

New Mexico  
Department of Health  
All Hazard  
Incident Management  
Glossary

Third Edition  
May 2008

**T**he *New Mexico Department of Health All Hazard Incident Management Glossary* has been created to give spokespersons, communicators, health care providers, and other responders a common language to use in health emergencies. This glossary defines terms that address a broad range of health emergency issues and planning needs. In general, this Glossary is an attempt to include New Mexico-specific information that will assist its users to quickly identify programs and partners related to emergency planning and response in New Mexico. In addition, selected medical terms that may serve to clarify aspects of health emergency incidents are also listed.

For general emergency management terms and concepts, including terminology referring to the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the Incident Command System (ICS), please refer to: *Guide to Emergency Management and Related Terms, Definitions, Concepts, Acronyms, Organizations, Programs, Guidance, Executive Orders and Legislation* at: <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/edu/termdef.asp> This publication is maintained by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Emergency Management Institute and is the most current and comprehensive resource available for emergency management terminology.

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

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This is an evolving document and new terms and definitions will be added as they emerge. The *New Mexico Department of Health All Hazard Incident Management Glossary* will be reviewed and updated regularly.

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# A

AAR - After Action Report (detailed report of an incident or exercise)

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

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

Acute – sudden onset. (Compare with chronic)

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

Adenopathy – swelling or enlargement of the lymph nodes.

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

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

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

AG - Attorney General (NM)

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

AIIR - Airborne Infectious Isolation Room

AICA – Alternate In-Patient Care Area

ALS – Advanced Life Support

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

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

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

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

Anticonvulsant – an agent which prevents or arrests seizures.

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

AOCA – Alternative Outpatient Care Area

APIC - Association of Professionals in Infection Control

ARC - American Red Cross

ARES - Amateur Radio Emergency Services

Aseptic – free of pathogenic microorganisms.

ASPR – Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (US DHHS)

**Assessment** – the evaluation and interpretation of measurements and other information to provide a basis for decision-making.

**Ataxia** – an inability to coordinate muscle activity during movement.

**At – Risk Populations** – those individuals who will encounter significant barriers, and therefore require assistance, to obtain and maintain basic survival tools, including food and shelter. Factors that may increase the an individual’s risk of consequences – including societal, economic and health-related effects, include: economic disadvantage; social, cultural or geographical isolation; physical, cognitive, sensory or disease disability; limited English language competency; limited access to services due to discrimination; and unaccompanied persons.

**ATSDR** - Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (US HHS)

## B

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

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

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

**BASIS** - Biological Aerosol Sentry and Information System (US DOE)

**Behavioral Health Collaborative** – The aggregate Collaborative is the group of State agencies, NMDOH included, that until 2005 provided individual funding to support public behavioral health care services. Since that time, the 13 or so funding sources have been merged into one, and has been administered by Value Options, Inc., now known as the State’s single provider entity. The Collaborative, made up of representatives of the state agencies, monitor how services are provided by Value Options. In addition, there are local Behavioral Health

Collaboratives explained on this link that coordinate services in local areas:  
<http://www.bhc.state.nm.us/collaboratives.html>

BHEM – Bureau of Health Emergency Management (NMDOH) manages the CDC Cooperative Agreement on Public Health Emergency Preparedness and the ASPR Hospital Preparedness Program

BHO - Border Health Office (NMDOH)

BIA - Bureau of Indian Affairs (US)

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

Biologic Monitoring – measuring hazardous substances.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BT - Bioterrorism

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

## C

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

Cancer – any one of a group of diseases that occur when cells in the body become abnormal and grow or multiply out of control.

Cancer Risk – risk for a cancer diagnosis.

Carcinogen – a substance that causes cancer.

Carcinogenic – capable of causing cancer.

Carrier – a person or animal that harbors a specific infectious agent without discernible clinical disease and serves as a potential source of infection. The carrier state may be of short or long duration (temporary or transient carrier, or chronic carrier).

Case Study – a report of an investigation of a situation.

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

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

Catalyst – a substance that increases the rate of a chemical reaction.

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

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

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

CBIRF – Chemical Biological Incident Response Force (DOD) (US)

CBRNE – types of Weapons of Mass Destruction: Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosive

CD – Communicable Disease

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

CDC Type C Facility - an isolation facility that meets the following requirements: a structure with non-shared air conditioning, heating, and ventilating systems that exhausts 100% of air to the outside through HEPA filter or is located at least 100 yards from any other occupied building or area; adequate water, electricity, heating, cooling, and closed-window ventilation to maintain activities of daily living and tertiary medical care of residents; a communication system that allows for dependable communication within and outside of the facility (e.g. telephone or intercom system); ability to provide the following medical care within the facility: supportive care with iv fluids, antibiotics, etc. skin care: oxygen monitoring (pulse ox) and oxygen (in-line or portable); medical vital signs monitoring; cardiac and

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respiratory resuscitation; ventilator support; suctioning equipment; basic laboratory evaluations (blood chemistries, CBC); radiology (portable chest x-ray) staffing resources (to be determined by severity of illness) A Type C facility is appropriate for confirmed, probable, and suspected smallpox cases.

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

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

Center for Disaster Medicine (CDM) – University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center

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

CERCLA - Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act

CERT – Community Emergency Response Team

Chain of Command – a series of command, control, executive, or management positions in hierarchical order of authority.

CHC – Community Health Council, located in most counties of New Mexico

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

Chemical Attack – the deliberate release of a toxic gas, liquid, or solid that can poison individuals or the environment.

Chemical Incident – an accidental or deliberate exposure involving chemical agents.

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

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

**CHR** - Community Health Representative; lay community health advisor/educator who works in Native American communities

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

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

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

**CIA** – Central Intelligence Agency (US)

**CIRG** – Critical Incident Response Group (FBI)

**CISD** – Critical Incident Stress Debriefing

**CISM** – Critical Incident Stress Management

**Citizen Corps** - a component of USA Freedom Corps, was created in January 2002, to help coordinate volunteer activities regarding incident/emergency management. Citizen Corps is coordinated nationally by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. In this capacity, FEMA works closely with other federal entities, state and local governments, first responders and emergency managers, the volunteer community, and the White House Office of the USA Freedom Corps. Components of the Citizen Corps include: Neighborhood Watch Program, Volunteers in Police Service, Community Emergency Response Team, and the Medical Reserve Corps.

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

**Cognitive Disability** - A disability involving human perception, thinking and learning

**Cohort** - A group of individuals with some characteristics in common or a well-defined group of people who have had a common experience.

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

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

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

**Communicable Disease Cluster** – two or more cases of a confirmed or suspected communicable disease with a suspected common source diagnosed or exposed within a twenty-four hour period. A communicable disease cluster might represent a notifiable condition.

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

**Communication** – transmitting the message

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

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

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

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

Consistent - free from variation or contradiction.

Construct – A working concept, a point of view

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

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

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

COOP – Continuity Of Operations Plan

Cooperating Agency – an agency supplying assistance other than direct operational or support functions or resources to the incident management effort.

Coordinate – to advance systematically an analysis and exchange of information among principals who have or may have a need to know certain information to carry out specific incident management responsibilities.

COPS – Community Oriented Police Services

Core Function - A well-defined process that clearly outlines the scope of work

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

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

Credibility - the quality or power of inspiring belief.

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

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

CRI – Cities Readiness Initiative - a federally funded effort to prepare major US cities and metropolitan areas to effectively respond to a large scale bioterrorist event by dispensing antibiotics to their entire identified population within 48 hours of the decision to do so.

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

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

CRT - Civil Response Team (National Guard)

CST – Crisis Support Team

Cutaneous – relating to the outer layer of the skin.

CYFD – Children, Youth and Families Department (NM)

## D

**Damage Assessment** – the process used to appraise or determine the number of injuries and deaths, damage to public and private property resulting from a man-made or natural disaster, and the status of key facilities and services such as hospitals, fire and police stations, communication networks, water and sanitation systems, utilities, and transportation networks.

DCA – Department of Cultural Affairs (NM)

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

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

**Department of Operations Center (DOC) (NMDOH)** – the facility, from which New Mexico Department of Health coordinates health, medical, and mortuary response activities. (Contrast with emergency operations center).

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

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

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

DFA – Department of Finance and Administration (NM)

DHSEM – Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (NM)

DIA – Department of Indian Affairs (NM)

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

**Disaster (NM)** – the damage or injury, caused by enemy attack, to persons or property in this state [NM] of such magnitude that a state of martial law is declared to exist in this state [NM] and disaster emergency is declared by the chief executive officer of the United States and the chief executive officer of this state [NM]. NMSA 1978, sections 12-11-3, 2-11-13, and 12-11-20.

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

**Disaster, major (federal)** – “Major disaster” means any natural catastrophe (including any hurricane, tornado, storm, high water, wind driven water, tidal wave, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide, mudslide, snowstorm, or drought) or, regardless of cause, any fire, flood, or explosion, 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 this [Stafford] Act 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. (From: Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended by Public Law 106-390, October 30, 2000, Sec. 102)

**DISC** - Disaster Information Systems Clearinghouse

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

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

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

DMAT - Disaster Medical Assistance Team

DMORT - Disaster Mortuary Team

DOC - Department Operations Center (NMDOH)

DOD - Department of Defense (US)

DOE - Department of Energy (US)

DOH - Department of Health (NM)

DOI - Department of the Interior (US)

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

DOS - Department of State (US)

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

DOT - Department of Transportation (US) and (NM)

DPMU - Deployable Portable Morgue Unit

DPS - Department of Public Safety (NM)

Dysphasia – difficulty in swallowing.

# E

EMAC – Emergency Management Assistance Compact

Emergency (NM) – any event or occurrence for which, in the determination of the Governor, State assistance is needed to supplement local efforts and capabilities to save lives, protect property, provide for the public health and safety, and to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe. Note: An emergency is of less impact than a disaster. (New Mexico All Hazard Emergency Operations Plan 1999)

Emergency (NM) – any man-made or natural disaster causing or threatening widespread physical or economic harm that is beyond local control and requires the resources of the state. (From: the NM Uniform Licensing Act)

Emergency (federal) – absent a Presidentially declared emergency, any incident(s), human-caused or natural, that requires responsive action to protect life or property. Under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, an emergency means any occasion or instance for which, in the determination of the President, Federal assistance is needed to supplement State and local efforts and capabilities to save lives and to protect property and public health and safety, or to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe in any part of the United States.

Emergency Management – a systematic program of activities that governments and their partners undertake before, during, and after a disaster to save lives, prevent injury, and to protect property and the natural environment.

Emergency Public Information – information that is disseminated primarily in anticipation of an emergency or during an emergency. In addition to providing situational information to the public, it also frequently provides directive actions required to be taken by the general public.

Emergency Response Provider – includes Federal, State, local, and tribal emergency public safety, law enforcement, emergency response, emergency medical (including hospital emergency facilities), and related personnel, agencies, and authorities. See Section 2 (6), Homeland Security Act of 2002, Pub. L. 107-296, 116 Stat. 2135 (2002). Also known as *Emergency Responder*.

EMI - Emergency Management Institute (FEMA) (US)

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

Empirical - originating in or based on observation or experiment.

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

EMS - Emergency Medical Services

EMSCOM – Emergency Medical Services Communications

EMT - Emergency Medical Technician

Encephalitis – inflammation of the brain.

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

Engagement - taking part in something.

Enteric – relating to the intestines, alimentary.

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

EPA - Environmental Protection Agency (US)

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

Epidemiologist – a professional skilled in disease investigation. Epidemiologists design and conduct epidemiological studies, analyze data to detect patterns and

trends in disease, establish and maintain surveillance systems, monitor health status and evaluate the performance and cost effectiveness of public health programs.

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

Epizootic – (1) denoting a temporal pattern of disease occurrence in an animal population in which the disease occurs with a frequency clearly in excess of the expected frequency in that population during a given time interval. (2) an outbreak of disease in an animal population.

ESAR-VHP - Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals

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. *Spontaneous Evacuation* – residents or citizens in the threatened areas observe an emergency event or receive unofficial word of an actual or perceived threat and without receiving instructions to do so, elect to evacuate the area. Their movements, means, and direction of travel is unorganized and unsupervised. *Voluntary Evacuation*– a warning to persons within a designated area that a threat to life and property exists or is likely to exist in the immediate future. Individuals issued this type of warning or order are NOT required to evacuate, however it would be to their advantage to do so. *Mandatory or Directed Evacuation* – a warning to person within the designated area that an imminent threat to life and property exists and individuals MUST evacuate in accordance with the instructions of local officials.

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

Event – a planned, nonemergency activity. ICS can be used as the management system for a wide range of events, e.g., parades, concerts, or sporting events. (Contrast with incident).

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

## F

FAA - Federal Aviation Administration (US)

FBI - Federal Bureau of Investigation (US)

FCC – Federal Communications Commission (US)

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

Febrile – denoting or relating to fever.

Federal – of or pertaining to the Federal Government of the United States of America.

FEMA - Federal Emergency Management Agency (US)

First Responder – those individuals who in the early stages of an incident are responsible for the protection and preservation of life, property, evidence, and the environment, including emergency response providers.

Full Disclosure - provision of all possible information.

## G

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

GIS – Geographic Information System

Groundwater – water beneath the earth’s surface in the spaces between soil particle and rock surfaces (Compare with surface water).

GSA - General Services Administration (US)

GSD – General Services Department (NM)

## H

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

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

Hazard – Something that is potentially dangerous or harmful, often the root cause of an unwanted outcome.

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

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

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Hazardous Materials (HazMat) – any material that is explosive, flammable, poisonous, corrosive, reactive, or radioactive, or any combinations thereof, and requires special care in handling because of the hazards it poses to public health, safety, and/or the environment; any hazardous substance under the Clean Water Act, or any element, compound, mixture, solution, or substance designated under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA); any hazardous waste under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA); any toxic pollutant listed under pretreatment provisions of the Clean Water Act; any hazardous pollutant under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act; or any imminent hazardous chemical substance for which the administrator has taken action under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Section 7. (Section 101[14]) (CERCLA)

Hazardous Substance Release and Health Effects Database (HazDat) – the scientific and administrative database system developed by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Hazardous Waste – potentially harmful substances that have been released or discarded into the environment.

Health Advisory – see under Health Alert Network (NM)

Health Alert – see under Health Alert Network (NM)

Health Alert Network (HAN) – a CDC-funded national effort to provide timely health information to public health emergency responders in the event of a natural or human-caused public health emergency. Health messages from the CDC are distributed to each state which decides if and how to redistribute them locally. HAN messages which originate in New Mexico are in response to local conditions or events.

Health Alert Network (NM) – part of the CDC-funded national activity described above, the NM Health Alert Network (NMHAN) uses email, fax, page, and telephonic technologies to notify medical and emergency professionals of emergent situations affecting the public health. The NM HAN generates messages from the NM DOH to health care practitioners, emergency responders, DOH Staff and other affiliated professionals that contain important information for responding to a health emergency. Health messages, commonly known as Alerts, are meant to get needed information quickly to health professionals, and may originate from the CDC or New Mexico. The HAN is not a channel for distributing information to

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the general public. There are three levels of HAN messages: Alert (requires immediate action); Advisory (requires action some time in the future) and Update (no action required, for information only).

Health Update – see under Health Alert Network (NM)

HHS - Department of Health and Human Services (US)

HICS - Hospital Incident Command System

High-Hazard Areas – geographic locations that for planning purposes have been determined through historical experience and vulnerability analysis to be likely to experience the effects of a specific hazard (e.g., hurricane, earthquake, hazardous materials accident, etc.) resulting in vast property damage and loss of life.

HIPAA – Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act

HMRU - Hazardous Materials Response Unit (FBI)

HPV – Health Professional Volunteers

HRSA – Health Resources and Services Administration – An agency of the USPHS within the federal Department of Health and Human Services.

HSD - Human Services Department (NM)

HSEEP – Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program

HSPD – Homeland Security Presidential Directive

## I

ICU – Intensive Care Unit

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

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

Infrastructure - An underlying base or foundation especially for an organizational system

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

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

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

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

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

Infection – the entry and development (of many parasites) or multiplication of an infectious agent in the body of persons or animals. Infection is not synonymous with infectious disease; the result may be unapparent or manifest.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Initial Action** – the actions taken by those responders first to arrive at an incident site.

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

**Isolation** – physical separation for possible medical care of persons who are infected or who are reasonably believed to be infected or who are reasonably believed to be infected with a threatening communicable disease or potential threatening communicable disease from non-isolated persons, to protect against the transmission of the threatening communicable disease to non-isolated persons.

## J, K

**JC** – Joint Commission (once used the acronym JCAHO and was called Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations)

**JTTF** – Joint Terrorism Task Force (FBI)

**Jurisdiction** – a range or sphere of authority. Public agencies have jurisdiction at an incident related to their legal responsibilities and authority. Jurisdictional authority at an incident can be political or geographical (e.g., city, county, tribal, State, or Federal boundary lines) or functional (e.g., law enforcement, public health). (See Multijurisdiction.)

**Just in time training** - Provides person with information needed for doing a job when and where it is required. The information is presented in a format that ensures fast understanding

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

## L

Laboratory Biosafety Levels – four biosafety levels for activities involving infectious microorganisms and laboratory animals. BSL 1 - suitable for work involving well-characterized agents not known to consistently cause disease in healthy adult humans, and of minimal potential hazard to laboratory personnel and the environment. BSL 2 – similar to BSL 1 and is suitable for work involving agents of moderate potential hazard to personnel and the environment. BSL 3 – applicable to clinical, diagnostic, teaching, research, or production facilities in which work is done with indigenous or exotic agents which may cause serious or potentially lethal disease as a result of exposure by the inhalation route. BSL 4 – required for work with dangerous and exotic agents that pose a high individual risk of aerosol-transmitted laboratory infections and life-threatening disease.

Laboratory Levels (A, B, C, D) – a system for classifying laboratories by their capabilities. Classifications are: A - routine clinical testing. Includes independent clinical labs and those at universities and community hospitals; B - more specialized capabilities. Includes many state and local public health laboratories; C - more sophisticated public health labs and reference labs such as those run by CDC; and D - possessing sophisticated containment equipment and expertise to deal with the most dangerous, virulent pathogens and includes only CDC and Department of Defense labs, the FBI, and the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases.

Lead Agency – see *Primary Agency*

LEM – Local Emergency Manager

LEPC – Local Emergency Planning Committee

LFA – Lead Federal Agency

Liaison – a form of communication for establishing and maintaining mutual understanding and cooperation.

LIMS – Laboratory Information Management System

LMS – Learning Management System

Local Government – a county, municipality, city, town, township, local public authority, school district, special district, intrastate district, council of governments (regardless of whether the council of governments is incorporated as a nonprofit corporation under State law), regional or interstate government entity, or agency or instrumentality of a local government; an Indian tribe or authorized tribal organization, or in Alaska a Native village or Alaska Regional Native Corporation; a rural community, unincorporated town or village, or other public entity. See Section 2 (10), Homeland Security Act of 2002, Pub. L. 107-296, 116 Stat. 2135 (2002).

Lowest-Observed-Adverse-Effect Level (LOAEL) – the lowest tested dose of a substance that has been reported to cause harmful (adverse) health effects in people or animals.

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

## M

Macule or Macula – a dermatological term that refers to an area of skin that differs in coloration from surrounding skin that is neither elevated above, nor depressed below, surrounding skin.

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

Management By Objectives – a management approach that involves a four-step process for achieving the incident goal. The Management by Objectives approach includes the following: establishing overarching objectives; developing and issuing assignments, plans, procedures, and protocols; establishing specific, measurable objectives for various incident management functional activities and directing efforts to fulfill them, in support of defined strategic objectives; and

documenting results to measure performance and facilitate corrective action.

Mass Care – the actions that are taken to protect evacuees and other disaster victims from the effects of the disaster. Activities include providing temporary shelter, food, clothing, and other essential life support needs to those people that have been displaced from their homes because of a disaster or threatened disaster.

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

Mechanical Ventilation - The use of a machine to assist in human respiratory effort.

Medical Countermeasures - include those drugs, biological products, and devices that meet the definitions of *qualified countermeasure* and *qualified pandemic or epidemic product* found in sections 319F-3 of the Public Health Service Act. See 42 USC 247d-7e. and which are used to prophylax, immunize, treat or otherwise assist individuals who have been infected during a pandemic or other public health emergency.

Medical Emergency - occurrence that results in sudden illness, injury and/or trauma causing medical conditions so acute and severe as to require immediate medical attention to prevent permanent damage to the health, other serious medical results, serious impairment to bodily function, serious and permanent lack of function of any bodily organ or part, or death. In general, a medical emergency is one that requires an individualized response to illness or injury. Examples of medical emergencies may include transportation or aviation accidents, explosions, accidents involving hazardous materials, and other incidents causing mass trauma. Public health emergencies can also be or evolve into medical emergencies. Likewise, medical emergencies can develop to an extent that they affect the population's health, and by definition, become public health emergencies. Response to medical emergencies will be led by local emergency management which will coordinate trauma, emergency medical, law, fire, and Hazmat personnel, and other resources, as required. When a medical emergency has exceeded the capacity of a local area and state and/or federal assets have been requested, the Department of Health will assist local and state emergency management in the response, consistent with its stated roles and responsibilities.

**Medical Monitoring** – a set of medical tests and physical exams specifically designed to evaluate whether an individual’s exposure could negatively affect that person’s health.

**Medical Reserve Corps** - a component of the Citizen Corps which coordinates volunteer health professionals, as well as other citizens with an interest in health issues, to provide ongoing support for community public health needs and resources during large-scale emergencies. Activities include assisting emergency response teams, providing care to victims with less serious injuries, and removing other burdens that inhibit the effectiveness of physicians and nurses.

**Medical surge capability** - The rapid expansion of the capacity and thus capability of the existing healthcare system in response to an event that results in increased need of personnel (clinical and non-clinical), support functions (laboratories and radiological), physical space (beds, alternate care facilities) and logistical support (clinical and non-clinical equipment and supplies). The capability applies to an event resulting in a number of types of patients that overwhelm the day-to-day acute-care medical capacity.

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

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

**Metabolism** – the conversion of fuel to generate energy; **Metabolite** – any product of metabolism.

**Metastasis** – the transfer of diseased cells and tissue from one organ or part to another one not directly connected with it, as in cancer.

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

chronic). MRLs should not be used as predictors of harmful (adverse) health effects.

Mitigation – the activities designed to reduce or eliminate risks to persons or property or to lessen the actual or potential effects or consequences of an incident. Mitigation measures may be implemented prior to, during, or after an incident. Mitigation measures are often informed by lessons learned from prior incidents. Mitigation involves ongoing actions to reduce exposure to, probability of, or potential loss from hazards. Measures may include zoning and building codes, floodplain buyouts, and analysis of hazard-related data to determine where it is safe to build or locate temporary facilities. Mitigation can include efforts to educate governments, businesses, and the public on measures they can take to reduce loss and injury.

MMRS – Metropolitan Medical Response System – (HHS) A program intended to increase cities' ability to respond to a terrorist attack by coordinating the efforts of local law enforcement, fire, hazmat, EMS, hospital, public health and other personnel. In New Mexico, there is an MMRS in Albuquerque, and in Doña Ana County that is shared with El Paso, Texas.

Mobilization – the process and procedures used by all organizations—Federal, State, local, and tribal—for activating, assembling, and transporting all resources that have been requested to respond to or support an incident.

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

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

Morbidity – sickness.

Moribund – dying; at the point of death.

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

MRC – Medical Reserve Corps

Multi-ethnicity - A group of individuals with varying cultural, linguistic, religious, behavioral or biological traits

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

Mutual Aid Agreement – written agreement between agencies and/or jurisdictions that they will assist one another on request, by furnishing personnel, equipment, and/or expertise in a specified manner.

## N

N95 – filtering characteristic of an effective mask, resistant to aerosol hazards.

NACCHO – National Association of City and County Health Officials

NARAC – National Atmospheric Release Advisory Center (DOE)

National – of a nationwide character, including the Federal, State, local, and tribal aspects of governance and polity.

National Disaster Medical System – a cooperative, asset-sharing partnership between the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Department of Defense. NDMS provides resources for meeting the continuity of care and mental health services requirements of the Emergency Support Function 8 in the Federal Response Plan.

National Incident Management System – a system mandated by HSPD-5 that provides a consistent nationwide approach for Federal, State, local, and tribal governments; the private-sector, and nongovernmental organizations to work effectively and efficiently together to prepare for, respond to, and recover from domestic incidents, regardless of cause, size, or complexity. To provide for

interoperability and compatibility among Federal, State, local, and tribal capabilities, the NIMS includes a core set of concepts, principles, and terminology. HSPD-5 identifies these as the ICS; multiagency coordination systems; training; identification and management of resources (including systems for classifying types of resources); qualification and certification; and the collection, tracking, and reporting of incident information and incident resources.

National Response Framework (*NRF*) - a guide to how the Nation conducts all-hazards response. It is built upon scalable, flexible, and adaptable coordinating structures to align key roles and responsibilities across the Nation, linking all levels of government, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector. It is intended to capture specific authorities and best practices for managing incidents that range from the serious but purely local, to large-scale terrorist attacks or catastrophic natural disasters.

National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) - a group formed under the direction of the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture to improve the coordination and effectiveness of wildland fire activities, and provide a forum to discuss, recommend appropriate action, or resolve issues and problems of substantive nature. The NWCG has been a primary supporter of ICS development and training.

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

NDMS – National Disaster Medical System (FEMA)

NDPO – National Domestic Preparedness Office (US)

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

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

NGB – National Guard Bureau

NIH – National Institutes of Health (HHS)

NIMH – National Institutes of Mental Health (US)

NIMS – National Incident Management System – the single all-hazard incident management system required by Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 that will govern the management of the National Response Plan. The National Incident Management System will replace the National Inter-Agency Incident Management System.

NMDA – New Mexico Department of Agriculture

NMDOC – New Mexico Department of Corrections

NMDOH – New Mexico Department of Health

NMDOT – New Mexico Department of Transportation

NMED – New Mexico Environment Department

NMLB - New Mexico Livestock Board

NM MEMS – New Mexico Modular Emergency Medical System  
([www.nmmems.com](http://www.nmmems.com))

NM MEMS Function – a strategy or intervention described in NM MEMS to be used by a local community in building medical surge capabilities  
([www.nmmem.com](http://www.nmmem.com)) to address overwhelming patient surge

NMRT – National Medical Response Team

NMservices – NM’s statewide workforce registry of volunteer healthcare professionals ([www.NMservices.org](http://www.NMservices.org))

NMsphere – NM’s Site for health emergency training and education  
([www.NMsphere.org](http://www.NMsphere.org))

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

Nongovernmental Organization (NGO) – an entity with an association that is based on interests of its members, individuals, or institutions and that is not created by a government, but may work cooperatively with government. Such organizations serve a public purpose, not a private benefit. Examples of NGOs include faith-based charity organizations and the American Red Cross.

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

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

NRC – National Regulatory Commission (US)

NRT – National Response Team (US)

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

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

NWS – National Weather Service (US)

## O

OMI – Office of the Medical Investigator (NM)

OSE – Office of the State Engineer (NM)

OSHA – Occupational Safety and Health Administration (USDOL)

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

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

## P

PAPR – Positive Air Pressure Respirator

Papule – a small, circumscribed, solid elevation on the skin.

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

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

Passive Immunization – the protection of an individual against infectious disease by the injection of pre-formed immune factors. Passive immunity wanes as the injected immune factors are broken down over time. (Contrast with active immunization).

Pathogen – an agent or organism that can cause disease.

PCR – Polymerize chain reaction

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

PHD – Public Health Division (NMDOH)

PHEPRAC – Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Advisory Council; advisory body to New Mexico’s public health and health system preparedness programs.

PHERA – Public Health Emergency Response Act (NM)

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

PHTN – Public Health Training Network - the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's distance learning system that uses instructional media ranging from print-based to videotape and multimedia to meet the training needs of the public health workforce nationwide.

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

POD – Point of Dispensing site

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

ppb – parts per billion.

PPE – Personal Protective Equipment

ppm – parts per million

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

Preparedness – the range of deliberate, critical tasks and activities necessary to build, sustain, and improve the operational capability to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from domestic incidents. Preparedness is a continuous process. Preparedness involves efforts at all levels of government and between government and private-sector and nongovernmental organizations to identify threats, determine vulnerabilities, and identify required resources. Within the NIMS, preparedness is operationally focused on establishing guidelines, protocols, and standards for planning, training and exercises, personnel qualification and

certification, equipment certification, and publication management.

Preparedness Organizations – the groups and forums that provide interagency coordination for domestic incident management activities in a nonemergency context. Preparedness organizations can include all agencies with a role in incident management, for prevention, preparedness, response, or recovery activities. They represent a wide variety of committees, planning groups, and other organizations that meet and coordinate to ensure the proper level of planning, training, equipping, and other preparedness requirements within a jurisdiction or area.

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

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

Prevention (clinical) – actions that reduce exposure or other risks, keep people from getting sick, or keep disease from getting worse.

Prevention (emergency management) – actions to avoid an incident or to intervene to stop an incident from occurring. Prevention involves actions to protect lives and property. It involves applying intelligence and other information to a range of activities that may include such countermeasures as deterrence operations; heightened inspections; improved surveillance and security operations; investigations to determine the full nature and source of the threat; public health and agricultural surveillance and testing processes; immunizations, isolation, or quarantine; and, as appropriate, specific law enforcement operations aimed at deterring, preempting, interdicting, or disrupting illegal activity and apprehending potential perpetrators and bringing them to justice.

Primary Agency – A "Primary Agency" (sometimes mistakenly referred to as a "Lead Agency,") as used in the 2007 New Mexico All Hazards Emergency Operations Plan is that agency charged with a specific responsibility for an emergency function during a response. Assignment of primary agency is based around an agency's ongoing mission and statutory authority. It does not imply that a given agency is charged with the overall coordination or response in or to an emergency resulting from a specific cause. For example, in a mass casualty

incident, such as a large airliner crash, the coordination of the medical function aspects and mortuary needs of the response would be charged to the Department of Health as the Primary Agency for Annex 5 - Health Medical, and Mortuary. However, overall direction, control, and coordination of the incident is charged to the Department of Public Safety - OEM as the Primary Agency of Annex 1 - Direction and Control Likewise, coordination of additional transportation needs would be performed by the New Mexico Department of Transportation as the Primary Agency of Annex 8 - Transportation.

It is important to view the response to emergencies and disasters as a whole, and individual annexes of the Emergency Operations Plan as functions of the response. They cannot be considered individually or in isolation. Each plan builds on the others and all branch from the Basic Plan.

Private Sector – organizations and entities that are not part of any governmental structure. It includes for-profit and not-for-profit organizations, formal and informal structures, commerce and industry, and private voluntary organizations (PVO).

Processes – systems of operations that incorporate standardized procedures, methodologies, and functions necessary to provide resources effectively and efficiently. These include resource typing, resource ordering and tracking, and coordination.

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

Prophylaxis – early intervention before a condition is fully established.

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

Protocol - A set of standardized procedures, or a set of conventional principles and expectations that are considered binding, or a set of guidelines or rules that help in governing an operation

Public Health – organized efforts of society to protect, promote, and restore people's health. It is the combination of science, skills, and beliefs that is directed to the maintenance and improvement of the health of all the people through

collective or social actions. The programs, services and institutions involved emphasize the prevention of disease and the health needs of the population as a whole. Public health activities change with variations in technology and social values but the goals remain the same: to reduce the amount of disease, premature death, and disease-produced discomfort and disability in the population. Public health is thus a social institution, a discipline, and a practice.

**Public Health Advisory** – a statement made by ATSDR to EPA or a state regulatory agency that a release of hazardous substances poses an immediate threat to human health. The advisory includes recommended measures to reduce exposure and reduce the threat to human health.

**Public Health Emergency** - occurrence or imminent threat of exposure to an extremely dangerous condition or a highly infectious or toxic agent, including a communicable disease, that poses in imminent threat of substantial harm to the population, or any portion thereof. In general, a public health emergency is one that requires a population-based approach. Examples of public health emergencies may include a natural outbreak of an infectious disease, i.e., influenza, Hantavirus, meningitis, salmonella, etc., intentionally caused biological threats such as smallpox, anthrax, and some accidents involving hazardous materials that threaten the health of the population. Public health emergencies can also be or evolve into medical emergencies. Likewise, medical emergencies can develop to an extent that they affect the population's health, and by definition, become public health emergencies. Response to public health emergencies will be led by the Department of Health with assistance by local and State emergency management.

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

**Public Regulation Commission (NM)**

**Push Package** – a large shipment of medical supplies and pharmaceuticals sent from the Strategic National Stockpile to a state undergoing a catastrophic incident.

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

## Q

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

## R

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

Radiation Sickness – sickness resulting from excessive exposure of the body to ionizing radiation.

Radio Cache - a supply of radios stored in a pre-determined location for assignment to incidents.

Radiological Monitoring – the process of locating and measuring radiation by means of survey instruments that can detect and measure (as exposure rates) ionizing radiation.

Real-time communication - Communication that guarantees an immediate response time

Recovery – the development, coordination, and execution of service- and site-restoration plans; the reconstitution of government operations and services; individual, private-sector, nongovernmental, and public-assistance programs to provide housing and to promote restoration; long-term care and treatment of affected persons; additional measures for social, political, environmental, and economic restoration; evaluation of the incident to identify lessons learned; postincident reporting; and development of initiatives to mitigate the effects of future incidents.

Recovery Plan – a plan developed by a State, local, or tribal jurisdiction with

assistance from responding Federal agencies to restore the affected area.

Redundancy – Duplication or repetition of elements in electronic, equipment to provide alternative functional channels in case of failure

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

Report of a Disease – an official report notifying an appropriate authority of the occurrence of a specified communicable or other disease in humans or in animals.

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

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

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

Resources – personnel and major items of equipment, supplies, and facilities available or potentially available for assignment to incident operations and for which status is maintained. Resources are described by kind and type and may be used in operational support or supervisory capacities at an incident or at an EOC.

Response – activities that address the short-term, direct effects of an incident. Response includes immediate actions to save lives, protect property, and meet basic human needs. Response also includes the execution of emergency operations plans and of mitigation activities designed to limit the loss of life,

personal injury, property damage, and other unfavorable outcomes. As indicated by the situation, response activities include applying intelligence and other information to lessen the effects or consequences of an incident; increased security operations; continuing investigations into nature and source of the threat; ongoing public health and agricultural surveillance and testing processes; immunizations, isolation, or quarantine; and specific law enforcement operations aimed at preempting, interdicting, or disrupting illegal activity, and apprehending actual perpetrators and bringing them to justice.

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

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

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

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

Risk Comparison – the practice of comparing one risk to another in order to promote a better understanding of the nature and scope of the hazard.

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

RLD – Regulation and Licensing Department (NM)

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

## S

SAIC – Special Agent In Charge (FBI)

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

SAR – Search and Rescue

SARS– Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome

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

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

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

Sepsis – the poisoning of the system by the introduction of toxin producing microorganisms into the blood.

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

SHA – School Health Advocate (NMDOH)

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

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

SITREP – Situation Report

SLD – State Laboratory Division (NMDOH)

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

SMHA – School Mental Health Advocate (NMDOH)

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

SOG – Standard Operating Guidelines

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

SOP – Standard Operating Procedures

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

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

Special Populations See: At-Risk Populations

SPO – State Personnel Office (NM)

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

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

Standard of care - Legally and ethically, an acceptable “standard of care” requires that a health care provider (or health care system) exercise the education, training, skills and diligence that is reasonably expected of a health care provider (or health care system) practicing under the same or similar circumstances. This standard essentially means that a prudent health care provider should provide a reasonable

diagnostic and treatment process for the care of a certain type of patient, with a certain type of illness, under certain clinical circumstances, which include available resources.

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

START Triage - Simple Triage And Rapid Treatment/Transport is a rapid approach to triaging large number of casualties. START quickly distinguishes between critically ill victims and the less-severely injured. Following a specific algorithm, a first responder quickly assesses airway, respiration, pulse and level of consciousness to categorize a patient's condition. The categories are IMMEDIATE, DELAYED, MINOR, and DEAD/DYING.

State – when capitalized, refers to any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any possession of the United States. See Section 2 (14), Homeland Security Act of 2002, Pub. L. 107-296, 116 Stat. 2135 (2002).

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

Strategic – strategic elements of incident management are characterized by continuous long-term, high-level planning by organizations headed by elected or other senior officials. These elements involve the adoption of long-range goals and objectives, the setting of priorities; the establishment of budgets and other fiscal decisions, policy development, and the application of measures of performance or effectiveness.

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

**Surge Capacity** – the accommodation by the health system to a sudden increase in demand for health care following an incident with real or perceived adverse health effects. As neither the risk of surge nor the size of surge can be estimated, neither can surge capacity be estimated.

**Surge Endurance** – the ability measured in time on an organization to maintain at “surge capacity.”

**Surveillance** – the systematic ongoing collection, collation, and analysis of data and the timely dissemination of information to those who need to know so that action can be taken. Surveillance is the essential feature of epidemiological practice.

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

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

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

## T

**TANF** - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

**Task Force** – any combination of resources assembled to support a specific mission or operational need. All resource elements within a Task Force must have common communications and a designated leader.

Technical Assistance – support provided to State, local, and tribal jurisdictions when they have the resources but lack the complete knowledge and skills needed to perform a required activity (such as mobile-home park design and hazardous material assessments).

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

Terrorism – under the Homeland Security Act of 2002, terrorism is defined as activity that involves an act dangerous to human life or potentially destructive of critical infrastructure or key resources and is a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any State or other subdivision of the United States in which it occurs and is intended to intimidate or coerce the civilian population or influence a government or affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination, or kidnapping. See Section 2 (15), Homeland Security Act of 2002, Pub. L. 107-296, 116 Stat. 2135 (2002).

Threat – an indication of possible violence, harm, or danger.

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

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

Tools – those instruments and capabilities that allow for the professional performance of tasks, such as information systems, agreements, doctrine, capabilities, and legislative authorities.

Toxic Agent – poisonous agent.

Toxicant – poisonous substance.

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

Toxicological Profile – an Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) document that examines, summarizes, and interprets information about a hazardous substance to determine harmful levels of exposure and associated health effects. A toxicological profile also identifies significant gaps in knowledge on the substance and describes areas where further research is needed.

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

Toxins – toxic agents of organic origin.

TRACEM - acronym used to identify the six types of harm one may encounter at a terrorist incident: Thermal, Radioactive, Asphyxiation, Chemical, Etiological, and Mechanical.

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

Transmission Specific Precautions – infection control guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control in 1997 that collapse older categories of isolation precautions (Strict Isolation, Contact Isolation, Respiratory Isolation, Tuberculosis Isolation, Enteric Precaution, Drainage/Secretion Precaution, etc.), and older disease-specific precautions into three sets of precautions based on the routes of transmission: contact, droplet, and airborne. Transmission Specific Precautions are used in addition to Standard Precautions when caring for an individual with known, or suspected, infectious disease.

Transparent – readily understood, without filter or obstrufication

Triage – the rules based rationing of response to an incident. Neither the rationing rules of triage, nor when to implement triage, is implied by the concept of triage, but must be determined and stated separately.

Trigger - A mechanism that initiates an action when an event occurs

Tribal – any Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, including any Alaskan Native Village as defined in or established pursuant to the Alaskan Native Claims Settlement Act (85 stat. 688) [43 U.S.C.A. and 1601 et seq.], that is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians.

Tumor – an abnormal mass of tissue that results from excessive cell division or growth. Tumors perform no useful body function. Tumors can be either benign (not cancer) or malignant (cancer).

Type – a classification of resources in the ICS that refers to capability. Type 1 is generally considered to be more capable than Types 2, 3, or 4, respectively, because of size; power; capacity; or, in the case of incident management teams, experience and qualifications.

## U

US DHS – US Department Of Homeland Security

US DHHS – US Department of Health and Human Services

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

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

USDA - Department of Agriculture (US)

USFA – United States Fire Administration

USMBHC – United States-Mexico Border Health Commission

USPHS – United States Public Health Service (HHS)

USPS – United States Postal Service

US&R – Urban Search & Rescue

USSS – United States Secret Service

UV – ultraviolet

## V

VA – Veterans Affairs (US)

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

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

Varicella Virus – the virus of chicken pox.

Variola Virus – the virus of smallpox

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

Vesicle – blister

VIPS – Volunteers In Police Service

Vender managed inventory - Storage of material, generally held at the point of use, replenished by the vendor either at agreed intervals or monitored remotely.

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

Virus – the simplest type of microorganisms, lacking a system for their own metabolism. They depend on living cells to multiply and cannot live long outside of a host. Types of viruses include smallpox, Ebola, Marburg, and Lassa fever.

VOAD – Volunteer Organizations Assisting in Disaster

Vulnerable Populations - see: At-Risk Populations

## W

Warning – the alerting of emergency response personnel and the public to the threat of extraordinary danger and the related effects that specific hazards may cause.

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

Weapons-Grade Material – nuclear material considered most suitable for a nuclear weapon. It usually connotes uranium enriched to above 90 percent uranium-235 or plutonium with greater than about 90 percent plutonium-239.

WHO – World Health Organization

WMD – Weapons of Mass Destruction

## X, Y, Z

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



New Mexico Department Of Health  
All Hazard Incident Management Glossary

SOURCES

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ASTDR) Glossary  
<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/glossary.html>

Army Smallpox Acronym List  
<http://www.smallpox.army.mil/resource/SMAplan/doc/J1aResources.doc>

Center for Disease Control Environmental Chemical Glossary  
<http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/dls/report/PDF/CompleteReport.pdf>

EPA Risk Communication Toolkit Glossary  
[www.epa.gov/superfund/tools/pdfs/37riskcom.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/tools/pdfs/37riskcom.pdf)

New Mexico All Hazard Emergency Operations Plan (2007)  
<http://www.nmdhsem.org>

New Mexico Public Health Emergency Response Act (HB 231)  
<http://legis.state.nm.us>

New Mexico Statutes 1978 Annotated