

Emergency Management Dictionary

These basic emergency management definitions will be useful when communicating with emergency management professionals.

Emergency Management Cycle

- Preparedness
- Prevention
- Response
- Recovery
- Mitigation

Emergency Operation Center (EOC)

This is the location where all the important people gather to develop, coordinate, and respond to declared emergencies. At least one LTCO should be in attendance at the EOC.

Evacuate

Residents are to leave their home/facility and go to designated safe shelters.

Functional Needs Support Services (FNSS)

Functional Needs Support Services enable individuals to maintain their independence in a general population shelter. FNSS includes: durable medical equipment (DME); consumable medical supplies (CMS); personal assistance services (PAS); reasonable modification to policies, practices, and procedures; and other goods and services as needed.

Manmade Disaster

A manmade disaster is a human-caused incident resulting in severe property damage, deaths, and/or multiple injuries.

Mass Care Shelters

Mass care shelter operations include sheltering, feeding operations, first aid care, distribution of emergency bulk items, and providing information on victims to family members.

Natural Disaster

The term 'natural disaster' means any hurricane, tornado, storm, flood, high water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide, mudslide, snowstorm, drought, fire, or other catastrophe which causes, or which may cause, substantial damage or injury to civilian property or persons.

People with Access and Functional Needs

Older adults, people with disabilities, people with limited English proficiency, and any person who may need assistance during an emergency. You may hear emergency management personnel refer to people with disabilities as “special needs” people or refer to them by the name of their disability.

Preparedness

Preparedness can best be defined as a state of readiness to respond to a disaster, crisis, or any other type of emergency situation. It includes that activities, programs, and systems that exist before an emergency that are used to support and enhance response to an emergency or disaster.

Shelter in Place

Residents are to stay in their home/facility during the emergency until notified that it is safe to go outside.

Situational Awareness

Information gathered from a variety of sources that, when communicated to emergency managers and decision makers, can form the basis for incident management decision making.

State Coordinating Officer (SCO)

The SCO is a representative of the Governor who coordinates emergency response activities for the state.

Subject Matter Expert (SME)

Recognized expert on a particular subject, topic, or system.

Resources

Guide to Emergency Management and Related Terms, Definitions, Concepts, Acronyms, Organizations, Programs, Guidance, Executive Orders & Legislation, A Tutorial on Emergency Management, Broadly Defined, Past and Present, B. Wayne Blanchard, 2007.

<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/edu/docs/terms%20and%20definitions/Terms%20and%20Definitions.pdf>

FEMA Acronyms, Abbreviations and Terms. A Capability Assurance job and Field Aid. July 2023.

https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema-acronyms-abbreviations-terms_FAAT_03-2023.pdf



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