

APPENDIX I. GLOSSARY

Within the context of this Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, the following terms and definitions apply to emergency operations conducted by Pierce County government.

A

Access and Functional Needs (AFN): Persons who may have additional needs before, during and after an incident in functional areas, including but not limited to 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 seniors; are children; are from diverse cultures; have limited English proficiency or are non-English speaking; or are transportation disadvantaged.

Advanced Life Support (ALS): The use of more advanced techniques than covered by Basic Life Support, and limited drugs as covered by County protocols in the field treatment and transport of cardiac arrest and other life-threatening injuries.

After-Action Report/Improvement Plan (AAR/IP): Documents that describe and evaluate significant actions that occurred during exercises or incidents. Content of an After-Action Report includes a summary of the exercise or incident, and an analysis of the objectives and/or core capabilities. Development of an After-Action Report is usually in conjunction with an Improvement Plan, which defines specific corrective actions, assigns them to responsible parties, and sets target dates for their resolution.

Agency Representative: A person assigned by a primary, assisting, or cooperating local, state/territorial, tribal, or federal government agency or private entity that is authorized to make decisions affecting their agency's or organization's participation in incident command/management activities, following appropriate consultation with their leadership.

All Hazards: A threat or an incident, natural or human-caused, that requires action to protect life, property, the environment, and public health or safety, and to minimize disruptions of government, social, or economic activities. It includes natural disasters, cyber incidents, industrial accidents, pandemics, acts of terrorism, sabotage, and destructive criminal activity targeting critical infrastructure. This also includes the effects climate change has on threats and hazards.

Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES): A volunteer radio communications service available to federal, state/territorial, and local governments as well as Nongovernmental Organizations.

Area Command: An organization that oversees the management of multiple incidents or oversees the management of an exceptionally large or evolving situation with multiple incident command/incident management organizations. Also see Unified Area Command

B

Basic Life Support (BLS): Emergency cardiopulmonary resuscitation, control of bleeding, treatment of shock, acidosis, and poisoning, stabilization of injuries and wounds, basic first aid, and the use of an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED).

C

Catastrophic Incident: Any natural or human-caused incident—including terrorism—that results in extraordinary levels of mass casualties, damage, or disruption severely affecting the population, infrastructure, environment, economy, national morale, and/or government functions. A catastrophe could result in sustained national impacts over a prolonged period of time; almost immediately exceeds resources normally available to local, state/territorial, and tribal governments, and the private sector in the impacted area; and significantly interrupts governmental operations and emergency services.

Command Staff: A group of incident personnel that the Incident Commander or Unified Command assigns to support the command function at an Incident Command Post. Emergency Operations Centers may also use this term.

Community: A network of individuals and families, businesses, governmental and nongovernmental organizations, and other civic organizations that reside or operate within a shared geographical boundary and may be represented by a common political leadership at a regional, county, municipal, or neighborhood level.

Continuity of Government (COG): A coordinated effort amongst all branches of government to ensure that the essential functions of government continue following a continuity event. Continuity of Government preserves the statutory authority of the officials that lead a government; this typically involves the transfer of decision-making authority from one individual to another through a process that is consistent with that form of government.

Continuity of Operations (COOP): A program that ensures an individual organization can continue to perform its essential functions, deliver services, and maintain capabilities during a disruption to normal operations, otherwise called continuity events.

Continuity Plan: The document that describes how an organization aims to maintain continual performance of its essential functions during a continuity event.

Core Capability: An element defined in the National Preparedness Goal as necessary to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk.

Critical Infrastructure: Systems and assets, whether physical or virtual, so vital that the incapacity or destruction of such may have a debilitating impact on the security, economy, public health and safety, environment, or any combination of these matters, across any local, state/territorial, tribal, and federal jurisdiction.

Cultural Resources: Aspects of a cultural system that are valued by—or significantly representative of—a culture or that contain significant information about a culture. Cultural resources may be tangible entities or cultural practices. Tangible cultural resources are categorized as districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects for the National Register of Historic Places and as archeological resources, cultural landscapes and items, structures, museum objects and archives, and ethnographic resources. for federal management purposes. Also includes cultural items under the *Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990* [25 USC 3001(3)]; and archeological resources, under the *Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979* [16 USC 470bb(1)].

Cybersecurity: The process of protecting information by preventing, detecting, and responding to cyberattacks.

D

Damage Assessment Call Center (DACC): A separate call center activated by the EOC for residents and small businesses to notify the County of observable damage to their property(ies) that occurred during the incident period. The County records this information for inclusion in the State's declaration request. If the declaration is approved, and designates Pierce County for Individual Assistance, these residents and small businesses can apply for federal disaster assistance from FEMA and/or the Small Business Administration (SBA).

Decontamination: During hazardous materials incidents, decontamination describes the actions required to physically remove or chemically change the contaminants found on persons or equipment.

Defense Coordinating Officer (DCO): A commissioned officer of the U.S. Armed Forces who serves as the single point of contact for the Department of Defense (DOD) at a Joint Field Office to coordinate assistance from DOD assets. With few exceptions, the DCO manages requests for defense support to civil authorities originating at the Joint Field Office. The DCO may have a Defense Coordinating Element consisting of a staff and military liaison officers to facilitate coordination and support to impacted communities.

Demobilization: The orderly, safe, and efficient return of an incident resource to its original location and status.

Disaster Medical Coordination Center (DMCC): A designated hospital where trained medical personnel can help coordinate patient movement during an incident that may overwhelm the healthcare community. DMCCs are responsible for supporting Emergency Medical Services and the healthcare community by identifying available beds and placing patients at the most appropriate facility, based on their injuries or illness, as quickly as possible.

Disaster Recovery Center (DRC): A readily accessible facility or mobile office where survivors may go apply for federal disaster assistance. Representatives from the State, FEMA, Small Business Administration (SBA), volunteer groups and other agencies are at the centers to answer questions about disaster assistance and low-interest disaster loans for homeowners, renters, and businesses.

E

Emergency: An incident that requires capabilities to save and sustain lives or protect property from an immediate threat. Under the Stafford Act, an emergency is any occasion or instance for which, in the determination of the President, federal assistance is needed to supplement state, territorial, tribal, and local efforts and capabilities to save lives and to protect property and public health and safety, or to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe in any part of the United States.

Emergency Evacuation: The organized, phased, and supervised withdrawal, dispersal, or removal of people from dangerous or potentially dangerous areas, and their reception and care in safe areas.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS): A national network of services coordinated to provide aid and medical assistance from primary response to definitive care; involves personnel trained in rescue, stabilization, transportation, and advanced treatment of traumatic or medical emergencies.

Emergency Operations Center (EOC): Also called an “Emergency Coordination Center” (ECC). The physical location where the coordination of information and resources to support incident command (on-scene operations) normally takes place. An EOC may be a temporary building or located in a more central or permanently established facility, potentially at a higher level of organization within a jurisdiction.

Emergency Operations Plan (EOP): Also called a “Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan” (CEMP). The document maintained by an agency or organization for responding to a wide variety of potential threats and hazards. It describes how people and property will be protected; identifies responsible entities for performing specific actions; details the personnel, equipment, facilities, supplies, and other resources available; and outlines how all actions will be coordinated.

Emergency Support Function (ESF): A grouping of governmental and certain private sector capabilities into an organizational structure to provide the support, resources, and services needed to respond to an incident.

Evacuees: All persons removed or moving from areas impacted by an incident.

F

Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO): The official appointed by the President to execute Stafford Act authorities, including the commitment of federal resources and mission assignments. During emergencies and major disasters, the FCO is the primary federal representative with whom the State Coordinating Officer and other officials will interface with to determine the most urgent needs and to set incidents objectives in collaboration with the Unified Coordination Group.

Federally Recognized Tribe: The governing body of any Indian or Alaska Native tribe, band, nation, pueblo, village, or community that the Secretary of the Interior acknowledges to exist as an Indian tribe under the *Federally Recognized Tribe List Act of 1994* [25 U.S.C. § 479].

Finance Section: The Incident Command System section responsible for an incident’s administrative and financial considerations.

First Responder: Also called an “emergency response provider.” Local, state/territorial, tribal, and federal government and nongovernmental emergency public safety, firefighting, law enforcement, emergency response, Emergency Medical Services providers (including hospital emergency facilities), and related personnel, agencies, and authorities [6 U.S.C § 101(6)]. Generally understood as the first persons responsible for saving lives, protecting property, and meeting basic human needs to arrive at the scene of an incident.

G

General Staff: A group of incident command/management personnel organized according to function and reporting to the Incident Commander or Unified Command. General Staff consists of the Operations Section Chief, Planning Section Chief, Logistics Section Chief, and Finance Section Chief.

H

Hazard: A natural, technological, or human-made source or cause of harm or difficulty.

Hazardous Materials (HazMat): Any substance or material that, when involved in an accident and released in enough quantities, poses a risk to people's health, safety, and/or property. These substances and materials include explosives, radioactive materials, flammable liquids or solids, combustible liquids or solids, poisons, oxidizers, toxins, and corrosive materials.

Historic Property: Also called a "historic resource." Any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, including artifacts, records, and material remains related to such a property or resource [16 U.S.C. § 470(w)(5)].

Household Pet: A domesticated animal, such as a dog, bird, rabbit, rodent, or turtle that is traditionally kept in the home for companionship rather than for commercial purposes, can travel in pet carriers and be housed in temporary facilities. Household pets do not include reptiles (except turtles), amphibians, fish, insects/arachnids, farm animals (including horses), and animals kept for racing purposes.

I

Incident: An occurrence—natural or human-caused—that necessitates action either to prevent loss of life and minimize damage, or to respond for saving lives and protecting property and the environment. In this document, the word "incident" includes planned events as well as emergencies and/or major disasters of all kinds and sizes.

Incident Action Plan (IAP): The document that contains incident objectives and describes incident-specific protocols, response activities, and support requirements for a given operational period (generally 12 to 24 hours in length). Sometimes called an "EOC Action Plan" (EAP) when developed within an Emergency Operations Center.

Incident Command: The Incident Command System organizational element responsible for tactical and operational control of an incident and consisting of the Incident Commander or Unified Command and any additional command staff necessary.

Incident Command Post (ICP): The field facility where the primary functions of incident command are performed.

Incident Command System (ICS): A standardized approach to the direction and control of on-scene resources during incidents. ICS is the combination of procedures, personnel, facilities, equipment, and communications operating within a common organizational structure within which multiple organizations can effectively respond to an incident. Applicable to any incident, regardless of size and complexity, including planned events.

Incident Commander (IC): The individual responsible for on-scene incident activities, including developing incident objectives and ordering and releasing resources. The Incident Commander has overall authority and responsibility for conducting incident operations in the field.

Incident Management: The broad spectrum of activities and organizations providing operations, coordination, and support applied at all levels of government, using both governmental and nongovernmental resources to plan for, respond to, and recover from an incident, regardless of cause, size, or complexity.

Incident Management Team (IMT): A rostered group of ICS-qualified personnel consisting of an Incident Commander, Command and General Staff, and personnel assigned to other key ICS positions.

Individual Assistance (IA): Supplemental federal government services and programs—available following an emergency or major disaster declaration—for helping impacted individuals, households, businesses, and farmers. FEMA’s IA programs provide limited assistance in the following areas: sheltering, feeding, and distributing emergency supplies; counseling; unemployment; legal services; case management; and housing and other needs. IA also includes referrals to other appropriate forms of federal aid, such as: tax relief (Internal Revenue Service), disaster loans (Small Business Administration), and others.

Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS): Established by Presidential Executive Order 13407 to enable the President to send a message to the American people quickly and simultaneously—through multiple communications pathways—in the event of a national emergency. IPAWS is also available to federal, tribal, state/territorial, and local government officials to alert the public via the Emergency Alert System, Wireless Emergency Alerts, NOAA Weather Radio and other National Weather Service dissemination channels, the Internet, existing unique warning systems, and emerging distribution technologies.

Interoperability: The ability of systems, personnel, and equipment to provide and receive functionality, data, information, and/or services to and from other systems, personnel, and equipment, between both public and private agencies, departments, and other organizations, in a manner enabling them to operate effectively together.

J

Joint Field Office (JFO): The primary federal incident management field structure. The JFO is a temporary federal facility created to provide multiagency coordination between federal, tribal, state/territorial, and local governments, the private sector and Non-Governmental Organizations/Private Nonprofits during emergencies and major disasters.

Joint Information Center (JIC): A facility in which personnel coordinate incident-related public information activities. The JIC serves as the central point of contact for all news media. Public information officials from all participating agencies co-locate at, or virtually coordinate through, the JIC.

Joint Information System (JIS): A structure that integrates overarching incident information and public affairs into a cohesive organization designed to provide consistent, coordinated, accurate, accessible, timely, and complete information during an incident.

Jurisdiction: A range or scope of authority. Public agencies have jurisdiction related to their legal responsibilities and authority. Jurisdictional authority can be political or geographical (such as federal, tribal, state/territorial, or local boundary lines), or functional (such as law enforcement or public health) in nature.

L

Limited English Proficiency (LEP): Persons who do not speak English as their primary language and who have a limited ability to read, write, speak, or understand English.

Local Government: Public entities responsible for the security and welfare of a designated area as established by law. A county, municipality, city, town, township, local public authority, school district, special district, intrastate district, council of governments (regardless of incorporation as a nonprofit corporation under state law), regional or interstate government entity, or agency or instrumentality of a local government.

Logistics Section: The Incident Command System section responsible for providing facilities, services, and material support for the incident.

Long-Term Recovery: Phase of disaster recovery that begins following the conclusion of active response operations and continues for months to years. Focused on rebuilding or improving the built and natural environments; restoring full capabilities to public services, commerce, and social systems; revitalizing impacted communities; and returning evacuees.

M

Major Disaster: 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 the [Stafford] Act to supplement the efforts and available resources of states, local governments, and disaster relief organizations in alleviating the damage, loss, hardship, or suffering caused thereby.

Management by Objective: A management approach, fundamental to NIMS, that involves (1) establishing objectives, such as specific, measurable and realistic outcomes to be achieved; (2) identifying strategies, tactics, and tasks to achieve the objectives; (3) performing the tactics and tasks and measuring and documenting results in achieving the objectives; and (4) taking corrective action to modify strategies, tactics, and/or performance to achieve the objectives.

Mass Casualty Incident (MCI): An incident that overwhelms the local healthcare system, where the number of patients rapidly exceeds the amount of medical resources and capabilities available.

Memorandum of Agreement/Memorandum of Understanding (MOA/MOU): Written agreements between organizations that require specific goods or services to be furnished or tasks to be accomplished by one organization in support of the other.

Mission Area: One of five areas (Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery) designated in the National Preparedness Goal to group core capabilities.

Mitigation: Actions taken to lessen the impacts from natural and/or technological hazards—prior to their occurrence—through reducing risks and vulnerabilities.

Mobilization: The processes and procedures for activating, assembling, and transporting resources that have been requested to respond to or support an incident.

Multiagency Coordination Group (MAC Group): A group, typically consisting of agency administrators or executives from organizations, or their designees, that provides policy guidance to incident personnel, supports resource prioritization and allocation, and enables decision making among elected and appointed officials and senior executives in other organizations, as well as those directly responsible for incident management.

Mutual Aid Agreement (MAA): A written or oral agreement between and among organizations and/or jurisdictions that gives participants a mechanism to quickly obtain assistance in the form of personnel, equipment, materials, and other associated services. The primary goal is facilitation of rapid, short-term deployment of emergency support prior to, during, and/or after an incident.

N

National Disaster Medical System (NDMS): A cooperative, federal asset-sharing partnership between the Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, and Department of Defense. NDMS provides resources for meeting continuity of care and mental health services requirements.

National Emergency Child Locator Center (NECLC): Operated by the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, assists with reunifying children who have become separated from their parents or legal guardians during a disaster. Activated during Presidentially declared disasters through a request to FEMA from a U.S. state/territory or federally recognized Indian tribe.

National Incident Management System (NIMS): A systematic, proactive approach to guide all levels of government, Nongovernmental Organizations, and the private sector to work together to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from the effects of incidents. NIMS provides stakeholders across the whole community with the shared vocabulary, systems, and processes to successfully deliver the capabilities described in the National Preparedness Goal. NIMS provides a consistent foundation for dealing with all incidents, ranging from daily occurrences to incidents requiring a coordinated response.

National Mass Evacuation Tracking System (NMETS): An evacuation tracking tool to support governments in effecting emergency evacuations.

National Response Center (NRC): A nationwide communications center for activities related to oil and hazardous materials response. The NRC, located at United States Coast Guard headquarters in Washington, DC, receives and relays notices of oil and hazardous substances releases to the appropriate Federal On-Scene Coordinator.

National Response Coordination Center (NRCC): A multiagency center that provides overall Federal response coordination for Incidents of National Significance and emergency management program implementation. The NRCC monitors potential or developing Incidents of National Significance and supports the efforts of regional and field components.

National Shelter System (NSS): A coordinated nationwide database—created by FEMA and the American Red Cross—of emergency shelter information where thousands of profiles of potential shelter resources, as well as virtually any type of facility associated with the care of disaster survivors, are maintained.

Natural Resources: Land, fish, wildlife, plants, and water. “Water” refers to both salt or fresh water, and surface or ground water used for drinking, irrigation, aquaculture, and recreational purposes, as well as in its capacity as habitat for fish and wildlife.

Nongovernmental Organization (NGO): An entity with an association that is based on the interests of its members, individuals, or institutions. Though not created by government, it may work cooperatively with government. Such organizations serve a public purpose, not a private benefit.

O

Operations Section: The Incident Command System section responsible for implementing tactical incident operations at the scene. In an Emergency Operations Center, the Operations Section is responsible for coordinating emergency operations organization-wide.

P

Planned Event: An incident that is a scheduled non-emergency activity (such as a sporting event, concert, or parade).

Planning Section: The Incident Command System section responsible for collecting, analyzing, and disseminating information related to the incident, as well as preparing the Incident Action Plan and Situation Report. The Planning Section also monitors the current and forecasted situation, and the status of resources assigned to the incident.

Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA): An assessment of the impacts and magnitude of damage from an incident jointly performed by affected tribal, state/territorial, and/or local governments with FEMA. When a local government determines an incident exceeds its capabilities to respond, it requests assistance from state/territorial government. If the state/territorial government subsequently determines that responding to the incident may exceed the combined capabilities of local, state/territorial, and tribal governments, it requests that FEMA participate in a Preliminary Damage Assessment.

Preparedness: Actions taken to plan, organize, equip, train, and exercise to build and sustain the capabilities necessary to prevent, protect against, mitigate the effects of, respond to, and recover from all threats and hazards.

Prevention: The capabilities necessary to avoid, prevent, or stop a threatened or actual act of terrorism.

Principal Federal Official (PFO): May be appointed to serve as the Secretary of Homeland Security’s primary representative to ensure consistency of Federal support as well as the overall effectiveness of the Federal incident management for catastrophic or unusually complex incidents that require extraordinary coordination.

Private Nonprofit (PNP): Any nongovernmental entity that currently has (1) an effective ruling letter from the Internal Revenue Service granting tax exemption under section 501(c), (d), or (e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, or (2) satisfactory evidence from the state that the entity is a nonprofit organized for business under state law.

Private Sector: Organizations and individuals that are not part of any governmental structure. The private sector includes for-profit and not-for-profit organizations, formal and informal structures, commerce, and industry.

Protection: The capabilities necessary to secure an organization or jurisdiction against attacks and technological or natural disasters.

Public Assistance (PA): Supplemental federal financial assistance—available following an emergency or major disaster declaration—for helping impacted tribal, state/territorial, and local governments and certain Private Nonprofits perform emergency work and repair or replace damaged *public* facilities.

Public Information: Processes, procedures, and systems for communicating timely, accurate, and accessible information on an incident’s cause, size, and current situation; resources committed; and other matters of general interest to the public, responders, and additional stakeholders (both directly affected and indirectly affected).

Public Information Officer (PIO): Also called a “Public Information Manager.” A member of the Incident Command System Command Staff responsible for interfacing with the public and media and/or with other agencies with incident-related information needs.

Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP): A call center responsible for answering calls to an emergency telephone number (such as 9-1-1) to request assistance from law enforcement, firefighting, and Emergency Medical Services.

R

Recovery: The delivery of capabilities to restore, redevelop, and revitalize the health, social, economic, natural, and environmental fabric of a community following an emergency or major disaster.

Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC): A standing facility in each FEMA Region that activates to coordinate regional response efforts, establish Federal priorities, and implement local Federal program support.

Resilience: The ability to prepare for and adapt to changing conditions and recover rapidly from operational disruptions. Resilience includes the ability to withstand and recover from deliberate attacks, accidents, or naturally occurring threats or hazards.

Resource Management: Systems 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 Tracking: The process that all incident personnel and staff from associated organizations use to maintain information regarding the location and status of resources ordered for, deployed to, or assigned to an incident.

Resources: Personnel, equipment, teams, supplies, and facilities available or potentially available for assignment to incident operations and for which status is maintained. Resources are described by kind and type and may be used in operational support or supervisory capacities in the field or at an Emergency Operations Center.

Response: The delivery of capabilities necessary to save lives, protect property and the environment, and meet basic human needs after an incident has occurred.

S

Service Animal: Any guide dog, signal dog, or other animal individually trained to provide assistance to an individual with a disability, including, but not limited to, guiding individuals with impaired vision, alerting individuals with impaired hearing to intruders or sounds, providing minimal protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, or fetching dropped items.

Shelter-in-Place: The use of a structure to temporarily separate individuals from a hazard or threat. Sheltering in place is the primary protective action in many cases. Often it is safer for individuals to shelter-in-place than to try to evacuate. Sheltering in place is appropriate when conditions necessitate that individuals seek protection in their home, place of employment, or other location when disaster strikes.

Short-Term Recovery: Initial phase of disaster recovery which addresses public health and safety needs beyond lifesaving, assessing the scale of damages, reestablishing basic public services, and temporary repairs to facilities and infrastructure.

Situation Report (SITREP): Also called a “Situation Summary.” The document that describes confirmed information regarding the specific details of, and actions in response to, an incident.

Stabilization: The process by which the immediate impacts of an incident on community systems are managed and contained.

Staging Area: A temporary location for available resources in which personnel, supplies, and equipment await operational assignment.

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP): Also called a “Standard Operating Guide” (SOG). A reference document or an operations manual that describes in detail the process for consistently performing a single function/task or several interrelated functions.

State Coordinating Officer (SCO): The individual appointed by the Governor to coordinate the delivery of federal disaster assistance to impacted communities in Washington. The SCO plays a critical role in managing the state response and recovery operations following an emergency or major disaster declaration.

Steady State: Also called “normal operations.” A condition where operations and procedures are normal and ongoing. Communities are considered to be at a steady state prior to disasters and after recovery is complete.

T

Terrorism: Any activity that involves an act that is dangerous to human life or potentially destructive of critical infrastructure or key resources and is a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any state or other subdivision of the United States; and, appears to be intended to intimidate or coerce a civilian population, or 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.

Threat: Natural or technological occurrence, individual, entity, or action that has or indicates the potential to harm life, information, operations, the environment, and/or property.

Type: A NIMS resource classification that refers to capability of a specific kind of resource to which a metric is applied to designate it as a specific numbered class.

U

Unified Area Command: A version of command established when incidents under an Area Command are multijurisdictional. Also see Area Command.

Unified Command (UC): An Incident Command System application used when more than one agency has incident jurisdiction or when incidents cross political jurisdictions.

Unified Coordination Group (UCG): Provides leadership within the Joint Field Office. The UCG is comprised of specified senior leaders representing state/territorial and federal interests, and in certain circumstances Indian tribal governments, local governments, the private sector, or Nongovernmental Organizations. The UCG typically consists of the Principal Federal Official (if designated), Federal Coordinating Officer, State Coordinating Officer, and senior officials from other entities with primary statutory or jurisdictional responsibility and significant operational responsibility for an aspect of an incident (such as the Senior Health Official, Defense Coordinating Officer, or Senior Federal Law Enforcement Official if assigned). Within the UCG, the Federal Coordinating Officer is the primary federal government official responsible for coordinating, integrating, and synchronizing federal response and recovery activities.

Unity of Command: A NIMS guiding principle stating that each individual involved in incident command/management reports to and takes direction from only one person.

W

Weapon of Mass Destruction: Materials, weapons, or devices that are intended or capable of causing death or serious bodily injury to a significant number of people through release, dissemination, or impact of toxic or poisonous chemicals or precursors, a disease organism, or radiation or radioactivity, to include, but not limited to, biological devices, chemical devices, improvised nuclear devices, radiological dispersion devices, and radiological exposure devices.

Whole Community: A focus on enabling the participation in national preparedness activities of a wider range of players from the private and nonprofit sectors, including nongovernmental organizations and the general public, in conjunction with the participation of all levels of government in order to foster better coordination and working relationships.