASIS):** A statewide emergency management system based on the operational area concept. An operational area is defined in law (Section 8559, California Government Code) as an organization (not a jurisdiction) whose boundaries are those of a county. This organization is not necessarily a county government; it could be several cities, or a city and a county, a county government or several county governments, willing to undertake to coordinate the flow of mutual aid and information within the defined area. The operational area concept is the backbone of the statewide emergency management system.

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

**Operations Section:** One of the five primary functions found at all SEMS levels. The Section responsible for all tactical operations at the incident, or for the coordination of operational activities at an EOC. The Operations Section at the SEMS Field Response Level can include Branches, Divisions and/or Groups, Task Forces, Team, Single Resources and Staging Areas. At the EOC levels, the Operations Section would contain Branches or Divisions as necessary because of span of control considerations.

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

## **P**

**Plan:** As used by OES, a document which describes the broad, overall jurisdictional response to potential extraordinary emergencies or disasters.

**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 meetings are also an essential activity at all SEMS EOC levels.

**Planning Section:** (Also referred to as Planning/Intelligence). One of the five primary functions found at all SEMS levels. Responsible for the collection, evaluation, and dissemination of information related to the incident or an emergency, and for the preparation and documentation of Incident or EOC Action Plans. The section also maintains information on the current and forecasted situation, and on the status of resources assigned to the incident. At the SEMS Field Response level, the Section will include the Situation, Resource, Documentation and Demobilization Units, as well as Technical Specialists. Other units may be added at the EOC level.

**Planning Zone:** A subdivision of a county consisting of: 1) a city; 2) a city and its sphere of influence in adjacent unincorporated areas; 3) a portion of the unincorporated area of a county; 4) a military installation; 5) a state facility such as a correctional institution. Zoning simplifies the process of collecting and compiling data according to geographical location.

**Political Subdivision:** Includes any city, city and county, county, district, or other local governmental agency or public agency authorized by law.

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

**Public Assistance (PA):** Supplementary Federal assistance provided under the Stafford Act to State and local governments or certain private, nonprofit organizations other than assistance for the direct benefit of individuals and families.

**Public Information Officer:** The individual at field or EOC level that has been delegated the authority to prepare public information releases and to interact with the media. Duties will vary depending upon the agency and SEMS level.

## **R**

**Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES):** An emergency services designed to make efficient use of skilled radio amateurs throughout the state in accordance with approved civil defense communications plans. Operators are registered with an OES agency to provide emergency communications support.

**Radiological Protection:** The organized effort, through warning, detection, and preventive and remedial measures, to minimize the effect of nuclear radiation on people and resources.

**Radiological Officer: (RO)** An individual assigned to a Emergency Management Staff who is responsible for radiological protection operations. The RO is the principal advisor to the Director/Coordinator and other officials on matters pertaining to radiological protection operations.

**Radiological Monitor:** An individual trained to measure, record, and report radiation exposure and exposure rates; provide limited field guidance on radiation hazards associated with operations to which he is assigned; and perform operator"s checks and maintenance on radiological instrument.

**Reception Area:** An area which, through a hazard analysis and related preparedness planning, is predesignated to receive and care for (or provide basic needs for ) persons displaced from a hazard area.

**Recorders:** Individuals within ICS or EOC organizational units who are responsible for recording information. Recorders may be found in Planning, Logistics and Finance/Administration Units.

**Recovery:** Activities traditionally associated with providing Federal supplemental disaster recovery assistance under a Presidential major disaster declaration. These activities usually begin within days after the event and continue after the response activities cease. Recovery includes individual and public assistance programs which provide temporary housing assistance, grants and loans to eligible individuals and government entities to recovery from the effects of a disaster.

**Regional Director (RD):** A director of a regional office of FEMA, or his/her designated representative. As used in the Stafford Act, Regional Director also means the Disaster Recovery Manager who has been appointed to exercise the authority of the regional Director for a particular emergency or major disaster.

**Regional Emergency Operations Center (REOC):** Facilities found at State OES Administrative Regions. REOCS are used to coordinate information and resources among operational areas and between the operational areas and the state level.

**Relocates:** An individual who is relocated from a hazard area to a low risk area with the possibility of not returning.

**Remedial Movement:** The post-attack or post-event movement of people to better protected facilities or less hazardous areas.

**Remedial Operations:** Actions taken after the onset of an emergency situation to offset or alleviate its effects.

**Reporting Locations:** Specific locations or facilities where incoming resources can check-in at the incident. (See Check-in)

**Rescue Group:** Two or more rescue teams responding as a unified group under supervision of a

designated group leader.

**Rescue Team:** Four or more personnel organized to work as a unit. One member is designated team leader.

**Resources:** Personnel and equipment available, or potentially available, for assignment to incidents or to EOCs. Resources area described by kind and type, and may be used in tactical support or supervisory capacities at an incident or at EOCs.

**Resources Unit:** Functional unit within the Planning Section at the SEMS Field Response level 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 resources 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. Based on the requirements of the situation, response assistance will be provided to an affected State under the Federal Response Plan using a partial activation of selected ESS or full activation of all ESS to meet the needs of the situation.

## S

**Safety Officer:** A member of the Command Staff at the incident or within an EOC responsible for monitoring and assessing safety hazards or unsafe situations, and for developing measures for ensuring personnel safety. The Safety Officer may have assistants.

**Search:** Systematic investigation of area or premises to determine the presence and/or location of persons entrapped, injured, immobilized, or missing.

**Search Dog Team:** A skilled dog handler with one or more dogs trained especially for finding persons entrapped sufficiently to preclude detection by sight or sound. (NOTE: Search dogs are usually owned by their handler.)

**Section:** That organization level with responsibility for a major functional area of the incident or at an EOC, e.g., Operations, Planning, Logistics, Administration/Finance.

**Section Chief:** The ICS title for individuals responsible for command of functional sections: Operations, Planning/Intelligence, Logistics and Administration/Finance. At the EOC level, the position title will be Section Coordinator.

**Self-Help:** A concept describing self-reliance and sufficiency within an adverse environment and limited or nor external assistance.

**Sensitive Facilities:** Facilities in reception areas that will not normally be used as lodging facilities for relocatees. The facilities area either considered unsuitable or are required for essential activities (food establishments, fire stations, banks, radio stations, etc.). However, if any of these facilities provide adequate protection against radioactive fallout, they may be used as fallout shelter.

**Service:** An organization assigned to perform a specific function during an emergency. It may be one department or agency if only that organization is assigned to perform the function, or it may be comprised of two or more normally independent organizations grouped together to increase operational control and efficiency during the emergency.

**Service Branch:** A Branch within the Logistics Section responsible for service activities at the incident. Includes the Communications, Medical and Food Units.

**Shelter Complex:** A geographic grouping of facilities to be used for fallout shelter when such an arrangement serves planning, administrative, and/or operation purposes. Normally, a complex will include a maximum of 25 individual shelter facilities, within a diameter of about ½ mile.

**Shelter Manager:** An individual who provides for the internal organization, administration, and operation of a shelter facility.

**Short-Term Prediction:** A prediction of an earthquake that is expected within a few hours to a few weeks. The short-term-prediction can be further described as follows:

**Alert--**Three days to a few weeks

**Imminent Alert--**Now to three days

**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 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.

**Span of Control:** The supervisory ratio maintained within an ICS or EOC organization. A span of control of five-positions reporting to one supervisor is considered optimum.

**Special District:** A unit of local government (other than a city, county, or city and county) with authority or responsibility to own, operate or maintain a project (as defined in California Code of Regulations 2900(s) for purposes of natural disaster assistance. This may include a joint powers authority established under section 6500 et seq. of the Code.

**Stafford Act:** Robert T. Stafford disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, PL 100-707, signed into law November 23, 1988; amended the Disaster Relief Act of 1974, PL 93-288.

**Staging Areas:** 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.

**Staging Area Managers:** Individuals within ICS organizational units that are assigned special managerial responsibilities at Staging Areas. (Also Camp Manager.)

**Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs):** A set of instructions having the force of a directive, covering those features of operations which lend themselves to a definite or standardized procedure. Standard operating procedures support an annex by indicating in detail how a particular task will be carried out.

**Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS):** A system required by California

Government Code for managing response to multi-agency and multi-jurisdiction emergencies in California. SEMS consists of five organizational levels which are activated as necessary: Field Response, Local Government, Operation Area, Region, State.

**State Agency:** Any department, division, independent establishment, or agency of executive branch of the state government.

**State Coordinating Officer (SCO):** The person appointed by the Governor to act for the State in cooperation with the Federal Coordinating Officer.

**State Emergency Organization:** The agencies, board, and commissions of the executive branch of state government and affiliated private sector organizations.

**State Emergency Plan:** The State of California Emergency Plan as approved by the Governor.

**State of Emergency:** The duly proclaimed existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the state caused by such conditions as air pollution, fire, flood, storm, epidemic, riot, or earthquake or other conditions, other than conditions, resulting from a labor controversy, or conditions causing a "state of war emergency", which conditions by reason of magnitude, are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of any single county, city and county, or city and require the combined forces of a mutual aid region or regions to combat.

**State of War Emergency:** The condition which exists immediately, with or without a proclamation thereof by the Governor, whenever the state or nation is directly attacked by an enemy of the United States, or upon the receipt by the state of a warning from the federal government that such an enemy attack is probable or imminent.

**State Operations Center (SOC):** An EOC facility operated by the Governor's Office of Emergency Services at the state level in SEMS.

**Stay-Put:** A resident in a hazardous or potentially hazardous area who refuses to relocate during a directed relocation, or who is too ill or infirm to be evacuated.

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

**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.

## T

**Tactical Direction:** Direction given by the Operations Section Chief at the SEMS Field level 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 leaders.

**Team:** (See Single Resource.)

**Technical Specialists:** Personnel with special skills that can be used anywhere within the ICS or EOC organization.

**Technological Hazard:** Includes a range of hazards emanating from the manufacture, transportation, and use of such substances as radioactive materials, chemicals, explosives, flammables, agricultural pesticides, herbicides and disease agents; oil spills on land, coastal waters or inland water systems; and debris from space.

**The Petris Bill #1841:** As a result of the lessons learned from the disasters in Northern California, the State of California passed into law in September of 1992 the Petris Bill. This legislation directs the Office of Emergency Services to implement the use of the ICS and MACS throughout the State by no later than December 1, 1996.

**Time Unit:** Functional unit within the Finance/Administration Section responsible for recording time for incident or EOC personnel and hired equipment.

**Tort:** An act that harms another. It occurs when a person commits an act, without right and as a result another is harmed.

**Traffic Control Points (TCP):** Places along movement routes that are manned by emergency personnel to direct and control the flow of traffic.

**Triage:** A process of priority sorting sick and injured people on the basis of urgency and type of condition presented so that they can be routed to appropriate medical facilities.

**Tsunami:** Also called a seismic sea wave. It is a large oceanic wave generated by earthquakes, submarine volcanic eruptions, or large submarine landslides in which sudden forces are applied to the water mass. The fastest tsunami waves can move at speeds of hundreds of miles per hour in the open ocean. However, as the waves enter shallower waters in coastal area, wave velocity decreases and wave height can increase to 100 feet or more on impact at the shore line.

**Type:** Refers to resource capability. A Type 1 resources provides a greater overall capability due to power, size, capacity, etc., than would be found in a Type 2 resources. 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 area 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:** An organizational element having functional responsibility. Units are commonly used in incident Planning Logistics, or Finance/Administration Section and can be used in operations for some applications. Units are also found in EOC organizations.

**Unity of Command:** The concept by which each person within an organization reports to one and only one designated person.

**Urban Fire:** Any instance of uncontrolled burning which results in structural damage to residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, or other properties in developed areas.

**Urban Rescue:** The complex process in which trained personnel use specialized equipment to locate and extricate victims trapped in collapsed buildings, and the mobilization and management of such personnel and equipment.

## V

**Volunteers:** Individuals who make themselves available for assignment during an emergency. These people may or may not have particular skills needed during emergencies and may or may not be part of a previously organized group.

## W

**Wildfire:** Any instance of uncontrolled burning in grasslands, brush, or woodlands.

**Winter Storm (Severe):** This includes ice storms, blizzards, and extreme cold. The National Weather service characterizes blizzards as combinations of winds in excess of 35 mph with considerable falling or blowing snow, frequently reducing visibility to 0.25 miles or less.