

GLOSSARY

A

Abrasion The wearing away of any part of a material by rubbing against another surface.

AC blood agent hydrogen cyanide.

Acclimatization Process whereby worker is conditioned to work under high temperature and relative humidity; usually accomplished over a period of 6 days by gradually increasing work load and time of exposure to heat.

ACGIH American Conference of Government Industrial Hygienists; a private organization of occupational safety and health professionals; recommends occupational exposure limits for toxic substances; ACGIH limits are not legally enforceable.

ACP see Area contingency plan.

Acquired immune deficiency syndrome A communicable disease caused by human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Action plan see Incident action plan.

Acute As used regarding a disease, of short duration, usually with an abrupt onset; as used regarding an illness due to

chemical exposure, developing within a short time period (seconds, minutes, hours) after the exposure .

Administrative control Any administrative procedure, policy, or protocol that results in a reduction of risk to personnel.

Advanced life support Emergency medical treatment at an advanced level, usually provided by paramedics, and including use of drugs, cardiac monitoring/ intervention, and intravenous fluids.

Aerial torch An ignition device suspended under a helicopter, capable of dispensing ignited fuel to the ground for assistance in burnout or backfiring.

Afterflame time The length of time for which a material (fabric) continues to flame after the ignition source has been removed.

Afterglow Glow that persists in the material after the removal of an external ignition source or after the cessation (natural or induced) of flaming of the material.

AHE Acute hazardous event.

AIDS see Acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

AIDS related complex An outdated term used to describe symptoms of HIV infection in patients who have not developed AIDS. These include fatigue, diarrhea, night sweats, and enlarged lymph nodes. ARC is not included in the current Centers for Disease Control classification of HIV Infection.

Airborne pathogen Pathologic microorganism spread by droplets expelled into the air, typically through a productive cough or sneeze.

Air permeability The rate of air flow through a material under a differential pressure between two fabric surfaces.

Air tanker Any fixed wing aircraft certified by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration as being capable of transport and delivery of fire retardant solutions.

Alarm signal An identifiable audible warning that indicates that a fire fighter is in need of assistance.

Allocated resources Resources dispatched to an incident.

Alpha radiation The least penetrating type of nuclear radiation; not considered dangerous unless alpha-contaminated particles enter the body (e.g., through inhalation); indistinguishable from the nucleus of helium atom (2 protons and 2 neutrons).

ALS see Advanced life support.

Alternative response technology Response method or technique other than mechanical containment or recovery; may include use of chemical dispersants, *in-situ* burning, bioremediation, or other alternatives.

Ambient concentration The concentration of a chemical or material

(e.g., dust, vapor, mist) in a volume of air or water.

Amniotic fluid The watery fluid that surrounds the fetus or unborn child in the uterus.

Annunciator The device of a PASS unit designed to emit the alarm signal.

ANSI American National Standards Institute.

Anthrax Contagious disease of warm-blooded animals caused by *Bacillus anthracis* bacterium; characterized by fever, prostration, malignant pustules on exposed skin, and internal hemorrhage.

Antibody A component of the immune system that eliminates or counteracts a foreign substance (antigen) in the body.

Antibody positive The result of a test or series of tests to detect antibodies in blood; a positive result means that a particular antibody is present.

Antigen A foreign substance (including pathogens) that stimulates the production of antibodies in the immune system.

Antiviral drug A drug that can interfere with the life cycle of a virus.

APELL see Awareness and preparedness for emergencies at local level.

Approach clothing Protective clothing designed to provide protection from radiant heat.

ARC see AIDS related complex.

Area command In ICS, 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.

Area committee In the U.S., committee appointed by the President for each national area that is designated by the President under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990.

Area contingency plan An incident response plan prepared, under authority of the U.S. Oil Pollution Act of 1990, by a presidentially designated Area Committee, to be implemented in conjunction with the National Contingency Plan to remove a worst case discharge, and to mitigate or prevent a substantial threat of such a discharge, from a vessel, offshore facility, or onshore facility operating in or near the affected area.

Area of probability Limited area where a lost object or person is most likely to be found.

ARIP Accidental release information program.

ART see Alternative response technology.

Asphyxiant Any vapor that can displace air and thereby cause suffocation.

Aspiration hazard The danger of drawing a fluid into the lungs and causing an inflammatory response to occur.

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.

Assisting agency In ICS, any agency or organization that directly participates (i.e., provides tactical or service resources) in the emergency response effort; a wide range of different agencies may provide such assistance in a multijurisdiction or multiagency incident.

ASTM American Society for Testing and Materials.

Asymptomatic Having a disease-causing agent in the body but showing no outward signs of disease.

Asymptomatic HIV seropositive The condition of testing positive for HIV antibody without showing any symptoms of the disease; a person who is HIV-positive, even without symptoms, is capable of transmitting the virus to others.

Audiogram Hearing test to determine normal hearing capacity of individual.

Autoignition temperature The lowest temperature at which combustion occurs in the bulk gas in a heated gas-air mixture.

Available resources Incident-based resources that are ready for deployment.

Awareness and preparedness for emergencies at local level A process for responding to technological accidents; a component of the United Nations Environmental Program.

AZT The first FDA-approved drug used to treat AIDS.

B

Bacterium A type of microorganism; some can produce disease in a suitable host. Bacteria can self-reproduce, and some forms may produce toxins harmful to their host.

Base In ICS, the location at which primary logistics functions for an incident are coordinated and administered; there is only one Base per incident; the incident command post may be collocated with the base.

Baseline audiogram An audiogram performed to determine normal hearing capacity in the absence of any work-related hearing impairment; used to compare with results of subsequent audiograms and thereby determine any development of hearing impairment.

Basic life support Emergency medical treatment at a level authorized to be performed by emergency medical technicians as defined by the medical authority having jurisdiction; generally refers to treatment provided at EMT-A level.

BATF Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (U.S.).

Beta radiation A type of nuclear radiation (fast moving electrons) that is more penetrating than alpha radiation and can damage skin tissue and harm internal organs.

Binary device Any CW device composed of two or more chemical components (i.e., precursors) that, when mixed, produce a toxic gas or liquid; mixing may be accomplished by a wide range of mechanical or electrical forces.

Biological agents Living organisms, or the materials derived from them, that cause disease in (or harm) humans, animals, or plants, or cause deterioration of materials. 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.

Bioremediation Technology in which living organisms (e.g., bacteria, yeasts) are used to effect chemical changes in hazardous chemicals; can be used in both water and soil.

Bleve A boiling liquid expanding vapor explosion, with the sudden release and ignition of a great mass of pressurized liquid into the atmosphere.

Blister agent A chemical agent (also called a vesicant) which causes severe blistering and burns to eyes, skin, and tissues of the respiratory tract; exposure is through liquid or vapor contact; also referred to as mustard agents (e.g., mustard, lewisite).

Blizzard warning Condition of alert that severe winter weather with sustained winds of at least 35 mph is expected.

Blood agent A chemical agent that interferes with the ability of blood to transport oxygen and causes asphyxiation (e.g., hydrogen cyanide, cyanogen chloride).

BLS see Basic life support.

Bloodborne pathogen Pathologic microorganisms that are present in human blood and that can cause disease in humans; the term "blood" includes blood, blood components, and products made from human blood.

Boat-directed search Offshore search pattern that is surface-directed by tender in boat with on board safety diver equipped and standing by.

Body fluid Fluid that has been recognized by the U.S. Center for Disease Control as directly linked to the transmission of HIV and/or HBV and/or to which universal precautions apply; includes blood, semen, blood products, vaginal secretions, cerebrospinal fluid, synovial fluid,

pericardial fluid, amniotic fluid, and concentrated HIV or HBV viruses.

Body substance isolation An infection control strategy that considers all body substances potentially infectious; more stringent than universal precautions, the strategy used to control exposure to bloodborne pathogens.

Boiling point The temperature at which a liquid's vapor pressure equals the atmospheric pressure, resulting in rapid vaporization of the liquid.

Botulin toxin Extremely potent toxin typically associated with food poisoning; produced by *Clostridium botulinum* bacterium; infection is characterized by disturbances in vision, speech, and swallowing and, within a few days, paralysis of respiratory muscles and death by suffocation.

Branch The organizational level (in ICS) 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).

Breathability The capacity of a material to allow air permeability and water vapor transmission.

BSI see Body substance isolation.

Bubonic plague Contagious, often fatal epidemic disease caused by *Yersinia pestis* bacterium; transmitted from person to person by the bite of fleas from an infected host, especially a rat; characterized by chills, fever, vomiting, diarrhea, and the formation of buboes (swellings of lymph nodes).

Bursting strength The force or pressure required to rupture a textile by expanding it with a force applied perpendicular to the fabric surface.

BW Biological warfare.

C

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

CAER Community awareness and emergency response.

CAMEO Computer-aided management of emergency operations; a suite of programs developed by U.S. EPA and NIOSH for management of chemical incidents.

Camp In ICS, 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.

Carcinogen Any material that causes cancer.

Carpal tunnel syndrome Entrapment of the median nerve of the hand and wrist in the tunnel through the carpal bones of the wrist; symptoms include finger numbness and pain upon gripping.

Carrier A person who apparently is healthy, but who is infected with some disease-causing organism that can be transmitted to another person.

Carries Means of moving a drowning victim, under control of the rescuer, to a place of safety.

CAS Chemical abstract service; an organization operated by the American

Chemical Society that indexes information about chemicals.

Catalyst A substance that promotes or increases the rate of a chemical reaction, but is not a reactant and is not consumed by the reaction.

Catastrophic release A major uncontrolled emission, fire, or explosion, involving one or more highly hazardous chemicals.

Cause-consequence analysis A hazard analysis method that combines fault tree and event tree analyses, displaying the relationships between the accident's consequences (modeled by event tree analysis) and their basic causes (modeled by fault tree analysis).

CBW Chemical/biological warfare.

CDC see Centers for Disease Control.

Center punch Device for breaking side and rear windows of a vehicle.

Centers for Disease Control A branch of the U.S. Public Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services, concerned with communicable disease tracking and control.

CEPP Chemical emergency preparedness program.

CERCLA Comprehensive Emergency Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (U.S.).

CFR U.S. Code of Federal Regulations.

Chain of command A series of management positions in order of authority.

Char length The distance a material burns after being exposed to a flame as measured using a weight to tear the materials; specifically, the distance the

material tears along the burned area is the char length.

Charring The formation of carbonaceous residue as the result of pyrolysis or incomplete combustion.

Check-in In ICS, 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).

Checklist analysis A hazard evaluation method that uses written lists of design or operational features as a guide in assessing the process safety status of a system; can be generic in scope or specific to a type of process.

Chelation Decontamination method involving the addition of chemical reagents that tightly bind with the target contaminant; can effectively reduce the chemical dynamics of the contaminant and/or facilitate its removal.

Chemical agent Any of five classes of chemicals that produce incapacitation, serious injury, or death, including: nerve agents, blister agents, blood agents, choking agents, and irritating agents.

Chemical asphyxiant Known also as blood agents or blood poisons, these chemicals interrupt the flow of oxygen in the blood or the tissues in any of three ways: (a) react more readily than oxygen with the blood (e.g., carbon monoxide), (b) liberate the hemoglobin from red blood cells, resulting in a lack of oxygen transport, (c) cause a malfunction in the oxygen-carrying capacity of red blood cells (e.g., benzene and toluene).

Chemical penetration The bulk flow of a liquid chemical through seams, closures,

and openings or pores and imperfection in a clothing material.

Chemical process quantitative risk analysis A numerical evaluation of overall risk from a chemical process that combines consideration of both incident consequences and incident probabilities.

CHEMTREC Chemical Transportation Emergency Center; a nationwide service established by the Chemical Manufacturers Association to relay emergency information concerning specific chemicals that have been involved in a transportation emergency.

Cholera Infectious disease of the small intestine caused by *Vibrio cholerae* bacterium; characterized by profuse watery diarrhea, vomiting, muscle cramps, severe dehydration, and depletion of electrolytes.

Chicken pox A highly communicable disease caused by a herpes virus; no vaccine presently available; commonly occurs in childhood.

Chief The ICS title for individuals responsible for command of functional sections: operations, planning, logistics, and finance/administration.

Choking agent A chemical agent (e.g., chlorine, phosgene) that causes physical injury to the lungs; in extreme cases, membranes swell and lungs become filled with liquid, which can result in asphyxiation.

Chronic As used regarding a disease, of long duration or recurring often; as used regarding an illness due to chemical exposure, developing within a long time period (years, decades) after the exposure.

Chronic carrier A person who is a long-term carrier of a disease, whether or not that person shows any symptoms of that disease; in the case of a communicable

disease, often used to denote persons who can serve as the source of infection for other persons.

Circular pattern Circular or semi-circular search pattern of area of probability when datum point is known.

CISD see Critical incident stress debriefing.

Cleaning The physical removal of dirt and debris.

Cleaning shrinkage The change in dimension of a fabric specimen after exposure to a specified cleaning process.

Clear text The use of plain English in radio communications transmissions; no ten codes or agency-specific codes are used when utilizing clear text.

Closed-circuit SCBA A recirculation-type SCBA in which the exhaled gas is rebreathed by the wearer after the carbon dioxide has been removed from the exhalation gas and the oxygen content within the system has been restored from sources such as compressed breathing gas, chemical oxygen, liquid oxygen, or compressed gaseous oxygen.

Clostridian toxin Potent toxin produced by the bacterium *Clostridium perfringens*, the causative agent of gas gangrene; characterized by slow asphyxiation and subsequent necrosis (cellular death) of living tissue.

CMV see Cytomegalovirus.

CNS Central nervous system (brain and spinal cord).

Colorfastness The ability of a material to retain the same color following exposure to specific physical or environmental conditions.

Combustible Any material that burns when subjected to a temperature greater than 100°F and below 200°F.

Combustion A chemical process of oxidation that occurs at a rate fast enough to produce heat and usually light in the form of either flames or glow.

Command post see Incident command post.

Command staff In ICS, the command staff consists of the information officer, safety officer, and liaison officer, who report directly to the incident commander; in minor incidents, the incident commander may choose not to establish a separate command staff, in which case these functions become the responsibility of the incident commander.

Communicable disease A disease that can be transmitted from one person to another; also known as contagious disease.

Compliance audit A documented evaluation and assessment of a facility's compliance with regulatory provisions.

Composite The layer or combination of layers for a protective clothing item.

Compressed breathing gas Oxygen or a respirable gas mixture stored in a compressed state and supplied to the user in gaseous form.

Conduction For thermal protection, refers to heat transfer through a material by direct contact with another material or surface.

Confined space An enclosed space large enough for a person to enter and perform work but which has restricted means of entry and exit (e.g., tanks, vessels, vaults).

Consequence management As described in (U.S.) Presidential Decision Directive 39, the response to a terrorist

incident, with focus on the alleviation of damage, loss, hardship, or suffering; the Federal Emergency Management Agency is the lead agency for consequence management.

Contaminant A substance or microbial organism that poses a threat to human health or life or to the environment.

Contamination reduction corridor Designated area of hazardous waste site within the contamination reduction zone (CRZ) where decontamination procedures are performed.

Contamination reduction zone At a hazardous waste site, the transition area between the contaminated area and the clean area.

Contraindicated In reference to any medicine or vaccine, determined to be actually counterproductive to health and well being in certain circumstances.

Convection For thermal protection, refers to heat transfer through a material by air transmission.

Cooperating agency In ICS, any agency or organization that, though not directly participating in the response effort, becomes involved in the incident to provide key services (e.g., Red Cross, Red Crescent)

Corrosive Any material that chemically burns living tissue on contact; may be either an acid or a base (alkali).

CPQRA see Chemical process quantitative risk analysis.

CPR Cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

CRC see Contamination reduction corridor.

Crisis management As described in (U.S.) Presidential Decision Directive 39, the response to a terrorist incident, with focus on the criminal aspects of the incident; the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is the lead agency in crisis management.

Critical equipment Chemical process equipment that is deemed to be critical to process safety.

Critical incident Any event, circumstance, or condition that overwhelms an individual's capacity to cope; an extreme situation that causes significant and potentially long-lasting psychological effects.

Critical incident stress Stress resulting from the experience of a critical incident and having the potential to cause significant behavioral, cognitive, emotional, and physical changes in the individual who experiences the stress.

Critical incident stress debriefing Stress reduction processes designed to address the special needs of emergency response personnel in dealing with situations that cause strong emotional reactions or interfere with the ability to function.

Critical operating parameter A parameter that indicates imminent approach of a major process hazard when a certain measurable level of that parameter is exceeded.

Cumulative stress disorder The cumulative wear and tear of joints and associated tissue due to mechanical injury to muscle, nerve, tendon, and/or bone tissue; also called cumulative trauma disorder.

CRZ see Contamination reduction zone.

CSD see Critical stress disorder.

Cut resistance The capacity of a material to prevent cut-through by a sharp-edged blade.

CW Chemical warfare.

CX Choking agent phosgene oxide.

Cyalume Chemical light stick attached to buoyancy compensator by lanyard; to be activated and displayed on all night operations.

Cytomegalovirus A viral infection that may occur without any symptoms or result in mild flue-like symptoms; severe CMV infections can result in hepatitis, mononucleosis, or pneumonia; CMV is shed in body fluids (urine, semen, sputum, and saliva); in the presence of immune deficiency, such as AIDS, it can also affect other internal organs and vision, sometimes leading to blindness.

D

Datum point Last known position of lost object or person.

Debilitating illness (or injury) A condition that temporarily or permanently prevents a person from engaging in normal work or activities.

Decibel The unit of measurement (dB) used to express sound levels.

Decontamination The physical and/or chemical process of reducing and preventing the spread of contamination from contaminated persons or equipment.

Deflagration A chemical reaction where the reaction or flame front travels at less than sonic velocity.

Delta hepatitis see Hepatitis D.

Demand SCBA see Negative pressure SCBA.

Dermal Pertaining to the skin.

Detoxification Decontamination method that involves a chemically, physically, or biologically mediated change in either the molecular structure of a contaminant molecule or the molecular dynamics (e.g., acidity, alkalinity) in which the contaminant plays a role; used to reduce the hazard associated with a contaminant.

Diphtheric toxin Potent toxin produced by the bacterium *Corynebacterium diphtheriae*, which causes tissue destruction and the formation of a gray membrane in the upper respiratory tract that can detach to cause asphyxiation; toxin may also enter into blood and subsequently damage tissues elsewhere in the body.

Direct disease transmission The transmission of a disease from one person to another due to direct contact with infected blood, body fluids, or other infectious materials.

Disease An alteration of health, with a characteristic set of symptoms, which may affect the entire body or specific organs; diseases have a variety of causes and are known as infectious diseases when they are due to pathogenic microorganisms such as bacteria, viruses, or fungi.

Disease vector An organism (e.g., mosquito, tick) that plays an intermediary role in the transmission of a pathogenic organism from an infected person to a noninfected person.

Disinfection A procedure that inactivates virtually all recognized pathogenic microorganisms, but not necessarily all microbial forms (e.g., bacterial endospores) on inanimate objects.

Dispatch center In ICS, a facility from which resources are directly assigned to an incident.

Dispersant A chemical agent used to break up concentrations of a hazardous material (e.g., oil spill).

Dispersion model A quantitative model (usually computerized) that is used to make predictions concerning the spatial distance traversed by and the changing concentration of a volume of a chemical or material released into either air or water.

Division In ICS, divisions are used to divide an incident into geographical areas of operation; a division is located between the branch and the task force/strike team; divisions are identified by alphabetic characters for horizontal applications and, often, by floor numbers when used in buildings.

Documentation unit In ICS, functional unit within the planning section responsible for collecting, recording, and safeguarding all documents relevant to the incident.

Dose The amount of a chemical that enters into the body relative to the weight of that body; usually measured in terms of milligrams (of chemical) per kilogram (of body weight).

Dose—effect see Dose—response.

Dose—response The direct mathematical relationship between the dose of a chemical administered to an individual or group and the probability that the individual or group will experience a defined response (effect) to the chemical.

DOT U.S. Department of Transportation.

DWW Dangerous when wet.

E

EAP see Member assistance program.

EC₅₀ Effective concentration of a chemical (in ambient air or water) for 50% of the

population (or the ambient concentration that presents an individual with a 0.5 probability of experiencing the defined effect).

ED₅₀ Effective dose of a chemical for 50% of the population (or the dose that presents an individual with a 0.5 probability of experiencing the defined effect).

ELISA see Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay.

Emergency management coordinator/director The individual within each political subdivision that has coordination responsibility for jurisdictional emergency management.

Emergency medical care The provision of treatment to patients, including first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, basic life support (EMT level), advanced life support (paramedic level), and other medical procedures that occur prior to arrival at a hospital or other health care facility.

Emergency medical operations Delivery of emergency medical care and transportation prior to arrival at a hospital or other health care facility.

EMS see Emergency medical service.

Emergency medical services A group, department, or agency that is trained and equipped to respond in an organized manner to any emergency situation where there is the potential need for the delivery of pre-hospital emergency medical care and/or transportation; EMS can be provided by fire department, private, third service, or hospital-based systems or any combination thereof.

EMT see Emergency medical technician.

Emergency medical technician A health-care specialist with particular skills

and knowledge in pre-hospital emergency medicine.

Emergency operations center A predesignated facility established by an agency or jurisdiction to coordinate the overall agency or jurisdictional response and support to an emergency.

Emergency operations plan A document that (a) assigns responsibility to organizations and individuals for carrying out specific actions at projected times and places in an emergency that exceeds the capability or routine responsibility of any one agency; (b) sets forth lines of authority and organizational relationships, and shows how all actions will be coordinated; (c) describes how people and property will be protected in emergencies and disasters; (d) identifies personnel, equipment, facilities, supplies, and other resources available for use during response and recovery operations; and (e) identifies steps to address mitigation concerns during response and recovery activities.

End-of-service-time indicator A warning device on a SCBA that warns the user that the end of the service time of the SCBA is approaching.

Endothermic A chemical reaction that requires the addition of heat.

Engineering control Any method of controlling exposure to a hazard by modifying the physical space in which the hazard is contained (e.g., barrier, ventilation).

Enteric precautions A system of precautions to prevent transmission of disease by the oral/fecal route.

Entry clothing Protective clothing that is designed to provide protection from conductive, convective, and radiant heat, and permit entry into flames.

Environmental fate The totality of translocations (movements) and transformations that a chemical undergoes upon release to the environment.

Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay A test used to detect antibodies to the AIDS virus, indicating infection; for accuracy, a positive ELISA test is always repeated; if still positive, a Western blot test is then performed to confirm the diagnosis; the sensitivity and specificity of a properly performed ELISA test 12 weeks after exposure is at least 99%.

EOC see Emergency operations center.

EOP see Emergency operations plan.

EPA U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

EPCRA Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (U.S.).

Epidemic typhus Any of several infectious diseases caused by rickettsia (e.g., *Rickettsia prowasecki*); typically transmitted by fleas, lice, or mites; characterized by severe headache, sustained high fever, depression, delirium, and the eruption of red skin rashes.

Epidemiology The study of the incidence, distribution, and control of a disease in a population.

Ergonomics Discipline concerned with designing plant, equipment, operations, and work environments so that they match human capabilities.

Ergonomic stress Any stress associated with mechanical tensions in the musculo-skeletal system.

Etiologic agent A living organism (or its toxins) that may cause human disease.

Etiology The cause(s) or origin(s) of a disease.

Evacuation drill A training exercise in which personnel walk the evacuation route to a designated area where procedures for accounting for all personnel are tested; participants are asked to make note of what might become a hazard during an actual emergency (e.g., stairways cluttered with debris, smoke in hallways) so that appropriate modifications of the evacuation plan may be made.

Evaporative heat transfer The process by which heat is removed from a surface by the evaporation of liquid; as applied to protective clothing, this measure refers to how easily bodily heat can be released from inside the clothing to the outside environment by the process of sweating, which involves both permeation of air and transmission of water vapor as fluid for transferring heat.

Event Any planned, nonemergency activity (e.g., parades, concerts).

Event tree analysis One of several methods of hazard analysis, which involves inductive determination of pathways of disturbances having led to a hazardous situation.

Exclusion zone Area at hazardous waste site where contamination by hazardous chemicals has either already occurred or might occur.

Exothermic A term used to characterize the evolution of heat (e.g., from a chemical process).

Expanding square search Compass-directed search pattern for offshore use.

Explosive Any material that suddenly releases pressure, gas, and heat when ignited.

Explosive (Class A) U.S. Department of Transportation classification for those

substances that pose maximum explosion hazard through detonation.

Explosive (Class B) U.S. Department of Transportation classification for those substances that ignite by rapid combustion rather than by detonation; includes fire-works, flash powders.

Explosive (Class C) U.S. Department of Transportation classification for those substances that contain restricted quantities of Class A and/or Class B explosives; minimum explosion hazard.

Explosive Limits see Upper and Lower Explosive Limit.

Exposure Eye, mouth, mucous membrane, skin, or parenteral contact with blood, other body fluids, or other potentially infectious material.

Extremely hazardous substance Any one of 366 hazardous chemicals on a list compiled by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to provide a focus for state and local emergency planning activities.

F

Facepiece The component(s) of a SCBA that covers, at a minimum, the wearer's nose, mouth, and eyes; also known as a facemask.

Faceshield A transparent shield on the protective helmet that provides protection for the face and supplements primary eye protection.

Facilities unit In ICS, a 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, and sanitary facilities.

False negative Incorrect test result indicating that no antibodies or diseases are present when they are in fact present.

False positive Incorrect test result indicating that antibodies or diseases are present when they are in fact not present.

Fan sweep A semicircular variation of a circular search pattern; shore- or boat-based; surface-directed for down-current search use.

Fault tree analysis One of several methods of hazard analysis, which involves deductive description of events leading from the failure of one or more components to a hazardous situation.

Federal response plan In the United States, a Federal plan that is activated when the state's resources are not sufficient to cope with a disaster and the governor has requested federal assistance.

Finance/administration section In ICS, the section responsible for all incident costs and financial considerations; includes the time unit, procurement unit, compensation/claims unit, and cost unit.

Fire point The lowest temperature at which a material can evolve vapors fast enough to support continuous combustion.

First-degree burn A mild burn characterized by pain and reddening of the skin.

First responder Person(s) who arrives first on the scene at emergency incidents and has the responsibility to act; includes fire, police, EMS, and other public safety workers.

Flame resistance The property of a material to prevent, terminate, or inhibit combustion following application of a flaming or nonflaming source of ignition, with or without subsequent removal of the

ignition source; flame resistance can be an inherent property of the material, or it may be imparted by specific treatment.

Flammable Any material that burns when subjected to a temperature less than 100°F.

Flash fire The combustion of a flammable vapor in which the flame front travels at less than sonic velocity, resulting in a negligible blast wave.

Flash point The lowest temperature at which the vapor of a substance will burn or explode; not to be confused with ignition temperature.

Flood warning Condition of alert that flooding is already occurring or will soon occur; precautions should be taken immediately; preparations should be made to move to higher ground.

Flood watch Condition of alert that flooding is possible.

Flue gas The air coming out of a chimney after combustion in the burner it is venting.

Fluid resistant clothing Clothing designed and constructed to provide a barrier against accidental contact with body fluids.

FOSC Federal on-scene commander.

FRP see Federal response plan.

FSSA Firefighter Safety Study Act (U.S.).

Fuel tender Any vehicle capable of supplying fuel to ground or airborne equipment.

Fugitive emission Any emission of dust, vapor, mist, or gas that is not prevented by a capture system.

Full-scale exercise A training exercise in which a real-life emergency situation is

simulated as closely as possible; involves company emergency response personnel, employees, management, and community response organizations.

Function In ICS, function refers to the five major activities, i.e., command, operations, planning, logistics, and finance/administration; also used when describing the activity involved, e.g., the planning function.

Functional drill A training exercise involving an intensive practicum on specific emergency response functions, such as medical response, emergency notification, warning and communications procedures, and equipment; personnel are generally asked to evaluate the protocols and procedures tested during the drill and to identify any problem areas.

Fungus A group of microorganisms that includes molds and yeasts; some fungi are pathogenic.

G

GA Nerve agent tabun.

Gamma radiation High-energy ionizing radiation (X ray) that travels at the speed of light and has great penetrating power; can cause skin burns, severely injure internal organs, and have long-term physiological effects.

Gastric lavage The washing out or irrigation of the stomach with innocuous fluids by means of a gastric tube.

GB Nerve agent Sarin.

GD Nerve agent soman.

GEDAPER Acronym used to describe steps in the analysis of an incident: gathering information; estimating course and harm; determining strategic goals;

assessing tactical options and resource; planning and implementing actions; evaluating; and reviewing.

General exhaust Removal of contaminated air from a large area by use of an air circulation or exchange system.

General staff In ICS, the group of incident management personnel reporting to the incident commander, including operations section chief, planning section chief, logistics section chief, and finance/administration section chief.

Generic ICS The description of a ICS management system that is generally applicable to any kind of incident or event.

Geographic information system Any satellite-mediated information system that provides the user with specific on-the-ground location data.

German measles see Rubella.

GF Fluoride-containing, organophosphate nerve agent.

GIS see Geographic information system.

Gonorrhea A sexually transmitted disease caused by the bacterium *Nesisseria gonorrhoea*.

Ground support unit In ICS, the 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 In ICS, groups are established to divide the incident into functional areas of operation; composed of resources assembled to perform a special function not necessarily within a single geographic divisions; located between branches (when activated) and resources in the operations section.

H

Halogen stripping A decontamination method involving the removal of halogen atoms (e.g., chlorine, bromine, iodine) from a contaminant molecule, thus reducing the hazard associated with the contaminant.

Hanta disease Viral infection due to any member of the genus *Hantavirus*; transmitted by rodents; characterized by flu-like symptoms and, in more severe cases, shock, kidney failure, internal bleeding, fluid accumulation in the lungs, and death.

Hazard The potential harm or injury that may be associated with any material or situation; also defined by various governmental agencies (e.g., OSHA, USDOT) in terms of "hazard classes" or "hazard categories" (e.g., flammable, carcinogen).

Hazard analysis Identification of individual hazards of a system, determination of the mechanisms by which they could give rise to undesirable events, and evaluation of the consequences of those events.

Hazard and operability study One of several methods of hazard analysis carried out by application of guide words to engineering and instrument drawings to identify all deviations from design intent with undesirable effects for safety or operability, with the aim of identifying potential hazards.

Hazard class The category used to describe the type of physical or health hazard of a chemical (e.g., flammable, mutagen); various regulatory agencies have adopted hazard classes of particular usefulness within their jurisdictional authority.

HAZOP see Hazard and operability study.

HAZWOPER U.S. OSHA safety standard for hazardous waste operations and emergency response (29 CFR 1910.120).

HBIG see Hepatitis B Immune Globulin.

HBV see Hepatitis B.

HCS Hazard communication standard; U.S. OSHA regulated standard under 29 CFR 1910.1200.

HCV see Hepatitis C.

HD Blister agent distilled mustard.

HDV see Hepatitis D.

Health hazard Any property of a material or substance that either directly or indirectly can cause injury or incapacitation, either temporary or permanent, from exposure by contact, inhalation, or ingestion.

Health care worker An employee of a health care facility including, but not limited to, nurses, physicians, dentists, and other dental workers, optometrists, podiatrists, chiropractors, laboratory and blood bank technologists and technicians, research laboratory scientists, phlebotomists, dialysis personnel, paramedics, emergency medical technicians, medical examiners, morticians, housekeepers, laundry workers, and others whose work may involve direct contact with body fluids from living individuals or corpses; this definition includes fire fighters, due to potential for direct contact with body fluids during fire fighting, rescue, extrication, and other emergency response activities.

Health database A compilation of records and data relating to the health experience of a group of individuals,

maintained in a manner such that it is retrievable for study and analysis over a period of time.

Health promotion Preventive health activities that identify real and potential risks in the workplace, and that inform, motivate, and otherwise help people to adopt and maintain healthy practices and lifestyles.

Heat cramps Relatively early phase of heat stress caused by profuse sweating with inadequate replacement of electrolytes; characterized by muscle spasms and pain in hands, feet, and abdomen.

Heat exhaustion Condition of severe dehydration and stress on body organs due to heat-induced cardiovascular insufficiency; characterized by pale, cool, moist skin, heavy sweating, dizziness, nausea, and fainting spells

Heat resistance The capacity of a material to retain useful properties as measured during exposure of the material to a specified temperature and environment for a specified time.

Heat stroke Advanced state of heat stress that requires immediate medical attention due to failure of body's system of temperature regulation; characterized by red, hot, dry skin, lack of or reduced perspiration, nausea, dizziness or confusion, strong, rapid pulse, coma.

Helibase In ICS, the main location for parking, fueling, maintenance, and loading of helicopters operating in support of an incident; usually located at or near the incident base.

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 The initial attack phase of fire suppression using helicopters and trained airborne teams to achieve immediate control of wildfires.

Helitanker A helicopter equipped with a fixed tank or a suspended bucket type container that is used for aerial delivery of water or retardants.

Helper/suppressor T-cells White blood cells that are part of the immune system.

Hemorrhagic fever Type of fever characterized by profuse bleeding from internal organs and rapid wasting and death; caused by variety of viruses (e.g., Ebola virus, Marburg virus).

Hepatitis Inflammation or swelling of the liver; can be caused by certain drugs, toxins, or infectious agents, including viruses; hepatitis caused by viruses includes hepatitis A, B, and D, and non-A non-B. Non-A non-B hepatitis includes hepatitis C, hepatitis E, and other, as yet unclassified types of hepatitis.

Hepatitis A Infectious hepatitis; a viral form of hepatitis normally spread by fecal contamination and generally not a significant risk for emergency care providers.

Hepatitis B HBV; Serum hepatitis; a viral form of hepatitis spread through blood contact, and also as a sexually transmitted disease; a significant risk for emergency care workers; infection may result in death, chronic hepatitis, liver cancer, or cirrhosis of the liver; vaccine to prevent spread of hepatitis B is available.

Hepatitis B immune globulin A preparation that provides some temporary

protection following exposure to HBV if given within 7 days after exposure.

Hepatitis C HCV; a recently identified viral form of hepatitis spread via blood contact.

Hepatitis D HDV; delta hepatitis; a viral infection occurring in people with present or past HBV infection; delta hepatitis is a complication of HBV infection and can increase the severity of HBV infection.

Hepatitis, non-A non-B NANB; viral hepatitis caused by a virus other than hepatitis A or B; there are probably several viruses included under this name. NANB hepatitis is a bloodborne infection; the cause of 90% of posttransfusion hepatitis cases.

Herpes A family of similar viruses, which can cause different diseases, including chicken pox, zoster, "cold sores," and genital herpes type II.

Herpes zoster A painful skin rash caused by recurrence of a past case of chicken pox; herpes zoster is not typically spread person-to-person; however, persons who have not had chicken pox previously can contract chicken pox after exposure to a patient with zoster.

Hertz Unit of measurement used to express frequency; numerically equal to cycles per second (cps).

HIV see Human immunodeficiency virus.

HIV antibody screening test A blood test that reveals the presence of antibodies to HIV.

HIV antibody positive A test result indicating that HIV antibodies are present.

HIV antigen positive A result of antigen testing where it has been found that HIV is present; antigen testing can be useful in

predicting the progression of HIV infection and monitoring treatment.

HMTA Hazardous Materials Transportation Act (U.S.).

HMTUSA Hazardous Materials Transportation Uniform Safety Act (U.S.).

Host A person that can harbor or nourish a disease-producing organism; the host is said to be infected; the host is a "carrier."

Hot tap A procedure that involves welding on a piece of equipment.

Hot work Work involving electric or gas welding cutting, brazing, or similar flame-, spark-, or heat-producing operations.

HRA see Human reliability analysis.

HTLV Human T-cell lymphotropic virus, the former name for the AIDS virus; now called human immunodeficiency virus or HIV.

Human immunodeficiency virus HIV; the causative agent of AIDS; HIV type 1 (HIV-1) causes most cases of aids; a second virus, HIV-2, is a less common cause of the disease.

Human reliability analysis A systematic evaluation of the factors that influence the performance of personnel; uses one of several types of task analyses and produces a systematic listing of the errors likely to be encountered during normal or emergency operations, a list of factors contributing to such errors, and proposed modifications to reduce the likelihood of such errors.

Human tissue burn tolerance In testing thermal protective clothing, the capacity to withstand the amount of thermal energy that causes a second degree burn in human tissue.

Hurricane warning Condition of alert that a hurricane will hit land within 24 hours; immediate precautions should be taken.

Hurricane watch Condition of alert that a hurricane is possible within 24 to 36 hours.

Hypersensitivity A phenomenon in which an individual demonstrates an abnormally high sensitivity to chemical exposure when compared with the median sensitivity of the population; hypersensitive individuals react to very small doses of the chemical.

Hyposensitivity A phenomenon in which an individual demonstrates an abnormally low sensitivity to chemical exposure when compared with the median sensitivity of the population; hyposensitive individuals react only to very large doses of the chemical.

I

IARC International Agency for Research on Cancer.

Iatrogenic Caused by the doctor; a complication, injury, or disease state resulting from medical treatment.

IC program see Infection control program.

ICP see Incident command post; integrated contingency plan.

IDLH see Immediately dangerous to life and health.

Ignitable Capable of burning.

Ignition temperature The lowest temperature at which a substance will burn.

Immediately dangerous to life and health

The maximum level at which a healthy individual can be exposed to a chemical for 30 minutes and escape without suffering irreversible health effects or impairing systems.

Imminent hazard

An act or condition that is judged to present a danger to persons or property that is so urgent and severe that it requires immediate corrective or preventive action.

Immune status

The state of the body's immune system; factors affecting immune status include heredity, age, diet, and physical and mental health.

Immunization

The process of rendering a person immune or highly resistant to a disease.

Immunosuppressed

A condition or state of the body in which the immune system does not work normally.

Incendiary device

Any mechanical, electrical, or chemical device used intentionally to start a fire.

Incident

An occurrence (caused by either human or 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 and specific tactical actions and supporting information for the next operational period of emergency response; 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).

Incident area

In ICS, geographical area of the incident, including effect area and

traffic route to corresponding storage and disposal sites.

Incident base

In ICS, location at the incident where the primary logistics functions are coordinated and administered; there is only one base per incident.

Incident command post

In ICS, the location at which the primary command functions are executed; may be collocated with the incident base or other incident facilities.

Incident command system

see Incident management system.

Incident commander

In ICS, the person responsible for the overall coordination and direction of all activities at the incident scene.

Incident communications center

In ICS, the location of the communications unit and the message center at the incident site.

Incident management system

An organized system of roles, responsibilities, and standard operating procedures used to manage emergency operations; often referred to as incident command system or ICS.

Incident management team

In ICS, the incident commander and 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.

Incubation period The time from exposure to a disease vector until the first appearance of symptoms.

Indirect disease transmission

Transmission of a communicable disease from one person to another without direct contact.

Infection control officer A person assigned specific responsibility for infection control practices, including immunizations and postexposure follow-up protocols.

Infection control practitioner A medical professional with a specialty interest in infection control.

Infection control program IC Program; an oral or written policy and implementation of procedures related to the control of infection disease hazards where employees may be exposed to direct contact with body fluids.

Infectious Capable of causing infection in a suitable host.

Infectious disease An illness or disease resulting from invasion of a host by disease-producing organisms such as bacteria, viruses, fungi, or parasites.

Infectious waste Blood and blood products, pathological wastes, microbiological wastes, and contaminated sharps.

Information officer In ICS, the 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.

Infrared In fire fighting, a heat detection system used for fire detection, mapping, and identification of hot spots.

Infrared groundlink A capability through the use of a special mobile ground station to receive air-to-ground infrared imagery at an incident.

Initial actions The actions taken by personnel who are the first to arrive at an incident.

Initial attack see Initial actions and Initial response.

Initial response Resources (personnel, materials, and equipment) initially committed to an incident.

Integrated contingency plan An emergency response plan designed in conformance with technical guidelines provided by the U.S. National Response Team to consolidate multiple plans developed by facilities in compliance with various U.S. regulations, including those pursuant to the Oil Pollution Act of 1990.

Interface area An area of the body not protected by a protective garment, helmet, gloves, footwear, or SCBA facepiece; the area where the protective garment and the helmet, gloves, footwear, or SCBA facepiece meet.

Interface component Item(s) designed to provide limited protection to interface area.

Intravenous drugs Drugs injected by needle directly into a vein.

Intubation The introduction of a tube into a hollow organ (e.g., trachea).

IR see Infrared.

Irritant Any noncorrosive material that causes itching, soreness, or inflammation of exposed skin, eyes, or mucous membranes.

Irritating agent A chemical agent (also known as control agent or tear gas) that

causes respiratory distress and tearing designed to incapacitate (e.g., chloropicrin, MACE, tear gas, pepper spray, dibenzoxazepine).

ISO International Standards Organization.

J

Jet fire An ignited pressurized release of gases and/or liquids.

Joint advisory notice A list of recommendations developed to assist employers in implementing Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines.

Jurisdictional agency The agency having jurisdiction and responsibility for a specific geographical area or for a mandated function.

L

L Blister agent lewisite.

Ladder shank Reinforcement to the shank area of protective footwear designed to provide additional support to the instep when the wearer is standing on a ladder rung.

Lassa fever Often fatal viral disease endemic to West Africa; characterized by high fever, headache, ulcers of the mucous membranes, and disturbances of the gastrointestinal tract.

Latency A period when a virus is in the body but is inactive.

LAV see Lymphadenopathy-associated virus.

LC₅₀ Lethal concentration of a toxic chemical (in ambient air or water) for

50% of the population (or the ambient concentration that presents an individual with a 0.5 probability of dying).

Leader The ICS title for an individual responsible for a task force, strike team, or functional unit.

Leakproof bag A bag designed for disposal of potentially infectious substances, color coded and labeled in accordance with applicable laws.

LD₅₀ Lethal dose of a toxic chemical for 50% of the population (or the dose that presents an individual with a 0.5 probability of dying).

LEPC Local emergency planning commission established by the U.S. Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act.

LEPD Local emergency planning district.

Liaison officer In ICS, member of the command staff responsible for coordinating with representatives from cooperating and assisting agencies.

Linear pattern Straight line search pattern in area of probability when datum point is not known.

Line rescue Water rescue using water rescue line, rescue skin diver, and line tender.

Line signal Communication between diver and tender on search line by means of pulls.

Line tender Person who directs search from shore via search line or pulls rescuer and victim to shore in surface rescue by means of water rescue line.

Local exhaust A system for capturing and removing airborne contaminants at the point at which they are produced.

Logistics section In ICS, the section responsible for providing facilities, services, and materials for the incident.

Lower explosive limit The concentration of a gas or vapor in air below which a flame will not propagate if the mixture contacts an ignition source.

Lymphadenopathy-associated virus An early name for the virus that causes AIDS; now called human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Lymphoma Cancer of the lymph nodes or lymph tissues.

M

MAC see Multiagency coordination.

MACS see Multiagency coordination system.

Management-by-objective In ICS, this is a top-down management activity that involves a three-step process to achieve the incident goal: establishing the incident objectives, selection of appropriate strategy(s) to achieve the objective, and the tactical direction associated with the selected strategy. Tactical direction includes: selection of tactics, selection of resources, resource assignments, and performance monitoring.

Management of change A program to identify and review all modifications of process equipment, procedures, raw materials, and processing conditions (other than replacement-in-kind) prior to implementing a change in order to minimize the possibility of a hazardous consequence of that change.

Manager Individual within ICS organizational units that are assigned

specific managerial responsibilities, e.g., staging area manager or camp manager.

Management control (see Administrative control).

MAP see Member assistance program.

Material safety data sheet A chemically specific compendium of health and safety information and data. In the United States, OSHA requires industrial users of chemicals to obtain MSDSs from chemical manufacturers or importers; MSDSs also used to fulfill part of the hazardous chemical inventory reporting requirements under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act.

MBO see Management-by-objective.

Measles A vaccine-preventable viral communicable disease causing a skin rash; usually occurs in childhood.

Mechanical exhaust A powered device for exhausting contaminants from a workplace, vessel, or enclosure (e.g., motor-driven fan, air/steam venturi tube).

Medical unit In ICS, 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.

Member assistance program A program designed to provide assistance to employees regarding personal problems (including drug and alcohol abuse) that may interfere with on-the-job performance; may also be used to provide training to employees and their families on health-related issues; sometimes known as an "employee assistance program."

Meningitis An infection of the meninges, the covering layers of the brain and spinal

cord; may be caused by a bacterium or virus; considered a communicable disease.

Message center In ICS, the message center is part of the incident communications center and is collocated or placed adjacent to it; receives, records, and routes information about resources reporting to the incident, resource status, and administrative and tactical traffic.

Mobilization The process and procedures used by all organizations for activating, assembling, and transporting all resources that have been requested to respond to or support an incident.

Mobilization center In ICS, an off-incident location at which emergency service personnel and equipment are temporarily located pending assignment, release, or reassignment.

MMWR see Morbidity and mortality weekly report.

Morbidity and mortality weekly report A weekly publication from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control presenting up-to-date information on communicable diseases.

Motion detector An integral portion of the personal alarm safety system (PASS) that senses movement, or alternatively, lack of movement, and activates the alarm signal under a specified sequence of events.

MSDS see Material safety data sheet.

MSHA Mine Safety and Health Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor.

Mucous membrane The lining of the nose, mouth, eyes, vagina, and rectum; mucous membranes are not as durable as other skin; contact of infected body fluids with intact mucous membranes may transmit disease.

Multiagency coordination A generalized term that 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.

Multiagency coordination system The combination of personnel, facilities, equipment, procedures, and communications integrated into a common system. When activated, the MACS has the responsibility for coordination of assisting agency resources and support in a multiagency or multijurisdictional environment. A MAC Group functions within the MACS.

Multiagency incident An incident where one or more agencies assist a jurisdictional agency or agencies; may be single or unified command.

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/or equipment.

Mumps A vaccine-preventable communicable disease caused by a virus; usually occurring in children; may cause serious complication in adult cases.

Musculoskeletal Pertaining to muscles, bones, and joints.

Mutagen Any material that causes changes in genetic information that is inherited from generation to generation.

Myositis Inflammation of a muscle caused by heavy use or repeated use of a muscle with inadequate time for recovery.

N

NAERG Acronym for the North American Emergency Response Guidebook.

NANB Hepatitis see Hepatitis, non-A non-B.

National interagency incident management system An NWCG-developed program consisting of five major subsystems that collectively provide a total systems approach to all-risk incident management. The subsystems are: the incident command system, training, qualifications and certification, supporting technologies, and publications management.

National response center The central U.S. clearinghouse for information involving emergency spills and other releases of oil and hazardous substances.

National response team A consortium of 14 U.S. Federal agencies devoted to preparing for and responding to significant releases of oil and hazardous substances to the environment; maintains and operates the National Response Center for receiving reports of releases of oil and hazardous substances.

National wildfire coordinating group A group formed under the direction of the Secretaries of the U.S. Departments 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.

Needlestick A parenteral exposure with a needle contaminated from patient use.

Nerve agent A substance that interferes with the central nervous system (e.g., Sarin, Soman, tabun, and VX agent); exposure is primarily through contact with the liquid and, secondarily, through inhalation of the vapor; three distinct symptoms associated with nerve agents are pinpoint pupils, extreme headache, and severe tightness in the chest.

Neutralization A decontamination process involving the addition of acids or bases to a contaminant in order to lessen its corrosive nature.

NFIRS National fire incident reporting system.

NFPA National Fire Protection Association.

NIIMS see National interagency incident management system.

NIOSH National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (U.S. government).

NIOSH/MSHA Certified Tested and certified jointly by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and health (NIOSH) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) of the U.S. Department of Labor.

NITROX Oxygen-enriched gas mixture as defined by NOAA standards for increased physiological or time advantage in dive operations deeper than 50 fsw.

NOAA National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (U.S.).

NOAA weather station A mobile weather data collection and forecasting facility (including personnel) provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that can be utilized within the incident area.

N.O.S. Not otherwise specified (used extensively in U.S. Department of Transportation regulations pursuant to Hazardous Materials Transportation Act).

Nosocacus Hearing loss caused by medical abnormalities (e.g., hereditary progressive deafness; diseases such as mumps, rubella, Meniere's disease; ototoxic drugs and chemicals; blows to the head).

Nosocomial Originating in the hospital; a disease spread by contact with the health-care system.

Notification (procedure) Inclusive of all procedures designed to inform all responsible persons in the event of a potential or actual incident, and to provide those persons with information required for their proper performance of emergency-related functions.

NRC see National response center.

NRT see National response team.

NWCG see National wildfire coordinating group.

O

OCC see Operations coordination center.

Occupational exposure Reasonably anticipated skin, eye, mucous membrane, or parenteral contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials that may result from the performance of an employee's duties; this definition excludes

incidental exposures that may take place on the job, that are neither reasonably nor routinely expected and that the worker is not required to incur in the normal course of employment.

Occupational illness An illness or disease contracted through or aggravated by the performance of job-related duties.

Odor threshold The lowest concentration of a substance's vapor that can be smelled; high variable, depending on the individual's sensitivity.

OECD see Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Officer The ICS title for the personnel responsible for the command staff positions of safety, liaison, and information.

Olfactory Relating to the sense of smell.

Open-circuit SCBA SCBA in which exhalation is vented to the atmosphere and not rebreathed. There are two types of open-circuit SCBA: negative pressure (or demand type), and positive pressure (or pressure demand type).

Operational period In ICS, 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 usually not over 24 hours.

Operations section In ICS, 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.

Operations coordination center The primary facility of the multiagency coordination system housing the staff and equipment necessary to perform MACS functions.

Opportunistic infection Infection that usually is warded off by a healthy immune system.

Oral Relating to the mouth.

Organic peroxide Any material that spontaneously explodes due to the formation of unstable peroxides.

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development An intergovernmental organization in which 24 industrialized countries from North America, Western Europe, and the Pacific meet to compare, coordinate, and, where appropriate, harmonize national policies, discuss issues of mutual concern, and work together to respond to problems with international dimensions.

ORM Otherwise regulated material; acronym used by U.S. DOT in regulations pursuant to the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act.

ORM-A U.S. DOT classification applied to a material that has an anesthetic, irritating, noxious, toxic, or other similar property and that can cause extreme annoyance or discomfort to passengers and crew in the event of leakage during transportation.

ORM-B U.S. DOT classification applied to a material (including a solid when wet with water) capable of causing significant damage to a transport vehicle or vessel by leaking during transportation.

ORM-C U.S. DOT classification applied to a material that has other inherent characteristics not described by ORM-A or ORM-B classes, but that make it unsuitable for shipment unless properly identified and prepared for transportation.

ORM-D U.S. DOT classification applied to a material such as a consumer commodity which, though otherwise

subject to DOT regulations, presents a limited hazard during transportation due to its form, quantity, and packaging.

Orthophoto map Aerial photograph corrected to scale such that geographic measurements may be taken directly from the print; may contain graphically emphasized geographic features and may be provided with overlays of such features as water systems and important facility locations.

OSHA U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (in Department of Labor).

Ototoxins Any chemical agent that may cause damage to or cause a decrease in hearing ability.

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

Overhead personnel In ICS, personnel who are assigned to supervisory positions, which include incident commander, command staff, general staff, directors, supervisors, and unit leaders.

Oxidation The removal of electrons (or hydrogen) from a molecule, with consequent transformation of that molecule into another chemical type; a type of chemical process that can be used in certain types of chemical detoxification.

Oxidizer Any material that promotes or initiates the burning of combustible or flammable materials.

P

Parenteral Through the skin barrier, as in a parenteral exposure, which is an exposure that occurs through a break in

the skin barrier (e.g., injections, needle sticks, human bites, and cuts contaminated with blood).

PASS Personal alert safety system.

Pathogen A microorganism that can cause disease, including bacterial, fungal, parasitic, or viral pathogens.

Pathogenic Capable of causing disease.

Patrol unit In fire fighting, any light, mobile unit having limited pumping and water capacity.

PCP see *Pneumocystis pneumonia*.

PDD-39 see Presidential decision directive 39.

PEL see Permissible exposure limit.

Percutaneous Entering the body through the skin (e.g., by needlestick or through broken skin).

Pericardial fluid A clear fluid contained in the thin membranous sac that surrounds the heart.

Peritoneal fluid Fluid contained in the membrane lining of the abdominal cavity.

Permanent threshold shift A permanent hearing impairment as determined by comparing a baseline audiogram with subsequent audiograms.

Permissible exposure limit In the United States, a legally enforceable maximum airborne exposure limit for a specific chemical.

Personal Protective Equipment Specialized clothing or equipment worn by an employee for protection from a hazard; general work clothes not intended to function as protection against a specific hazard are not considered to be personal protective equipment.

PFD Personal floatation device (U.S. Coast Guard approved, Class III).

Phlebotomist Any health-care worker who draws blood samples.

PIH Poison inhalation hazard.

Planning meeting In ICS, 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 In ICS, 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 technical specialists.

Plan of action A written document that consolidates all of the operational actions to be taken by various personnel in order to stabilize an incident.

Pleural fluid Fluid contained in the membrane that covers the lung and lines the chest cavity.

Plume A visible or measurable discharge of a contaminant to air, water, and/or soil from a given point of origin.

Polymerization A chemical reaction that forms a compound (polymer) from the bonding together of the molecules of a particular chemical.

Pneumocystis pneumonia PCP; a type of pneumonia caused by a parasite; seen in patients with impaired immune systems.

Poison Any material that causes life-threatening damage to tissues or internal organs in very small amounts (e.g., several teaspoons or less).

Poison, Class A U.S. DOT classification applied to an extremely dangerous poison.

Poison, Class B U.S. DOT classification applied to any non-Class A poison that nonetheless presents a hazard to health during transportation.

Polio Poliomyelitis; a vaccine-preventable viral disease not commonly seen in the United States.

Polymerization A chemical process in which many molecules of the same type (called monomers) are joined together in long chains; used in certain types of chemical detoxification.

Positive pressure SCBA SCBA in which the pressure inside the facepiece, in relation to the pressure surrounding the outside of the facepiece, is positive during both inhalation and exhalation.

Post-traumatic stress syndrome Persistent and profound state of psychological dysfunction attributed to previously experienced traumatic stress.

PPD see Purified protein derivative.

PPE see Personal protective equipment.

ppb Parts per billion.

ppm Parts per million.

Presbycusis Natural hearing loss associated with aging.

Presidential decision directive 39 Issued in June 1995, this directive (United States Policy on Counterterrorism) directs a number of measures to reduce the nation's vulnerability to terrorism, to deter and respond to terrorist acts, and to strengthen

capabilities to prevent and manage the consequences of the terrorist use of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons; provisions of PDD-39 that affect the FRP are included in the FRP Terrorism Incident Annex.

Pressure demand SCBA see Positive pressure SCBA.

Process safety information A compilation of written information that describes safety-related attributes of chemical substances, the processes in which they are used, and the equipment used for those processes.

Procurement unit In ICS, a functional unit within the finance/administration section responsible for financial matters involving vendor contracts.

Prophylaxis Any substance, material, or steps taken to prevent something from happening (e.g., condoms, vaccines).

Proximity clothing Reflective protective clothing that is designed to provide protection against conductive, convective, and radiant heat.

PTS see Permanent threshold shift.

Purified protein derivative A skin test for exposure to tuberculosis.

Pyrolysis The breaking apart of a complex molecule into a simpler molecule by the use of heat.

Pyrophoric Any material that ignites spontaneously in air at temperatures of 130°F or lower.

Pyrotechnics Any combustible or explosive compositions or manufactured articles designed and prepared for the purpose of producing audible or visible effects (i.e., fireworks).

Q

Q Fever Infectious disease caused by *Coxiella burnetii* rickettsia; characterized by fever, general malaise, and muscular pains.

Quayside search A semicircular, surface-directed search pattern conducted alongside a quay or dock.

R

Radiant heat Heat that is emitted by one material and absorbed by another over a distance.

Radio cache A supply of radios stored in a predetermined location for assignment to incidents; used to disperse radioactive particles over an extensive area.

Radiological dispersal device Any conventional explosive that incorporates nuclear materials.

RAM Radioactive materials.

Rated service time The period of time that SCBA supplies air to the breathing machine when tested according to the requirements of 30 CFR 11; recorded on the SCBA's certification label.

Recombinant vaccine A vaccine produced by genetic manipulation (gene splicing).

Recorders Individuals within ICS organizational units who are responsible for recording information; may be found in planning, logistics, and finance/administration units.

RDD see Radiological dispersal device.

Reduction The addition of electrons (or hydrogen) to a molecule, with consequent transformation of that molecule into another chemical type; a type of chemical

process that can be used in certain types of chemical detoxification.

Reinforced attack see Reinforced response.

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.

Regional response team Any of 13 regional teams designated by the U.S. national response team to provide planning, policy, and coordination assistance to incident response organizations.

Reportable quantity An amount of a hazardous chemical that, if released to the environment, must be reported (in the United States) in compliance with the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act, the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act (HMTA), and/or the Comprehensive Emergency Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA).

Rescue incident An emergency incident that primarily involves the rescue of persons subject to physical danger, and may include the provision of emergency medical services.

Residual risk The risk still remaining after the implementation of risk management practices.

Resources Personnel and equipment available or potentially available for assignment to incidents. Resources are described by kind and type (e.g., ground, water, air) and may be used in tactical support or overhead capacities at an incident.

Resources unit In ICS, functional unit within the planning section responsible for

recording the status of resources committed to the incident; also evaluates resources currently committed to the incident, the impact that additional responding resources will have on the incident, and anticipated resource needs.

RESTAT An acronym for “resources status”; in ICS, used in reference to a unit within the Planning Section responsible for tracking resources assigned to an incident.

Retroreflective Descriptive of a material that reflects and returns a relatively high proportion of light in a direction close to the direction from which it came.

Ricin Mixture of poisonous proteins produced by the castor oil plant; plant gene controlling the production of ricin has been successfully transferred to the bacterium *Escherichia coli*; ricin interferes with the body’s normal synthesis of proteins; symptoms include decreased blood pressure, with death occurring most often through heart failure.

Risk The probability that an individual (or group) will actually experience a hazard; usually expressed as a decimal between 0.0 and 1.0, with values approaching 1.0 denoting increasing risk.

Risk assessment The value judgment of the significance of the risk, identified by a risk analysis taking into account relevant criteria.

Risk management Actions taken to achieve or improve the safety of an installation and its operation.

Root cause analysis A technique of incident investigation that includes developing a chronology of events, listing deviations from normal conditions or circumstances, and possible causes based on these deviations.

Route-of-entry The pathway that a chemical takes to enter or come into

contact with the body (includes inhalation, ingestion, skin or eye contact, absorption, and puncture).

RPR A blood test for syphilis.

RQ see Reportable quantity.

RRT see Regional response team.

RTECS The U.S. Registry of Toxic Effects of Chemical Substances.

Rubella A vaccine-preventable viral disease; rubella infection during pregnancy can cause birth defects.

S

Safety diver A back-up diver, geared up, on shore, and available to assist.

Safety interlock system An automatic system that inhibits the operation of critical equipment until certain process parameters are within acceptable ranges.

Safety officer In ICS, a member of the command staff responsible for monitoring and assessing safety hazards or unsafe situations, and for developing measures for ensuring personnel safety.

Salmonellosis Infection caused by intestinal bacteria of the genus *Salmonella*; characterized by nausea, abdominal pains, diarrhea, and fever; it can lead to death, especially in people with impaired immune systems.

SARA Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (U.S.).

Sarcoma Cancer of the skin or other connective tissue.

Saxitoxin Toxin produced by marine blue-green alga (i.e., cyanobacterium), which serves as food supply for various shellfish that are immune to effects of the

toxin, but pass it on to higher order consumers (e.g., humans); in humans, toxin acts on central nervous system to produce paralysis; at high doses, death can occur in less than 15 minutes.

SCBA see Self-contained breathing apparatus.

Search line Water rescue line; 100 ft three-strand twisted 1/4 -inch polypropylene with a monkey's fist at one end and 30-inch loop with snap at other end.

Search pattern Logical means of covering a search area while maintaining diver accountability.

SEB see *Staphylococcus enterotoxin* type B.

Second-degree burn A burn that is more severe than a first-degree burn and typically characterized by blistering, reddening of the skin, swelling, and destruction of the superficial tissue.

Section In ICS, 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.

Sector Term used in some applications to describe an organizational level similar to an ICS division or group; sector is not a part of ICS terminology.

Segment In ICS, 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.

Self-contained breathing apparatus

A respirator that supplies a respirable atmosphere that is either carried in or generated by the apparatus and is independent of the ambient environment.

Sensitizer A material that causes allergic reactions after repeated exposures, with possibly severe or even life-threatening consequences.

SERC State emergency response commission established by the U.S. Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act.

Seroconversion A change in the status of one's serum test.

Serologic test Any number of tests that are performed on blood; usually refers to a test that measures antibodies to a virus.

Seropositive A condition in which antibodies to a disease-causing agent are found in the blood; a positive reaction to a blood test; the presence of antibodies indicates that a person has been exposed to the agent.

Service branch In ICS, a branch within the logistics section responsible for service activities at the incident, including communications, medical, and food units.

Sexually transmitted disease A disease spread through sexual contact; HIV and HBV are both bloodborne and sexually transmitted diseases.

Sharps Any object that can penetrate the skin including, but not limited to, needles, lancets, scalpels, and broken capillary tubes.

Shingles Common term for *Herpes zoster* infection, resulting in painful rash.

Single resource In ICS, 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 work zone A designated work area at a hazard waste site; may include one or more designated exclusion zones, contamination reduction zones, and support zones.

SITSTAT An acronym for “situation status”; in ICS, used in reference to unit in the planning section responsible for keeping track of incident events.

Situation unit In ICS, 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.

Smallpox Highly contagious, often fatal, viral disease; characterized by a high fever and successive stages of severe skin eruptions.

Sociococcus Hearing loss associated with everyday noises (e.g., lawn mowers, loud music, traffic).

Sound pressure level The measurement of loudness of sound in decibels.

Span-of-control The supervisory ratio of from three-to-seven individuals, with five-to-one being established (in ICS) as optimum.

Staging areas The locations set up at an incident where resources can be placed while awaiting a tactical assignment. Staging areas (in ICS) are managed by the operations section.

Standard threshold shift A change in hearing capacity (relative to baseline audiogram) of 10 dB or more at 2000, 3000, and 4000 Hz in either ear.

Staphylococcus enterotoxin type

B Toxin produced by bacterium

Staphylococcus aureus; most commonly associated with food poisoning; characterized by stomach cramps, diarrhea, and vomiting.

State EOP In the United States, State emergency operations plan; framework within which local EOPs are created and through which the federal government becomes involved.

Sterilization The use of a physical or chemical procedure to destroy all microbial life, including highly resistant bacterial endospores.

STD see Sexually transmitted disease.

STEL see TLV-STEL.

Strategic goals Broad, general statements of intent with respect to incident command.

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

Strike team In ICS, specified combinations of the same kind and type of resources, with common communications and a leader.

Subcutaneous Beneath the skin (e.g., subcutaneous injection).

Substance P A protein closely related to normally produced proteins in the body; may cause pain, act as anaesthetic, or affect blood pressure; rapid loss of blood pressure in victim may cause unconsciousness.

Supervisor The ICS title for individuals responsible for command of a division or group.

Supply unit In ICS, functional unit within the support branch of the logistics section responsible for ordering equipment and supplies required for incident operations.

Support branch In ICS, the 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 zone Uncontaminated area at hazardous waste site where response personnel should not be exposed to hazardous contamination.

Supporting materials In ICS, the several attachments that may be included with an incident action plan, e.g., communications plan, map, safety plan, traffic plan, and medical plan.

Support resources In ICS, nontactical resources under the supervision of the logistics, planning, finance/administration sections, or the command staff.

Surfactant A chemical added to reduce the force of adhesion between a contaminant and the surface to which the contaminant is attached by molecular forces; household detergents are common examples of surfactants.

Suspect carcinogen A substance that might cause cancer in humans or animals but which has not been proven to do so.

Syndrome A collection of signs and symptoms that occur together.

Synergy A phenomenon in which two or more chemicals interact to produce an effect (e.g., toxicity, lethality) in a magnitude that is an unpredictable multiple of the individual magnitude of each chemical's solitary effect; synergistic interactions may involve other than chemicals; a general term denoting a multiplication of consequences as opposed to additive consequences.

Syphilis A sexually transmitted infectious disease; commonly transmitted through blood exposure or transfusion.

T

Table-top exercise Generally, a conference-based exercise in which members of the emergency management group discuss their responsibilities and how they would react to different emergency scenarios; may often involve the acting out of specific scenarios, with specific information about a hypothetical emergency being parceled out to the group in a scheduled manner; may also involve simulated computer-assisted data/information processing as well as voice/telephonic and radio communications.

Tactical direction In ICS, 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.

Task analysis A method of evaluating components and task sequences of jobs to identify potential sources of error, performance inefficiencies, and safety hazards.

Task force In ICS, a combination of single resources assembled for a particular tactical need, with common communications and a leader.

TB see Tuberculosis.

TB bacteria Bacteria that cause tuberculosis.

Team see Single Resource.

Technical specialists Personnel with special skills that can be used anywhere within the ICS organization.

Temporary flight restrictions Temporary airspace restrictions for nonemergency aircraft in the incident area; in the United States, TFRs are established

by the Federal Aviation Administration to ensure aircraft safety, and are normally limited to a 5-nautical-mile radius and 2000 feet altitude.

Temporary threshold shift A short-term hearing impairment as determined by comparing the baseline audiogram with subsequent audiograms.

Tendinitis Inflammation of a tendon, often caused by repetitive, forceful exertions involving rotations around a joint.

Teratogen A material that causes malformation of the developing fetus.

TFR see Temporary flight restrictions.

Thermal degradation A decontamination procedure in which heat is used to degrade or destroy the molecular structure of a contaminant.

Thermal shrinkage The change in dimensions of a fabric specimen when exposed to heat.

Third-degree burn The most serious type of burn, characterized by charring (blackening) of the skin and by skin necrosis (tissue death).

Threshold planning quantity The amount of an extremely hazardous substance present at a facility above which the facility must give emergency planning notification to the state emergency response commission and local emergency planning committee as required by the U.S. Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act.

Threshold shift A short-term or permanent hearing impairment as determined by comparing a baseline audiogram with subsequent audiograms.

TLV Threshold limit value; concentration limit for prolonged exposure to a particular hazardous chemical.

TLV-C Threshold limit value-ceiling; concentration that should not be exceeded by exposure even instantaneously.

TLV-STEL Threshold limit value-short term exposure; concentration that should not be exceeded by an exposure of 15 minutes.

TLV-TWA Threshold limit value-time weighted average; the time-weighted average concentration to which persons can be exposed for 8 hours per day (of a 40-hour workweek) without adverse effect.

Top event The culminating event of a fault tree from which basic causes are deduced to determine the cause and probability of the top event.

Tornado warning Condition of alert that a tornado has been sighted in the area or is indicated by radar; should immediately take shelter.

Tornado watch Condition of alert that a tornadoes are likely; prepare to take shelter.

Torpedo buoy Towable surface rescue float.

Torpedo buoy rescue Water rescue using a torpedo buoy and a rescue skin diver.

Toxic Any material that causes life-threatening damage to tissues or internal organs, but in amounts greater than a poison (e.g., greater than several teaspoons).

Toxic release inventory A national (U.S.) inventory of annual toxic chemical releases from manufacturing facilities.

TPQ see Threshold planning quantity.

TRACEM Acronym to identify six types of harm from terrorist incident: thermal,

radioactive, asphyxiation, chemical, etiological, and mechanical.

Transfrontier damage Any damage to human health or the environment, including property, in the event of an accident suffered by a country other than the country where the accident originated.

Traveler's advisory Condition of alert that conditions may make driving difficult or dangerous.

TRI see Toxic release inventory.

TTS see Temporary threshold shift.

Tuberculocidal Capable of killing tuberculosis (TB) bacteria.

Tuberculosis A communicable disease caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*; usually affecting the lungs.

Tularemia Infectious disease caused by *Francisella tularensis* bacterium; chiefly affects rodents but can also be transmitted to human beings by bite of various insects or contact with infected animals; characterized by intermittent fever and swelling of the lymph nodes.

TWA see TLV-TWA.

Type In ICS, refers to resource capability. A type 1 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.

U

UN United Nations.

Unassisted rescue Water rescue conducted by a rescue skin diver without assistance of a torpedo buoy or water rescue line.

Unconfined vapor cloud explosion A high-velocity flame front created by the ignition of a released flammable vapor that has mixed with air to form a vapor cloud.

Unified area command An incident management system established when incidents under an area command are multijurisdictional.

Unified command In ICS, unified command is a unified team effort that 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 In ICS, the organizational element having functional responsibility for a specific incident planning, logistics, or finance/administration activity.

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

Universal precautions A system of infectious disease control which assumes that every direct contact with body fluids is infectious and requires every employee exposed to direct contact with body fluids to be protected as though such body fluids were HBV or HIV infected; intended to prevent health-care workers for parenteral, mucous membrane, and nonintact skin exposures to bloodborne pathogens and should be used by emergency response personnel.

Unstable/reactive Any material that spontaneously explodes with production of pressure, gas, heat, and possibly toxic fumes.

Upper explosive limit The concentration of a chemical in air above which a flame will not propagate if the mixture contacts an ignition source.

USCG U.S. Coast Guard.

USFA U.S. Fire Administration.

V

Vaccine A substance that produces or increases immunity and protection against a particular disease.

Vapor density The weight per unit volume of a vapor; commonly given in comparison to air when the density of air is defined as 1.0.

Vapor pressure The pressure created within a closed container by the gaseous phase of a contained liquid.

VDRL A blood test (Venereal Disease Research Laboratory) for syphilis.

Venereal Due to or propagated by sexual contact.

Venezuelan equine encephalitis Viral infection of the central nervous system, with potentially fatal swelling of the brain.

Vesicant A chemical agent (also called blister or mustard agent) that causes severe burns to eyes, skin, and tissues of the respiratory tract.

Virulence The disease-provoking power or potency of a microorganism in a given host.

Virus A microorganism usually only visible with the electron microscope; viruses normally reside within other living (host) cells, and cannot reproduce outside of a living cell.

Volatility A measure of how quickly a substance forms vapor at ordinary temperatures.

Vulnerability analysis Any procedure used to integrate facility-specific information on (a) types of potential emergency, (b) likely impacts and probability of occurrence of each type, and (c) resources available for use in an actual emergency response.

W

Walk-through drill A training activity in which the emergency management group and response teams actually perform their emergency response functions in a simulation; generally involves more people and is more thorough than a table-top exercise, although elements of both types of exercises are often integrated.

Water reactive Any material that reacts with water to form a flammable or toxic gas.

Water rescue line see Search line.

Water sector That part of a water rescue scene that involves divers and dive rescue activity; in ICS, it is the area of responsibility of the senior rescue diver.

Water tender Any ground vehicle capable of transporting specified quantities of water.

Western blot A test for HIV, used to confirm a positive ELISA test; more expensive and time consuming to perform than ELISA, but more specific; diagnosis of HIV infection requires two positive ELISA tests, confirmed with a positive Western blot test.

What-if analysis A hazard evaluation method that uses a brainstorming

approach to develop a list of questions or concerns addressing hazards or specific accidents that could produce undesirable consequences in a system or a process.

Whitlow A fingertip infection commonly caused by herpes virus; spread by contact with respiratory secretions.

WHO United Nations World Health Organization.

Window phase The time from exposure to a disease until a positive diagnostic test for its presence.

Worst-case analysis Any analysis of a situation, circumstance, or process in

which it is assumed that all or some of the relevant factors are at their most negative or adverse value.

Wristlet The circular, close fitting part of the glove, usually made of knitted material, that extends beyond the opening of the glove body to over the wrist area; also used to describe connection of a safety line to the wrists, which can be used to extricate a person out of a narrow confined space.

Z

Zoster see *Herpes zoster*