



GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ICS-010-1

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This document contains information relative to the Incident Command System (ICS) component of the National Incident Management System (NIMS). This is the same Incident Command System developed by FIRESCOPE.

Additional information and documentation can be obtained from the following sources:

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29 CFR PART 1910.120.	29 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1910.120 is the Hazardous Waste operations and Emergency Response reference document as required by SARA. This document covers employees involved in certain hazardous waste operations and any emergency response to incidents involving hazardous situations. Federal OSHA enforces this code.
ACCESS CONTROL POINT	The point of entry and exit from the control zones. Regulates access to and from the work areas.
ACTION PLAN	(See Incident Action Plan.)
AGENCY	An agency is a division of government with a specific function, or a nongovernmental 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 Agency, Cooperating Agency, and Multi-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 from an assisting or cooperating agency who has been delegated authority to make decisions on matters affecting that agency's participation at the incident. Agency Representatives report to the Incident Liaison Officer.
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.
AIR TANKER	Any fixed wing aircraft certified by FAA as being capable of transport and delivery of fire retardant solutions.
AIR TRANSPORTABLE MOBILE WEATHER UNIT (ATMWU)	A weather data collection and forecasting unit consisting of seven modules, weighing a total of 355 pounds and occupying 34.2 cubic feet of space when transported. Used by a National Weather Service Fire Weather Forecaster.
ALLOCATED RESOURCES	Resources dispatched to an incident.
ALS (ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT)	Allowable procedures and techniques utilized by EMT-P and EMT-II personnel to stabilize critically sick and injured patient(s) which exceed Basic Life Support procedures.
ALS RESPONDER	Certified EMT-P or EMT-II.

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 Action Plan.
ASSISTANT	Title for subordinates of the Command Staff positions. The title indicates a level of technical capability, qualifications, and responsibility subordinate to the primary positions. Assistants may also be used to supervise unit activities at camps.
ASSISTING AGENCY	An agency directly contributing tactical or service resources to another agency.
AVAILABLE RESOURCES	Incident-based resources which are ready for deployment.
BASE	The location at which primary logistics functions for an incident are coordinated and administered. There is only one Base per incident. (Incident name or other designator will be added to the term Base.) The Incident Command Post may be co-located with the Base.
BASIC OPERATIONAL LEVEL	The Basic level represents the minimum capability to conduct safe and effective search and rescue operations at structure collapse incidents. Personnel at this level shall be competent at surface rescue that involves minimal removal of debris and building contents to extricate easily accessible victims from non-collapsed structures.
BASIC ROPE RESCUE	Rescue operations of a non-complex nature employing the use of ropes and accessory equipment.
BLS (BASIC LIFE SUPPORT)	Basic non-invasive first-aid procedures and techniques utilized by EMT-P, EMT-II, EMT-I, EMT-D and FIRST RESPONDER personnel to stabilize critically sick and injured patient(s).
BLS RESPONDER	Certified EMT-I or FIRST RESPONDER.
BRANCH	The organizational level having functional or geographic responsibility for major parts of incident operations. The Branch level is organizationally between Section and Division/Group in the Operations Section, and between Section and Units in the Logistics Section. Branches are identified by the use of Roman Numerals or by functional name (e.g., medical, security, etc.).
BRUSH PATROL	Any light, mobile unit, having limited pumping and water capacity.
CACHE	A pre-determined complement of tools, equipment, and/or supplies stored in a designated location, available for incident use.
CAMP	A geographical site, within the general incident area, separate from the Incident Base, equipped and staffed to provide sleeping, food, water, and sanitary services to incident personnel.

CHAIN OF COMMAND	A series of management positions in order of authority.
CHECK-IN	The process whereby resources first report to an incident. Check-in locations include: Incident Command Post (Resources Unit), Incident Base, Camps, Staging Areas, Helibases, Helispots, and Division Supervisors (for direct line assignments).
CHEMTREC	Chemical Transportation Emergency Center. A public service of the Chemical Manufacturers Association.
CHIEF	The ICS title for individuals responsible for command of functional sections: Operations, Planning, Logistics, and Finance/Administration.
CLEAR TEXT	The use of plain English in radio communications transmissions. No Ten Codes or agency specific codes are used when utilizing Clear Text.
COMMAND	The act of directing and/or controlling resources by virtue of explicit legal, agency, or delegated authority. May also refer to the Incident Commander.
COMMAND POST	(See Incident Command Post.)
COMMAND STAFF	The Command Staff consists of the Information Officer, Safety Officer, and Liaison Officer. They report directly to the Incident Commander. They may have an assistant or assistants, as needed.
COMMUNICATIONS UNIT	An organizational unit in the Logistics Section responsible for providing communication services at an incident. A Communications Unit may also be a facility (e.g., a trailer or mobile van) used to provide the major part of an Incident Communications Center.
COMPACTS	Formal working agreements among agencies to obtain mutual aid.
COMPANY	Any piece of equipment having a full complement of personnel.
COMPANY UNITY	A term to indicate that a fire company or unit shall remain together in a cohesive, identifiable working group, to ensure personnel accountability and the safety of all members. A company officer or unit leader shall be responsible for the adequate supervision, control, communication and safety of members of the company or unit.
COMPATIBILITY	The matching of Personal Protective Equipment to the hazardous materials involved in order to provide the best protection for the worker.
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.
COMPLEX	Two or more individual incidents located in the same general area that is assigned to a single Incident Commander or to Unified Command.
CONFINED SPACE RESCUE	Rescue operations in an enclosed area, with limited access/egress, not designed for human occupancy and has the potential for physical, chemical or atmospheric injury.
CONTAMINATION CONTROL LINE (CCL)	The established line around the Contamination Reduction Zone that separates the contamination Reduction Zone from the Support Zone.

CONTAMINATION REDUCTION CORRIDOR (CRC)	That area within the Contamination Reduction Zone where the actual decontamination is to take place. Exit from the Exclusion Zone is through the Contamination Reduction Corridor (CRC). The CRC will become contaminated as people and equipment pass through to the decontamination stations.
CONTAMINATION REDUCTION ZONE (CRZ)	That area between the Exclusion Zone and the Support Zone. This zone contains the Personnel Decontamination Station. This zone may require a lesser degree of personnel protection than the Exclusion Zone. This area separates the contaminated area from the clean area and acts as a buffer to reduce contamination of the clean area.
CONTROL ZONES	The geographical areas within the control lines set up at a hazardous materials incident. The three zones most commonly used are the Exclusion Zone, Contamination Reduction Zone and Support Zone.
COOPERATING AGENCY	An agency supplying assistance other than direct tactical or support functions or resources to the incident control effort (e.g., Red Cross, telephone company, etc.).
COORDINATION	The process of systematically analyzing a situation, developing relevant information, and informing appropriate command authority of viable alternatives for selection of the most effective combination of available resources to meet specific objectives. The coordination process (which can be either intra- or interagency) does not involve dispatch actions. However, personnel responsible for coordination may perform command or dispatch functions within the limits established by specific agency delegations, procedures, legal authority, etc.
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 oral between authorized agency and 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.
CREW	(See Single Resource.)
CREW TRANSPORT	Any vehicle capable of transporting personnel in specified numbers.
DAMAGE INSPECTION (DI)	This definition is being developed.
DECONTAMINATION (DECON)	That action that is required to physically remove or chemically change the contaminants from personnel and equipment.
DELAYED TREATMENT	Second priority in patient treatment. These people require aid, but injuries are less severe.

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY	A statement provided to the Incident Commander by the Agency Executive delegating authority and assigning responsibility. The Delegation of Authority can include objectives, priorities, expectations, constraints, and other considerations or guidelines as needed. Many agencies require written Delegation of Authority to be given to Incident Commanders prior to their assuming command on larger incidents.
DEMOBILIZATION UNIT	Functional unit within the Planning Section responsible for assuring orderly, safe, and efficient demobilization of incident resources.
DEPUTY	A fully qualified individual who, in the absence of a superior, could be delegated the authority to manage a functional operation or perform a specific task. In some cases, a Deputy could act as relief for a superior and therefore must be fully qualified in the position. Deputies can be assigned to the Incident Commander, General Staff, and Branch Directors.
DIRECTOR	The ICS title for individuals responsible for supervision of a Branch.
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. A Division is located within the ICS organization between the Branch and the Task Force/Strike Team (See Group). Divisions are identified by alphabetic characters for horizontal applications and, often, by floor numbers when used in buildings.
DOCUMENTATION UNIT	Functional unit within the Planning Section responsible for collecting, recording and safeguarding all documents relevant to the incident.
DOZER COMPANY	Any bulldozer with a complement of personnel.
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR/DIRECTOR	The individual within each political subdivision that has coordination responsibility for jurisdictional emergency management.
EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT)	A health-care specialist with particular skills and knowledge in pre-hospital emergency medicine.
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (EOC)	A pre-designated facility established by an agency or jurisdiction to coordinate the overall agency or jurisdictional response and support to an emergency.
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN	The plan that each jurisdiction has and maintains for responding to appropriate hazards.
EMERGENCY TRAFFIC	A term used to clear designated channels used at an incident to make way for important radio traffic for a firefighter emergency situation or an immediate change in tactical operations. NOTE: The term Mayday should not be used for fire ground communications that could cause confusion with the term used for aeronautical and nautical emergencies.
EMERGENCY TRAFFIC RADIO TONE	A distinctive tone used on designated channel(s) identified in a standard operating guideline.

EMT I (EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN-I)	An individual trained in Basic Life Support according to the standards prescribed by the Health and Safety Code and whom has a current and valid EMT-I certificate in the State of California issued pursuant to the Health and Safety Code.
EMT-D	An Emergency Medical Technician-I with training and certification in defibrillation.
EMT-II (EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN-II)	An individual with additional training in limited Advanced Life Support according to the standards prescribed by the Health and Safety Code and whom has a current and valid certificate issued pursuant to the Health and Safety Code.
EMT-P	An individual EMT-I or EMT-II who has received additional training in Advanced Life Support according to the Health and Safety Code and who has a current and valid county certificate issued pursuant to the Health and Safety Code; formerly Mobile Intensive Care Paramedics.
ENGINE COMPANY	Any ground vehicle providing specified levels of pumping, water, hose capacity and personnel.
ENVIRONMENTAL	Atmospheric, Hydrologic and Geologic media (air, water and soil).
EVACUATION	The removal of potentially endangered persons from an area threatened by a hazardous incident. Entry into the evacuation area should not require special protective equipment.
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.
EXCLUSION ZONE	That area immediately around the spill. That area where contamination does or could occur. The innermost of the three zones of a hazardous materials site. Special protection is required for all personnel while in this zone.
EXPANDED MEDICAL EMERGENCY	Any medical emergency which exceeds normal first response capabilities.
FACILITIES UNIT	Functional unit within the Support Branch of the Logistics Section that provides fixed facilities for the incident. These facilities may include the Incident Base, feeding areas, sleeping areas, sanitary facilities, etc.
FIELD OPERATIONS GUIDE	A pocket-size manual of instructions on the application of the Incident Command System.
FINANCE/ ADMINISTRATION SECTION	The Section responsible for all incident costs and financial considerations. Includes the Time Unit, Procurement Unit, Compensation/Claims Unit, and Cost Unit.
FIRST RESPONDER	Personnel who have responsibility to initially respond to emergencies such as firefighters, law enforcement, lifeguards, forestry, EMS, ambulance, and other public service personnel.
FLYCREW	A handcrew of predetermined size transported to an incident via helicopter.

FOOD DISPENSER	Any vehicle capable of dispensing food to incident personnel.
FOOD UNIT	Functional unit within the Service Branch of the Logistics Section responsible for providing meals for incident personnel.
FUEL TENDER	Any vehicle capable of supplying fuel to ground or airborne equipment.
FUNCTION	In ICS, function refers to the five major activities in ICS, i.e., Command, Operations, Planning, Logistics, and Finance/Administration. The term function is also used when describing the activity involved, e.g., the planning function.
GACC (Geographic Area Coordination Center)	This definition is being developed.
GENERAL STAFF	The group of incident management personnel reporting to the Incident Commander. They may each have a deputy, as needed. The General Staff consists of: Operations Section Chief Planning Section Chief Logistics Section Chief Finance/Administration Section Chief
GENERIC ICS	Refers to the description of the ICS that is generally applicable to any kind of incident or event.
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS)	A Geographic Information System (GIS) is an organized collection of computer hardware, software, geographic data, people, and methods designed to efficiently capture, store, update, analyze, and display all forms of geographically referenced information.
GROUND SUPPORT UNIT	Functional unit within the Support Branch of the Logistics Section responsible for the fueling, maintaining, and repairing of vehicles, and the transportation of personnel and supplies.
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.
HAND CREW	A number of individuals that have been organized and trained and are supervised principally for operational assignments on an incident.
HAZARDOUS CATEGORIZATION TEST (HAZ CAT)	A field analysis to determine the hazardous characteristics of an unknown material.
HAZARDOUS MATERIAL	Any material which is explosive, flammable, poisonous, corrosive, reactive, or radioactive, or any combination, and requires special care in handling because of the hazards it poses to public health, safety, and/or the environment.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS COMPANY	Any piece of equipment having the capabilities, PPE, equipment, and complement of personnel as specified in the Hazardous Materials Company Types and Minimum Standards found in the Field Operations Guide (ICS-420-1). The personnel complement shall include one member who is trained to a minimum level of Assistant Safety Officer – Hazardous Materials.
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENT	Uncontrolled, unlicensed release of hazardous materials during storage or use from a fixed facility or during transport outside a fixed facility that may impact the public health, safety and/or environment.
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TASK FORCE	A group of resources that includes at least one Hazardous Materials Company, with common communications and a leader. A Hazardous Materials Task Force may be pre-established and sent to an incident, or formed at the incident.
HEAVY EQUIPMENT TRANSPORT	Any ground vehicle capable of transporting a dozer.
HEAVY FLOOR CONSTRUCTION	Structures of this type are built utilizing cast-in-place concrete construction consisting of flat slab panel, waffle or two-way concrete slab assemblies. Pre-tensioned or post-tensioned reinforcing steel rebar or cable systems are common components for structural integrity. The vertical structural supports include integrated concrete columns, concrete enclosed or steel frame, which carry the load of all floor and roof assemblies. This type includes heavy timber construction that may use steel rods for reinforcing. Examples of this type of construction include offices, schools, apartments, hospitals, parking structures and multi-purpose facilities. Common heights vary from single story to high-rise structures.
HEAVY OPERATIONAL LEVEL	The Heavy Operational Level represents structure incidents involving the collapse or failure of reinforced concrete or steel frame construction and Confined Space Rescue operations.
HEAVY WALL CONSTRUCTION	Materials used for construction are generally heavy and utilize an interdependent structural or monolithic system. These types of materials and their assemblies tend to make the structural system inherently rigid. This construction type is usually built without a skeletal structural frame. It utilizes a heavy wall support and assembly system to provide support for the floors and roof assemblies. Occupancies utilizing tilt-up concrete construction are typically one to three stories in height and consist of multiple monolithic concrete wall panel assemblies. They also use an interdependent girder, column and beam system for providing lateral wall support of floor and roof assemblies. Occupancies typically include commercial, mercantile, industrial, and business. Other examples of this type of construction include reinforced and unreinforced masonry (URM) buildings typically of low-rise construction, one to six stories in height, of any type of occupancy.
HELIBASE	The main location for parking, fueling, maintenance, and loading of helicopters operating in support of an incident.
HELICOPTER TENDER	A ground service vehicle capable of supplying fuel and support equipment to helicopters.
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.

HELITACK CREW	A crew of 3 or more individuals who may be assigned to operations or to support helicopter operations.
HELITANKER	A helicopter equipped with a fixed tank, Air Tanker Board certified, capable of delivering a minimum of 1,100 gallons of water, retardant, or foam.
HIERARCHY OF COMMAND	(See Chain of Command.)
HOSPITAL ALERT SYSTEM	A communications system between medical facilities and on-incident medical personnel, which provides available hospital patient receiving capability and/or medical control.
HOSPITAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAMS	Prearranged hospital teams that respond to the incident upon request.
ICS NATIONAL TRAINING CURRICULUM	A series of 17 training modules consisting of instructor guides, visuals, tests, and student materials. The modules cover all aspects of ICS operations. The modules can be intermixed to meet specific training needs.
IMMEDIATE TREATMENT	A patient who requires rapid assessment and medical intervention for survival.
INCIDENT	An occurrence, either human caused or by natural phenomena, that requires action by emergency service personnel to prevent or minimize loss of life or damage to property and/or natural resources.
INCIDENT ACTION PLAN	Contains objectives reflecting the overall incident strategy, specific tactical actions and supporting information for the next operational period. The Plan may be oral or written. When written, the Plan may have a number of forms as attachments (e.g., traffic plan, safety plan, communications plan, map, etc.).
INCIDENT BASE	Location at the incident where the primary logistics functions are coordinated and administered. (Incident name or other designator will be added to the term Base.) The Incident Command Post may be co-located with the Base. There is only one Base per incident.
INCIDENT COMMAND POST (ICP)	The location at which the primary command functions are executed. The ICP may be co-located with the incident base or other incident facilities.
INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM (ICS)	A standardized on-scene emergency management concept specifically designed to allow its user(s) to adopt an integrated organizational structure equal to the complexity and demands of single or multiple incidents without being hindered by jurisdictional boundaries.
INCIDENT COMMANDER	The individual responsible for the management of all incident operations at the incident site.
INCIDENT COMMUNICATIONS CENTER	The location of the Communications Unit and the Message Center.
INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM	The Incident Commander, appropriate Command and General Staff personnel assigned to an incident.

INCIDENT OBJECTIVES	Statements of guidance and direction necessary for the selection of appropriate strategy(s), and the tactical direction of resources. Incident objectives are based on realistic expectations of what can be accomplished when all allocated resources have been effectively deployed. Incident objectives must be achievable and measurable, yet flexible enough to allow for strategic and tactical alternatives.
INCIDENT SUPPORT ORGANIZATION	Includes any off-incident support provided to an incident. Examples would be Agency Dispatch centers, Airports, Mobilization Centers, etc.
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.
INFRARED (IR)	A heat detection system used for fire detection, mapping and hot spot identification.
INITIAL ACTION	The actions taken by resources which are the first to arrive at an incident.
INITIAL RESPONSE	Resources initially committed to an incident.
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 or geographical (e.g., city, county, state, or federal boundary lines) or functional (e.g., police department, health department, etc.). (See Multijurisdiction.)
JURISDICTIONAL AGENCY	The agency having jurisdiction and responsibility for a specific geographical area, or a mandated function.
LANDING ZONE	(See Helispot.)
LCES CHECKLIST	In the wildland fire environment, Lookouts, Communications, Escape Routes, Safety Zones (LCES) is key to safe procedures for firefighters. The elements of LCES form a safety system used by firefighters to protect themselves. This system is put in place before fighting the fire: select a lookout or lookouts, set up a communication system, choose escape routes, and select a safety zone or zones.
LEADER	The ICS title for an individual responsible for a Task Force, Strike Team, or functional unit.
LIAISON OFFICER	A member of the Command Staff responsible for coordinating with representatives from cooperating and assisting agencies.
LIFE-SAFETY	Refers to the joint consideration of both the life and physical well being of individuals.

LIGHT FRAME CONSTRUCTION	Materials used for construction are generally lightweight and provide a high degree of structural flexibility to applied forces such as earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, etc. These structures are typically constructed with a skeletal structural frame system of wood or light gage steel components, which provide support to the floor or roof assemblies. Examples of this construction type are wood frame structures used for residential, multiple low rise occupancies and light commercial occupancies up to four stories in height. Light gage steel frame buildings include commercial business and light manufacturing occupancies and facilities.
LIGHT OPERATIONAL LEVEL	The Light level represents the minimum capability to conduct safe and effective search and rescue operations at structure collapse incidents involving the collapse or failure of light frame construction and basic rope rescue operations.
LOGISTICS SECTION	The Section responsible for providing facilities, services, and materials for the incident.
MAJOR MEDICAL EMERGENCY	Any emergency that would require the access of local mutual aid resources.
MANAGEMENT BY OBJECTIVES	In ICS, this is a top-down management activity that involves a three-step process to achieve the incident goal. The steps are: establishing the incident objectives, selection of appropriate strategy(s) to achieve the objectives, and the tactical direction associated with the selected strategy. Tactical direction includes: selection of tactics, selection of resources, resource assignments, and performance monitoring.
MANAGERS	Individuals within ICS organizational units that are assigned specific managerial responsibilities, e.g., Staging Area Manager or Camp Manager.
MAYDAY	An international distress signal. The term Mayday should not be used for fire ground communications that could cause confusion with the term used for aeronautical and nautical emergencies.
MEDICAL GROUP/DIVISION ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE	This is designed to provide the Incident Commander with a basic expandable system for handling patients in a multi-casualty incident.
MEDICAL SUPPLY CACHE	A cache consists of standardized medical supplies and equipment stored in a predetermined location for dispatch to incidents.
MEDICAL TEAM	Combinations of medical trained personnel who are responsible for on-scene patient treatment.
MEDICAL UNIT	Functional unit within the Service Branch of the Logistics Section responsible for the development of the Medical Emergency Plan, and for providing emergency medical treatment of incident personnel.
MEDIUM OPERATIONAL LEVEL	The Medium level represents the minimum capability to conduct safe and effective search and rescue operations at structure collapse incidents involving the collapse or failure of reinforced and unreinforced masonry (URM), concrete tilt-up and heavy timber construction.

MESSAGE CENTER	The Message Center is part of the Incident Communications Center and is co-located or placed adjacent to it. It receives, records, and routes information about resources reporting to the incident, resource status, and administrative and tactical traffic.
MICU (MOBILE INTENSIVE CARE UNIT)	Refers to a paramedic-equipped vehicle. It would include drugs, medications, cardiac monitors and telemetry, and other specialized emergency medical equipment.
MINOR TREATMENT	These patients' injuries require simple rudimentary first-aid.
MITIGATE	Any action employed to contain, reduce or eliminate the harmful effects of a spill or release of a hazardous substance.
MOBILIZATION	The process and procedures used by all organizations federal, state, and local for activating, assembling, and transporting all resources that have been requested to respond to or support an incident.
MOBILIZATION CENTER	An off-incident location at which emergency service personnel and equipment are temporarily located pending assignment, release, or reassignment.
MORGUE (TEMPORARY ON-INCIDENT)	Area Designated for temporary placement of the dead. The Morgue is the responsibility of the Coroner's Office when a Coroner's representative is on-scene.
MULTI-AGENCY COORDINATION (MAC)	A generalized term which describes the functions and activities of representatives of involved agencies and/or jurisdictions who come together to make decisions regarding the prioritizing of incidents, and the sharing and use of critical resources. The MAC organization is not a part of the on-scene ICS and is not involved in developing incident strategy or tactics.
MULTI-AGENCY COORDINATION SYSTEM (MACS)	The combination of personnel, facilities, equipment, procedures, and communications integrated into a common system. When activated, MACS has the responsibility for coordination of assisting agency resources and support in a multi-agency or multijurisdictional environment. A MAC Group functions within the MACS.
MULTI-AGENCY INCIDENT	An incident where one or more agencies assist a jurisdictional agency or agencies. May be single or unified command.
MULTI-CASUALTY	The combination of numbers of injured personnel and type of injuries going beyond capability of an entity's normal first response.
MULTIJURISDICTION 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.
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.
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.

OFFICER	The ICS title for the personnel responsible for the Command Staff positions of Safety, Liaison, and Information.
OPERATIONAL PERIOD	The period of time scheduled for execution of a given set of operational actions as specified in the Incident Action Plan. Operational Periods can be of various lengths, although not over 24 hours.
OPERATIONS COORDINATION CENTER (OCC)	Primary facility where Multi-Agency Coordination System operations occur. It houses the staff and equipment necessary to perform the MACS functions.
OPERATIONS SECTION	The Section responsible for all tactical operations at the incident. Includes Branches, Divisions and/or Groups, Task Forces, Strike Teams, Single Resources, and Staging Areas.
ORTHOPHOTO MAPS	Aerial photographs corrected to scale so that geographic measurements may be taken directly from the prints. They may contain graphically emphasized geographic features and may be provided with overlays of such features as: water systems, important facility locations, etc.
OUT-OF-SERVICE RESOURCES	Resources assigned to an incident but unable to respond for mechanical, rest, or personnel reasons.
OVERHEAD PERSONNEL	Personnel who are assigned to supervisory positions which include Incident Commander, Command Staff, General Staff, Directors, Supervisors, and Unit Leaders.
PATIENT TRANSPORTATION RECORDER	Responsible for recording pertinent information regarding off-incident transportation of patients. Supervised by the Patient Transportation Supervisor.
PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE).	That equipment and clothing required to shield or to isolate personnel from the chemical, physical, and biologic hazards that may be encountered at a hazardous materials incident.
PERSONNEL ACCOUNTABILITY	The ability to account for the location and welfare of personnel. It is accomplished when supervisors ensure that ICS principles and processes are functional and personnel are working within these guidelines.
PERSONNEL ACCOUNTABILITY REPORTS (PAR)	Personnel accountability reports of firefighters and companies assigned to an incident.
PLANNING MEETING	A meeting held as needed throughout the duration of an incident to select specific strategies and tactics for incident control operations, and for service and support planning. On larger incidents, the planning meeting is a major element in the development of the Incident Action Plan.
PLANNING SECTION	Responsible for the collection, evaluation, and dissemination of tactical information related to the incident, and for the preparation and documentation of Incident Action Plans. The Section also maintains information on the current and forecasted situation, and on the status of resources assigned to the incident. Includes the Situation, Resource, Documentation, and Demobilization Units, as well as the Technical Specialists.

PRE-CAST CONSTRUCTION	Structures of this type are built utilizing modular pre-cast concrete components that include floors, walls, columns and other sub-components that are field connected upon placement on site. Individual concrete components utilize imbedded steel reinforcing rods and welded wire mesh for structural integrity and may have either steel beam, or column or concrete framing systems utilized for the overall structural assembly and building enclosure. These structures rely on single or multi-point connections for floor and wall enclosure assembly and are a safety and operational concern during collapse operations. Examples of this type of construction include commercial, mercantile, office and multi-use or multi-function structures including parking structures and large occupancy facilities.
PROCUREMENT UNIT	Functional unit within the Finance/Administration Section responsible for financial matters involving vendor contracts.
QUALIFIED	A person meeting the certification and or requirements established by the agency that has jurisdiction over the incident.
RADIO CACHE	A supply of radios stored in a pre-determined location for assignment to incidents.
RAPID FORCE TECHNICAL SPECIALIST UNIT	Railroad Accident Prevention and Immediate Deployment Force Technical Specialist Unit provides on site technical assistance at large-scale hazardous material releases resulting from surface transportation accidents. The unit is comprised of technical specialists in the fields of Human Health Effects, Environmental Fate, Laboratory Services and Clean-up Technology.
RAPID INTERVENTION CREW/COMPANY (RIC)	A crew or company designated to stand-by in a state of readiness to perform a rescue effort of firefighters.
RECORDERS	Individuals within ICS organizational units who are responsible for recording information. Recorders may be found in Planning, Logistics, and Finance/ Administration Units.
REFUGE AREA	An area identified within the Exclusion Zone, if needed, for the assemblage of contaminated individuals in order to reduce the risk of further contamination or injury. The Refuge Area may provide for gross decontamination and triage.
REINFORCED ATTACK	Those resources requested in addition to the initial attack.
REINFORCED RESPONSE	Those resources requested in addition to the initial response.
REPORTING LOCATIONS	Location or facilities where incoming resources can check-in at the incident. (See Check-in.)
RESCUE	The removal of victims from an area determined to be contaminated or otherwise hazardous. Rescue shall be performed by emergency personnel using appropriate personal protective equipment.
RESOURCES	Personnel and equipment available, or potentially available, for assignment to incidents. Resources are described by kind and type, e.g., ground, water, air, etc., and may be used in tactical support or overhead capacities at an incident.

RESOURCES UNIT	Functional unit within the Planning Section responsible for recording the status of resources committed to the incident. The Unit also evaluates resources currently committed to the incident, the impact that additional responding resources will have on the incident, and anticipated resource needs.
RESPONDER REHABILITATION	Also known as “rehab”; resting and treatment of incident personnel who are suffering from the effects of strenuous work and/or extreme conditions.
SAFE REFUGE AREA (SRA)	An area within the Contamination Reduction Zone for the assemblage of individuals who are witnesses to the hazardous materials incident or who were on site at the time of the spill. This assemblage will provide for the separation of contaminated persons from non-contaminated persons.
SAFETY OFFICER	A member of the Command Staff responsible for monitoring and assessing safety hazards or unsafe situations, and for developing measures for ensuring personnel safety. The Safety Officer may have assistants.
SEARCH MARKING SYSTEM	A standardized marking system employed during and after the search of a structure for potential victims.
SECTION	That organizational level with responsibility for a major functional area of the incident, e.g., Operations, Planning, Logistics, Finance/Administration. The Section is organizationally between Branch and Incident Commander.
SEGMENT	A geographical area in which a task force/strike team leader or supervisor of a single resource is assigned authority and responsibility for the coordination of resources and implementation of planned tactics. A segment may be a portion of a division or an area inside or outside the perimeter of an incident. Segments are identified with Arabic numbers.
SEMS (STANDARDIZED EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM)	A system utilizing ICS principles including the five elements of Command, Operations, Planning, Logistics, and Finance/ Administration. SEMS is used in California at five levels: Field Response, Local Government, Operational Areas, Regions, and State.
SERVICE BRANCH	A Branch within the Logistics Section responsible for service activities at the incident. Includes the Communications, Medical, and Food Units.
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.
SITE	That area within the Contamination Reduction Control Line at a hazardous materials incident.
SITE SAFETY PLAN	An Emergency Response Plan describing the general safety procedures to be followed at an incident involving hazardous materials. This plan should be prepared in accordance with 29 CFR 1910.120 and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s “Standard Operating Safety Guides for Environmental Incidents (1984).”

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 of from three-to-seven individuals, with five-to-one being established as optimum.
STAGING AREA	Staging Areas are locations set up at an incident where resources can be placed while awaiting a tactical assignment. Staging Areas are managed by the Operations Section.
STANDBY MEMBERS	Two members/personnel who remain outside the hazard area during the "initial stages" of an incident. The standby members shall be responsible for maintaining a constant awareness of the number and identity of members operating in the hazardous area, their location and function, and time of entry. The standby members shall remain in radio, visual, voice or signal line communications with the team (NFPA 1500 6-4.4).
STANDING ORDERS	Policies and Procedures approved by the local EMS Agency for use by an EMT-II or EMT-P in situations where direct voice contact with a Base Hospital cannot be established or maintained.
START - S.T.A.R.T.	Acronym for Simple Triage And Rapid Transport. This is the initial triage system that has been adopted for use by the California Fire Chief's Association.
STATE/NATIONAL URBAN SEARCH & RESCUE (US&R) TASK FORCE	A 62-person team specifically trained and equipped for large or complex urban search and rescue operations. The multi-disciplinary organization provides five functional elements that include command, search, rescue, medical and technical. The US&R Task Force is designed to be used as a "single resource" and not disassembled to make use of individual task force elements.
STRATEGY	The general plan or direction selected to accomplish incident objectives.
STRIKE TEAM	Specified combinations of the same kind and type of resources, with common communications and a leader.
STRUCTURE/HAZARDS MARKING SYSTEM	A standardized marking system to identify structures in a specific area and any hazards found within or near the structure.
SUPERVISOR	The ICS title for individuals responsible for command of a Division or Group.
SUPPLY UNIT	Functional unit within the Support Branch of the Logistics Section responsible for ordering equipment and supplies required for incident operations.
SUPPORT BRANCH	A Branch within the Logistics Section responsible for providing personnel, equipment, and supplies to support incident operations. Includes the Supply, Facilities, and Ground Support Units.
SUPPORT RESOURCES	Non-tactical resources under the supervision of the Logistics, Planning, Finance/Administration Sections, or the Command Staff.

SUPPORT ZONE	The clean area outside of the Contamination Control Line. Equipment and personnel are not expected to become contaminated in this area. Special protective clothing is not required. This is the area where resources are assembled to support the hazardous materials operation.
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.
TACTICAL DIRECTION	Direction given by the Operations Section Chief which includes the tactics appropriate for the selected strategy, the selection and assignment of resources, tactics implementation, and performance monitoring for each operational period.
TACTICS	Deploying and directing resources on an incident to accomplish the objectives designated by strategy.
TASK FORCE	A combination of single resources assembled for a particular tactical need, with common communications and a leader.
TEAM	(See Single Resource.)
TECHNICAL SPECIALISTS	Personnel with special skills that can be used anywhere within the ICS organization.
TEMPORARY FLIGHT RESTRICTIONS (TFR)	Temporary airspace restrictions for non-emergency aircraft in the incident area. TFRs are established by the FAA to ensure aircraft safety, and are normally limited to a five-nautical-mile radius and 2000 feet in altitude.
TIME UNIT	Functional unit within the Finance/Administration Section responsible for recording time for incident personnel and hired equipment.
TRIAGE	The screening and classification of sick, wounded, or injured persons to determine priority needs in order to ensure the efficient use of medical personnel, equipment and facilities.
TRIAGE PERSONNEL	Responsible for triaging patients on-scene and assigning them to appropriate Treatment Areas.
TRIAGE TAG	A tag used by triage personnel to identify and document the patient's medical condition.
TYPE	Refers to resource capability. A Type I resource provides a greater overall capability due to power, size, capacity, etc., than would be found in a Type 2 resource. Resource typing provides managers with additional information in selecting the best resource for the task.
UNIFIED AREA COMMAND	A Unified Area Command is established when incidents under an Area Command are multijurisdictional. (See Area Command and Unified Command.)
UNIFIED COMMAND	In ICS, Unified Command is a unified team effort which allows all agencies with responsibility for the incident, either geographical or functional, to manage an incident by establishing a common set of incident objectives and strategies. This is accomplished without losing or abdicating agency authority, responsibility, or accountability.
UNIT	The organizational element having functional responsibility for a specific incident planning, logistics, or finance/administration activity.

UNIT	That organization element having functional responsibility for a specific incident planning, logistic, or finance activity.
UNITY OF COMMAND	The concept by which each person within an organization reports to one and only one designated person.
URBAN SEARCH & RESCUE (US&R) COMPANY	Any ground vehicle(s) providing a specified level of US&R operational capability, rescue equipment and personnel.
URBAN SEARCH & RESCUE (US&R) CREW	A pre-determined number of individuals that are supervised, organized, and trained principally for a specified level of US&R operational capability. They respond with <u>no</u> equipment and are used to relieve or increase the number of US&R personnel at the incident.
WATER TENDER	Any ground vehicle capable of transporting specified quantities of water.
WATERSHED REHABILITATION	Also known as “rehab”; restoration of watershed to as near as possible, its pre-incident condition, or to a condition where it can recover on its own.