

ACRONYMS / ABBREVIATIONS USED IN EMERGENCY INCIDENTS

AAR.....	AFTER ACTION REPORT
BLEVE.....	BOILING LIQUID EXPANDING VAPOR EXPLOSION
BLM.....	BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
CAP.....	CIVIL AIR PATROL
CBRNE.....	CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, RADIOLOGICAL, NUCLEAR, EXPLOSIVE
CEM.....	CIVIL EMERGENCY MESSAGE
CEO.....	CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIAL
CJIN.....	CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION NETWORK
CMD.....	CENTRAL MONTANA DISPATCH
CMHD.....	CENTRAL MONTANA HEALTH DISTRICT
COG.....	CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT
COOP.....	CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS
CISM.....	CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS MANAGEMENT
DEQ.....	DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
DES.....	DISASTER & EMERGENCY SERVICES
DMORT.....	DISASTER MORTUARY OPERATIONAL RESPONSE TEAM
DNRC.....	DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION
DOD.....	DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DOL.....	DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK
DPHHS.....	DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
EAS.....	EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM
EOC.....	EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER
EOD.....	EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL
EOP.....	EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN
EPCRA.....	EMERGENCY PLANNING & COMMUNITY RIGHT TO KNOW ACT
ERG.....	EMERGENCY RESPONSE GUIDEBOOK
ESF.....	EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION
FEMA.....	FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
FSLE.....	FOREST SERVICE LAW ENFORCEMENT
FWP.....	FISH, WILDLIFE, PARKS
HAZMAT.....	HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
IAP.....	INCIDENT ACTION PLAN
IC.....	INCIDENT COMMANDER
ICP.....	INCIDENT COMMAND POST
ICS.....	INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM
IMS.....	INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
IT.....	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
JIC.....	JOINT INFORMATION CENTER
JIS.....	JOINT INFORMATION SYSTEM
LAE.....	LOCAL AREA EMERGENCY
LEPC.....	LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE
LGDIM.....	LOCAL GOVERNMENT DISASTER INFORMATION MANUAL
MACS.....	MULTI AGENCY COORDINATION SYSTEM
MDOT.....	MONTANA DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
MHP.....	MONTANA HIGHWAY PATROL
MOU.....	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
MTVOAD.....	MONTANA VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS ACTIVE IN DISASTERS
NAWAS.....	NATIONAL WARNING SYSTEM
NGO.....	NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
NIMS.....	NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

NOAA.....NATIONAL OCEANIC ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
 NRF.....NATIONAL RESPONSE FRAMEWORK
 NTSB.....NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
 NWS.....NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
 PDM.....PRE DISASTER MITIGATION
 PIO.....PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER
 POC.....POINT OF CONTACT
 PPE.....PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT
 PSAP.....PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT
 RACES.....RADIO AMATEUR CIVIL EMERGENCY SERVICES
 SAR.....SEARCH AND RESCUE
 SARA.....SUPERFUND AMENDMENTS AND REAUTHORATION ACT
 SCBA.....SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS
 SECC.....STATE EMERGENCY COORDINATION CENTER
 SERC.....STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION
 SITREP.....SITUATION REPORT
 SO.....SHERIFF'S OFFICE
 SOG.....STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES
 SOP.....STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES
 WMD.....WEAPON OF MASS DESTRUCTION
 WUI.....WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE

GLOSSARY

Accessible – Having the legally required features and/or qualities that ensure entrance, participation, and usability of places, programs, services and activities by individuals with a wide variety of disabilities.

Actual Occurrence – A natural, technological, national security or terrorism incident that has happened in your jurisdiction for which coordinated emergency response or recovery operations was required. This includes both large-scale incidents that have resulted in a Presidential Declaration of Emergency or occurrences of a lesser magnitude, which required significant State and/or local response and recovery activities.

American Red Cross – The ARC is a humanitarian organization, led by volunteers, that provides relief to victims of disasters and helps people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies. It does this through services that are consistent with its Congressional Charter and the Principles of the International Red Cross Movement.

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

Attack – A hostile action taken against the United States by foreign forces or terrorists, resulting in the destruction of or damage to military targets, injury or death to the civilian population or damage to or destruction of public and private property.

Bill of Lading – A document carried in the cab of a truck that designates the type of material that is carried.

BLEVE – A Boiling Liquid Expanding Vapor Explosion occurs when a vessel containing a pressurized liquid substantially above its boiling point is ruptured, releasing the contents explosively.

Capabilities-based Planning – Planning under uncertainty, to provide capabilities suitable for a wide range of threats and hazards while working within an economic framework that necessitates prioritization and choice. Capabilities-based planning addresses uncertainty by analyzing a wide range of scenarios to identify required capabilities.

CBRNE – Common acronym pertaining to the five major categories of terrorism incidents: Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosive weapons material.

Chemical Agents – Solids, liquids or gases that have chemical properties that produce lethal or serious effects in plants and animals.

Chemtrec – The Chemical Transportation Emergency Center, a telephone hotline for emergencies:
1-800-424-9300

Chief Elected Official – The official of the community who is charged with authority to implement and administer laws, ordinances and regulations for the community. May be the mayor or county commissioner.

Critical Incident Stress Management – (CISM) A formal program designed to reduce the psychological impact of the incident and educate the emergency responders and the public about stress and ways to deal with it by alleviating adverse reactions to a catastrophic incident such as mass casualties.

Citizen Corps – A community level program, administered by the Department of Homeland Security, which brings government and private-sector groups together and coordinates the emergency preparedness and response activities of community members. Through its network of community, State and tribal councils, Citizen Corps increases community preparedness and response capabilities through public education, outreach, training and volunteer service.

Comprehensive Emergency Management – An organized effort to utilize the proper mix of resources from Federal, State and local governments, from business, industry and the public to mitigate against, prepare for, respond to, and recover from a nuclear attack, natural and technological emergencies.

Contamination – The undesirable disposition of a chemical, biological or radiological material on the surface of structures, areas, objects or people.

Credible Threat – An assessment by law enforcement that indicates that the threat is technically feasible, operationally practical and could be the result of a group or individual with the behavioral resolve to follow through on the threat.

Crisis Management – Measures to identify, acquire and plan the use of resources needed to anticipate, prevent, and/or resolve a threat or act of violence.

Damage Assessment – The process used to appraise or determine the number of injuries and deaths, damage to public and private property, and status of key facilities and services (e.g. hospitals and other health care facilities, fire and police stations, communications networks, water and sanitation systems, utilities and transportation networks) resulting from a man-made or natural disaster.

Davis Bacon Act – The law that requires Federal construction contractors to pay their workers the prevailing wage based on the local union wage scale defined by the Dept. of Labor. This act does not apply to State or local contracts using Federal disaster funds under the Stafford Act.

Disaster – The occurrence or imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property resulting from any natural or man-made cause... (MCA 10-3-103 (3)) As used in the Stafford Act, a "major disaster" is any natural catastrophe [...] or, regardless of cause, any fire, flood, or explosion, in any part of the United States, which in the determination of the President causes damage of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant major disaster assistance under [the] Act to supplement the efforts and available resources of States, local governments, and disaster relief organizations in alleviating the damage, loss, hardship, or suffering caused thereby. (Stafford Act, Sec. 102 (2), 42 U.S.C. 5122 (2)).

Disaster and Emergency Services – Means the preparation for and the carrying out of disaster and emergency functions and responsibilities, other than those for which military forces or other State or Federal agencies are primarily responsible, to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from injury and damage resulting from emergencies or disasters. (MCA 10-3-103 (4)).

Disaster Field Office – A facility where Federal and State disaster personnel are located for overall program coordination during the recovery phase in a Presidential declared major disaster.

Disaster Recovery Center – A facility established in a centralized location within or near the disaster area at which disaster victims (individuals, families, or businesses) apply for disaster aid.

Domestic Terrorism – Involves groups or individuals who are based and operate widely within the United States and are directed at elements of our government or population without foreign direction.

Donated Resources – Volunteer labor, donated equipment and donated materials which are eligible to offset the State and local portion of the cost share for emergency work.

Eligible Facility – Any building, works, system or equipment that is built or manufactured, or any improved and maintained natural feature that is owned by an eligible public or private non-profit applicant.

Eligible Work – Emergency or Permanent work required as a result of a declared event, within the designated disaster area and the legal responsibility of an applicant.

Emergency Alert System – A digital technology (voice/text) communications system consisting of broadcast stations and interconnecting facilities authorized by the FCC. The system provides the President and other local, State and national officials the means to broadcast emergency information to the public before, during and after disasters.

Emergency Declaration (Federal) – A declaration made for any occasion or instance when the President determines Federal assistance is needed.

Emergency, Federal – Any of the various types of natural disasters included in the definitions of a "Major Disaster" which requires Federal emergency assistance to supplement local and State efforts, save lives and protect property, public health and safety or to avert or lessen the threat of a disaster (P.L. 93-288).

Emergency Operations Center – The physical location at which the coordination of information and resources to support incident management (on-scene operations) activities normally takes place. An EOC may be a temporary facility or may be located in a more central or permanently established facility, perhaps at a higher level of organization within a jurisdiction. EOC's may be organized by major functional disciplines (e.g. fire, law, medical services), by jurisdiction (e.g. Federal, State, regional, tribal, city county) or by some combination thereof.

Emergency Plan – The ongoing plan maintained by various jurisdictional levels for responding to a wide variety of potential hazards. It describes how people and property will be protected; details who is responsible for carrying out specific actions; identifies the personnel, equipment, facilities, supplies, and other resources available; and outlines how all actions will be coordinated.

Emergency Support Function – Used by the Federal Government and many State governments as the primary mechanism at the operational level to organize and provide assistance. ESFs align categories of resources and provide strategic objectives for their use. ESFs utilize standardized resource management concepts such as typing, inventorying and tracking to facilitate the dispatch, deployment and recovery of resources before, during and after an incident.

Evacuation – The organized, phased and supervised dispersal or removal of civilians from dangerous or potentially dangerous areas, and their reception and care in safe areas.

*Spontaneous Evacuation- Residents or citizens in the threatened areas observe an emergency event or receive unofficial word of an actual or perceived threat and, without receiving instructions to do so, elect to evacuate the area. Their movement, means and direction of travel are unorganized and unsupervised.

*Voluntary Evacuation- This is a warning to persons within a designated area that a threat to life and property exists or is likely to exist in the immediate future. Individuals issued this type of warning or orders are NOT required to evacuate; however, it would be to their advantage to do so.

*Mandatory or Directed Evacuation- This is a warning to persons within the designated area that an imminent threat to life and property exists and individuals MUST evacuate in accordance with the instructions of local officials.

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Federal Coordinating Officer – The official appointed by the President to execute Stafford Act authorities, including the commitment of FEMA resources and mission assignment of other Federal departments or agencies. In all cases, the FCO represents the FEMA Administrator in the field to discharge all FEMA responsibilities for the response and recovery efforts underway. For Stafford Act events, the FCO is the primary Federal representative with whom the State Coordinating Officer and other State, tribal and local response officials interface to determine the most urgent needs and set objectives for an effective response in collaboration with the Unified Coordination Group.

Federal Declaration – A declaration requested by the Governor, reviewed by FEMA and declared by the President.

Federal Emergency Management Agency – (FEMA) The agency responsible for administering Federal assistance provided under P.L. 93-288.

Federal Incident Response Support Team – A forward component of the Emergency Response Team that provides on-scene support to the local IC or Area Command in order to facilitate an integrated inter-jurisdictional response. The FIRS is designed to be quick and readily deploy able resources to support the Federal response to incidents of national significance.

Federal Response Plan – (FRP) The Federal Response Plan establishes a process for the systemic, coordinated and effective delivery of Federal assistance and support to address the consequences of any major disaster or emergency declared under the Stafford Act (as amended). It describes the structure and responsibilities for organizing, coordinating and deploying Federal resources to augment State and local response and recovery efforts. 28 Federal departments and agencies and the American Red Cross provide these federal resources. These essential resources are grouped into 15 Emergency Support Functions. Each ESF has a primary Federal agency responsible for the delivery of the specific ESF assistance and support and is supported by other designated agencies.

Field Assessment Team – A small team of pre-identified technical experts who conduct an assessment of response needs, (not a preliminary damage assessment) immediately following a disaster. The experts are drawn from FEMA, other agencies and organizations (e.g. US Public Health Service, US Army Corps of Engineers, EPA, and Red Cross) and the affected State(s). All Field Assessment Team operations are joint Federal/State efforts.

Hazard Mitigation – Any action taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from hazards. The term is sometimes used in a stricter sense to mean cost-effective measures to reduce the potential for damage to a facility or facilities from a disaster event.

Hazardous Material – Any substance or material that, when involved in an accident and released in sufficient quantities, poses a risk to people's health, safety, and/or property. These substance and materials include

explosives, radioactive materials, flammable liquids or solids, combustible liquids or solids, poisons, oxidizers, toxins and corrosive materials.

Incident Action Plan – An oral or written document which defines the management objectives for a specific incident.

Incident Command System – A standardized organizational structure used to command, control and coordinate the use of resources and personnel that have responded to the scene of an emergency. The concepts and principles for ICS include common terminology, modular organization, integrated communications, unified command structure, consolidated action plan, manageable span of control, designated incident facilities and comprehensive resource management.

Incident Commander – The person responsible for the overall management of the incident, approval of action plans, and providing direction and control for the command staff sections of the incident command structure. In a Unified Command structure, the IC collaborates and consults with the chiefs and experts from the other disciplines involved in the response.

Interagency Incident Management Group – A Federal level multi agency coordination group that facilitates Federal domestic incident management for incidents of national significance. The group may be activated by the Secretary of Homeland Security based on the nature, severity, magnitude and complexity of the threat or incident.

Joint Field Office – The JFO is the primary Federal incident management field structure. The JFO is a temporary Federal facility that provides a central location for the coordination of Federal, State, Territorial, Tribal, and local governments and private-sector and NGOs with primary responsibility for response and recovery. The JFO structure is organized, staffed, and managed in a manner consistent with NIMS principles and is led by the Unified Coordination Group. Although the JFO uses an ICS structure, the JFO does not manage on-scene operations. Instead, the JFO focuses on providing support to on-scene efforts and conducting broader support operations that may extend beyond the incident site.

Joint Information Center – A facility established to coordinate all incident-related public information activities. It is the central point of contact for all news and media. Public information officials from all participating agencies should co-locate at the JIC.

Joint Information System – A structure that integrates incident information and public affairs into a cohesive organization designed to provide consistent, coordinated, accurate, accessible, timely and complete information during crisis or incident operations. The mission of the JIS is to provide a structure and system for developing and delivering coordinated interagency messages; developing, recommending and executing public information plans and strategies on behalf of the Incident Commander (IC); advising the IC concerning public affairs issues that could affect a response effort; and controlling rumors and inaccurate information that could undermine public confidence in the emergency response effort.

Joint Terrorism Task Force – (JTTF) is a partnership between various US law enforcement agencies that is charged with taking action against terrorism.

Jurisdiction – Multiple definitions are used. Each use depends on the context:

- A range or sphere of authority. Public agencies have jurisdiction at an incident related to their legal responsibilities and authority. Jurisdictional authority at an incident can be political or geographical (e.g. City, County, Tribal, State, or Federal boundary lines) or functional (e.g. law enforcement, public health).

- A political subdivision (Federal, State, County, Parish, Municipality) with the responsibility for ensuring public safety, health and welfare within its legal authorities and geographic boundaries.

Local Emergency Planning Committee – a term used in the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know (EPCRA) (42 U.S.C. 11001; 1986). EPCRA, also known as Title III of SARA (Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act), was enacted by Congress as the national legislation on community safety, and the environment from chemical hazards. EPCRA establishes the LEPC as a forum at the local level for discussions and a focus for action in matters pertaining to hazardous materials planning. In Montana, all-hazard planning is encouraged. The role of LEPC's is to form a partnership with State and local government responders and industry as an enhancement for mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery, planning, exercising and training.

Major Disaster - means any natural catastrophe (including any hurricane, tornado, storm, high water, wind driven water, tidal wave, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide, mudslide, snowstorm, or drought), or, regardless of cause, any fire, flood, or explosion, in any part of the United States, which in the determination of the President causes damage of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant major disaster assistance under this Act to supplement the efforts and available resources of States, local governments, and disaster relief organizations in alleviating the damage, loss, hardship, or suffering caused thereby.

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

Multi-Agency Coordination Systems- (MACS) is the system that provides the architecture to support coordination for incident prioritization, critical resource allocation, communications systems integration and information coordination. MACS assist agencies and organizations responding to an incident. The elements of MACS include facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures and communications. Two of the most commonly used elements are Emergency Operations Centers and MAC groups.

Mutual Aid – Cities and Counties that seek additional resources from member communities to strengthen their response and recovery efforts.

National Attack Warning System – (NAWAS) A telephone service which relays the transmission of warning from NORAD, the national warning point, to places having a vital need for the warning message. It primarily deals with nuclear attack.

National Incident Management System – A system that provides a systematic, proactive approach guiding government agencies at all levels, nongovernmental organizations and the private sector to work seamlessly to prevent, protect against, respond to, recover from and mitigate the effect of incidents, regardless of cause, size, location or complexity in order to reduce the loss of life or property and harm to the environment.

National Response Framework – A guide to how the nation conducts all-hazard response.

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

Preparedness – Planning how to respond in case an emergency or disaster occurs and working to increase resources available to respond effectively.

Preliminary Damage Assessment - A mechanism used to determine the impact and magnitude of damage and the resulting unmet needs of individuals, businesses, the public sector, and the community as a whole. Information collected and issued by the State as a basis for the Governor's request for a Presidential declaration, and by FEMA to document the recommendation made to the President in response to the Governor's request.

Public Law 93-288 – The "Disaster Relief Act of 1974". The law provides an orderly and continuing means of assistance by the Federal government to local and State governments in carrying out their responsibilities to alleviate the suffering and damage which results from disasters.

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

Regional Response Coordination Center – (RRCC) RRCC's are located in each FEMA region. These multiagency coordination centers are staffed by Emergency Support Functions in anticipation of a serious incident in the region or immediately following and incident. Operating under the direction of the FEMA Regional Administrator, the RRCCs coordinate Federal regional response efforts and maintain connectivity with State emergency operations centers, State Fusion Centers, Federal Executive Boards, and other Federal and State operations and coordination centers that have potential to contribute to development of situational awareness.

Resource Management – A system for identifying available resources at all jurisdictional levels to enable timely, efficient and unimpeded access to resources needed to prepare for, respond to or recover from an incident. Resource Management under NIMS includes mutual aid agreements, and assistance agreements; the use of special Federal, State tribal and local teams; and resource mobilization protocols.

Response – The activities, which occur during and immediately after a disaster, designed to provide emergency assistance to victims of the event and reduce the likelihood of secondary damage.

SARA – The Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986.

Scenario-based Planning – A planning approach that uses a Hazard Vulnerability Assessment to assess the hazard's impact on an organization on the basis of various threats that the organization could encounter. These threats become the basis of the scenario.

Service Animal – Any guide dog, signal dog, or other animal individually trained to assist an individual with a disability. *Service animals' jobs include but are not limited to:

- *Guiding individuals with impaired vision
- *Alerting individuals with impaired hearing
- *Pulling a wheelchair
- *Retrieving dropped items
- *Alerting people to impending seizures
- *Assisting people with mobility disabilities with balance or stability

Special-Needs Population – A population who members may have additional needs before, during or after an incident in one or more of the following functional areas: maintaining independence, communication, transportation, supervision and medical care. Individuals in need of additional response assistance may include those who have disabilities; live in institutionalized settings; are elderly; are children; are from diverse cultures, have limited proficiency in English or are non-English speaking; or are transportation disadvantaged.

Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act – Is a United States Federal law designed to bring an orderly and systemic means of Federal natural disaster assistance for State and local governments in carrying out their responsibilities to aid citizens. A Presidential Disaster Declaration of an emergency triggers financial and physical assistance through FEMA. The Act gives FEMA the responsibility for coordinating government-wide relief efforts.

Staging Area – The location established where resources can be placed while awaiting a tactical assignment. The Operations Section manages Staging Areas.

Standard Operating Procedure – A complete reference document or an operations manual that provides the purpose, authorities, duration and details for the preferred method of performing a single function or a number of interrelated functions in a uniform manner.

State Coordinating Officer – The Administrator, Disaster and Emergency Services Division, Department of Military Affairs, or his designee, who will coordinate the State's activities in State and Federal Declarations.

State Declaration – A declaration requested by a local jurisdiction, reviewed and prepared by State DES and declared by the Governor. A State declaration is limited to 20 days but may be extended if the event is ongoing.

State Emergency and Disaster Fund – The governor may authorize the incurring of liabilities and expenses to be paid as other claims against the State from the general fund, in the amount necessary, when an emergency or disaster justifies the expenditure and is declared by the governor, to meet contingencies and needs arising from an emergency or disaster, as defined in MCA 10-3-103, which results in damage to the works, buildings or property of the State or any political subdivision thereof or which menaces the health, welfare, safety, lives or property of any considerable number of persons in any county or community of the State.

State Liaison – A FEMA official assigned to a particular State who handles initial coordination with the State in the early stages of an emergency.

Terrorism – As defined in the Homeland Security Act of 2002, activity that involves an act this is dangerous to human life or potentially destructive of critical infrastructure or key resources; is a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any State or other subdivision of the United States; and appears to be intended to intimidate or coerce a civilian population, to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion, or to affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination or kidnapping.

Title 10, Chapter 3, Montana Code Annotated – Provides the authority and assigns the responsibility for the prompt and timely reaction to an emergency or disaster, to ensure that preparation of the county and cities will be adequate to deal with such disaster or emergencies, and generally to provide for the common defense and to protect the public peace, health and safety and to preserve the lives and property of the people of counties and cities.

Warning – The warning of emergency response personnel and the public to the threat of extraordinary danger and the related effects that specific hazards cause. A warning may be issued by the National Weather Service for a defined area indicating that a particular type of severe weather is imminent in that area.

Watch – Indication by the NWS that, in a defined area, conditions are favorable for the specified type of weather.

Weapons of Mass Destruction – Title 18 U.S.C. 232a. defines a weapon of mass destruction as 1) any explosive, incendiary, poison gas, bomb, grenade, or rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, a missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, or a mine or device similar to the above, 2) Poison Gas, 3) any weapon involving a disease organism, 4) any weapon this is designed to release radiation or radioactivity at a level dangerous to human life.