

# Glossary

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**12-HOUR PUSH PACKAGE:** a unit shipment from caches of pharmaceuticals, antidotes, and medical supplies designed to address a variety of biological or chemical agents that are positioned in secure regional warehouses ready for immediate deployment to the airfield closest to the affected area following the federal decision to release SNS assets

**ACTION PLAN:** a verbal or written plan reflecting the coordinating officer's priorities with tactical objectives for the next operational period

**AGENCY:** a division of government with a specific function offering a particular kind of assistance; in the Incident Command System, agencies are defined either as jurisdictional (having statutory responsibility for incident management) or as assisting or cooperating (providing resources or other assistance)

**AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE:** a person assigned by a primary, assisting, or cooperating federal, state, local, or tribal government agency or private entity that has been delegated authority to make decisions affecting that agency's or organization's participation in incident management activities following appropriate consultation with the leadership of that agency

**ALL-HAZARD:** covering all possible dangers, whether natural, accidental, negligent, or intentional

**ALL-HAZARDS PREPAREDNESS:** preparedness for domestic terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies

**ANTHRAX:** a noncontagious, potentially fatal disease caused by breathing, eating, or touching spores of the skin bacterium *Bacillus anthracis*

**ANTITOXIN:** an antibody formed in response to and capable of neutralizing a biological poison; an animal serum containing antitoxins

**AUTHENTICATION:** pertaining to the process by which information on the health volunteer is checked against a credible source in order to establish information legitimacy

**AUTHORITY:** the power to control, judge, or prohibit the actions of others based on statutory, regulatory, or delegated right

**BIOLOGICAL AGENT:** a living organism, or the materials derived from a living organism that causes disease in or harms humans, animals, or plants or causes deterioration of material; 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; biological agents come in three types: bacteria, viruses, and toxins

**BIOLOGICAL ATTACK:** the deliberate release of germs or other biological substances that can cause sickness

**BIOLOGICAL INCIDENT:** an event in which a biological agent is used as a terrorist weapon

**BIOTERRORISM:** the use of a biological agent in a terrorist incident; the intentional use of microorganism or toxins derived from living organisms to produce death or disease in humans, animals, or plants

**CAPACITY:** the ability to perform or produce; the strengths and resources of a community, society, or organization that can reduce the risk or effects of a disaster; the ability to perform health-service functions, including having the necessary facilities (e.g., clinics), equipment (e.g., respiratory equipment), human resources (e.g., physicians, nurses, and pharmacists), and operational financing; capacity may include (1) physical, institutional, social, or economic means, (2) skilled personnel and human resources, and (3) attributes, such as leadership and management; it may also be described as capability

**CERTIFIED:** officially authorized and recognized by a formal authority

**CERTIFICATION:** the process by which an agency or association evaluates and recognizes an individual, institution, or educational program as meeting predetermined standards; certification programs are generally nongovernmental and do not exclude the uncertified from practice as do licensure programs

**CHAIN OF COMMAND:** a series of command, control, executive, or management positions in a hierarchical order of authority

**CHEMICAL AGENT:** a substance that produces incapacitation, serious injury, or death

**CHEMICAL ATTACK:** the deliberate release of a toxic gas, liquid, or solid that can poison people and the environment

**CHEMICAL INCIDENT:** an accidental or deliberate exposure involving chemical agents

**CHEMICAL TERRORISM:** the use of a chemical agent in a terrorist incident to intentionally inflict harm upon others

**COMMAND:** the act of directing, ordering, or controlling by virtue of explicit statutory, regulatory, or delegated authority

**COORDINATE:** to advance systematically an exchange of information among principals who have or may have a need to know certain information in order to carry out their roles in a response

**COMMUNICABLE DISEASE:** an illness caused by a specific infectious agent or by toxic products that arises through transmission of that agent or its products from an infected person or animal to a susceptible host

**CONTINGENCY PLAN:** a predetermined approach to a specific issue or event that may arise during the course of a disaster operation, presenting alternative actions to respond to this situation

**COUNTERTERRORISM:** the full range of activities directed against terrorism, including preventative, deterrent, response, and crisis-management efforts

**CREDENTIAL:** an element of the individual's qualifications; these include education, training, work experience, or hospital affiliation

**CREDENTIALING:** the recognition of professional or technical competence; the credentialing process may include registration, certification, licensure, professional association membership, or the award of a degree in the field; certification and licensure affect the supply of health personnel by controlling entry into practice and influence the stability of the labor force by affecting geographic distribution, mobility, and retention of workers; credentialing also determines the quality of personnel by providing standards for evaluating competence and by defining the scope of functions and how personnel may be used

**DATABASE:** an organized collection of information often stored in electronic form

**DEPLOYMENT:** sending resources or assets to a specific site and assignment; distributing forces or resources in preparation for battle or work

**DISASTER, MAJOR (FEDERAL):** any natural catastrophe or any fire, flood, or explosion, in the United States, which in the determination of the President, causes damage of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant disaster assistance under the Stafford Act to supplement the efforts and available resources of states, local governments, and disaster-relief organizations in alleviating damage, loss, hardship, or suffering

**DISPATCH:** the ordered movement of a resource or resources to an assigned operational mission or an administrative move from one location to another

**DIVISION OF STRATEGIC NATIONAL STOCKPILE (DSNS):** a group of professionals dedicated to supplementing and resupplying state and local public health agencies in the event of a national emergency, including biological or chemical terrorism incidents anywhere, anytime within the United States or its territories

**DSNS PROGRAM SERVICES CONSULTANT:** the DSNS staff member who is the point of contact for a particular state; each state has a DSNS staff member who is knowledgeable about DSNS and about the emergency-response infrastructure of that state and who is best suited to answer questions and provide direction both for preparedness activities and during an emergency; the DSNS Program Services Consultant works closely with the State SNS Coordinator

**EMERGENCY (FEDERAL):** any occasion or instance for which, in the determination of the President, federal assistance is needed to supplement state and local efforts and capabilities to save lives; to protect property, public health, and safety; or to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe in the United States

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:** a systematic program of activities that governments and their partners undertake before, during, and after a disaster to save lives, prevent injury, and protect property and the natural environment

**EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER:** a predesignated facility established by an agency or jurisdiction to coordinate the overall agency or jurisdictional response to an emergency and the support provided

**ENDUROTHERM™:** a shipping container specially designed to meet FDA handling requirements for the transport of vaccines, maintaining the internal temperature for the duration of the transport but not requiring any external or battery power

**EPIDEMIC:** the occurrence in a community or region of cases of an illness (or outbreak) with a frequency clearly in excess of normal expectancy

**EXERCISE:** a simulated emergency condition carried out for the purpose of testing and evaluating the readiness of a community or organization to handle a particular type of emergency

**FIRST RESPONDER:** a local police, fire, or emergency medical person who arrives first on the scene of an incident and takes action to save lives, protect property, and meet basic human needs

**FUNCTION:** in the Incident Command System, the five major activities (i.e., command, operations, plans/information, logistics, and finance/administration); the activity involved (e.g., the planning function)

**FUNCTIONAL PLAN:** a subset of the action plans developed by individual elements, setting out their operational priorities for addressing the most pressing problems

**HAZARD:** a source of potential harm from past, current, or future exposures

**HEALTH EFFECT:** the result of exposure to substances that cause harm to a person's well-being

**HEALTH VOLUNTEER:** medical or healthcare professional who renders aid or performs health services without remuneration

**HOSPITAL:** a healthcare organization that has a governing body, an organized medical staff and professional staff, and inpatient facilities and provides medical, nursing, and related services for ill and injured patients 24 hours per day, 7 days per week; for licensing purposes, each state has its own definition of a hospital

**IMPLEMENTATION:** taking steps to reach a specific objective after goals have been set and a strategy has been developed: putting all program functions and activities into place; putting recommendations into practice; giving practical effect to and ensuring actual fulfillment of a policy or plan by concrete measures; and carrying out a project or program, including all the support activities, such as setting up an organizational structure, communicating, and evaluating a project

**INCIDENT:** an occurrence or event, natural or human-caused, that requires an emergency response to protect life or property; incidents can, for example, include major disasters, emergencies, terrorist attacks, terrorist threats, wild land and urban fires, floods, hazardous materials spills, nuclear accidents, aircraft accidents, earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, tropical storms, war-related disasters, public health and medical emergencies, and other occurrences requiring an emergency response

**INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM:** a standardized on-scene emergency-management concept specifically designed to allow its users to adopt an integrated organizational structure equal to the complexity and demands of single or multiple incidents without being hindered by jurisdictional boundaries

**INCIDENT COMMANDER:** the individual responsible for all incident activities, including the development of strategies and tactics and the ordering and release of resources; the Incident Commander has overall authority and responsibility for conducting incident operations and is responsible for the management of all operations at the incident site

**INCIDENT MANAGEMENT:** the totality of activities to be aware of, prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from incidents

**JURISDICTION:** 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 or public health)

**LEAD AGENCY:** the federal department or agency assigned the primary, directive responsibility under the U.S. law to manage and coordinate the federal response in a specific functional area

**LEAD FEDERAL AGENCY:** the agency designated by the President to lead and coordinate the overall federal response to an emergency

**LIAISON OFFICER:** a member of the Command Staff responsible for filling the senior liaison functions with representatives from cooperating and assisting agencies

**LICENSURE:** affirmation by a duly constituted body, usually a state, that an individual has met certain prescribed qualifications and is therefore recognized under the laws of the state as a licensed professional

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT:** any county, city, village, town, district, or political subdivision of any state; Indian tribe or authorized tribal organization; or Alaska Native Village or organization, including any rural community or unincorporated town or village or any other public entity

**MANAGED INVENTORY:** unit shipments from caches of pharmaceutical and/or medical supplies that are shipped in response to a state's request for follow-on materials; they can be tailored to provide pharmaceuticals, supplies, and/or products specific to the medical needs produced by the emergency

**MEDICAL DOCTOR:** A licensed physician who is a graduate of an accredited medical school and practices allopathic medicine

**METROPOLITAN MEDICAL RESPONSE SYSTEM:** a Department of Homeland Security program intended to increase cities' ability to respond to a terrorist attack by coordinating the efforts of local law enforcement, fire, hazmat, EMS, hospital, public health and other personnel

**MOBILIZATION:** the process and procedures used by all organizations (federal, state, local, and tribal) for activating, assembling, and transporting all resources that have been requested to respond to or support a response to an incident

**MUTUAL-AID AGREEMENT:** written agreement between agencies and/or jurisdictions that they will assist one another on request, by furnishing personnel, equipment, and/or expertise in a specified manner

**N95:** filtering characteristic of an effective mask that is resistant to aerosol hazards

**NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NIMS):** the single all-hazard incident-management system required by Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 that will govern the management of the National Response Plan; the National Incident Management System will replace the National Inter-Agency Incident Management System

**NATIONAL RESPONSE PLAN (NRP):** the single all-hazard incident-management plan required by Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 that will govern all incident

management beginning in 2005; the National Response Plan will replace multiple specific-purpose response plans currently in use

**NERVE AGENT:** a substance that interferes with the central nervous system; exposure occurs through contact with the liquid and through inhalation of the vapor

**NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION (NGO):** An entity with an association that is based on interests of its members, individuals, or institutions and that is not created by a government but may work cooperatively with government; such organizations serve a public purpose, not a private benefit

**OUTBREAK:** the occurrence of a number of cases of a disease or condition in any area over a given period of time in excess of the expected number of cases

**PLACARD:** a standard device or sign attached to the outside of a vehicle to identify the hazards or importance associated with the cargo

**PLANNING:** setting objectives and identifying methods to achieve those objectives, a continuing process of analyzing data, making decisions, making plans for future actions, and revising those plans, all aimed at achieving program goals

**POINT OF DISPENSING:** a location where pharmaceuticals and other medications are distributed to end users; these facilities may range from small clinics to large operations with multiple staging and operation areas; these facilities may also support a range of methods of distributing drugs and medications to the patients

**PREPAREDNESS:** the range of deliberate, critical tasks and activities necessary to build, sustain, and improve the capability to protect against, respond to, and recover from hazard impacts; preparedness is a continuous process; within the National Incident Management System, preparedness involves efforts at all levels of government and the private sector to identify threats, to determine vulnerabilities, and to identify required response plans and resources

**PREVENTION:** actions to avoid a hazard occurrence or to avoid or minimize the hazard impact (consequences) if it does occur; prevention involves actions to protect lives and property

**PRIVILEGES:** verified scope of practice as termed by the organization in which the clinician practices

**PROPHYLAXIS:** prevention of disease or of a process that can lead to disease

**PUBLIC HEALTH:** organized efforts of society to protect, promote, and restore people's health; it is the combination of science, skills, and beliefs that is directed to the maintenance and improvement of the health of all the people through collective or social actions; the programs, services, and institutions involved emphasize the prevention of

disease and the health needs of the population as a whole; public health activities change with variations in technology and social values but the goals remain the same: to reduce the amount of disease, premature death, and disease-produced discomfort and disability in the population

**PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY:** occurrence or imminent threat of exposure to an extremely dangerous condition or the occurrence of a highly infectious disease or toxic agent that poses in imminent threat of substantial harm to the population

**QUARANTINE:** precautionary physical separation of persons who have or may have been exposed to a threatening or potentially threatening communicable disease from the general population to protect against the transmission of the disease to uninfected persons

**REPACKAGING SITE:** the location where bulk pharmaceuticals will be separated into individual-dose regimens

**RESPONSE:** those activities or programs designed to address the immediate and short-term effects of an emergency or disaster; includes immediate actions to save lives, protect property, and meet basic human needs as well as executing the plan and resources created to preserve life, protect property, and provide services

**RESOURCES:** personnel and major items of equipment, supplies, and facilities available or potentially available for assignment to incident operations and for which status is maintained

**RESOURCE MANAGEMENT:** a system for identifying available resources at all jurisdictional levels to enable timely and unimpeded access to resources needed to prepare for, respond to, or recover from an incident; the National Incident Management System includes mutual-aid agreements; the use of special federal, state, local, and tribal teams, as well as resource mobilization protocols in resource management

**RISK:** a measure of the harm to human health that results from being exposed; uncertainty that surrounds future events and outcomes

**RISK ASSESSMENT:** a process that involves determining the likelihood that a specific adverse health effect will occur in an individual or population following exposure to a hazardous agent

**SMALLPOX:** variola, a virus that causes a serious, contagious and sometimes fatal disease producing substantial morbidity and mortality; there is no specific treatment for smallpox, and the only prevention is vaccination

**SNS OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT TEAM:** the people who specifically manage the SNS assets and any supplemental assets already available through the state, providing a management framework to handle SNS assets from receipt to dispensing; an interface

with the state C&C; the execution of directives from the C&C concerning SNS assets; and the training, exercising, and evaluating involved with a plan

**SNS PROGRAM PREPAREDNESS:** the ability of state and local programs to assemble a robust capacity to effectively manage, receive, store, stage, distribute, and dispense SNS assets once they are deployed

**SPECIAL POPULATIONS:** people who might be more sensitive or susceptible to exposure to hazardous substances because of such factors as age, occupation, sex, or behaviors (for example, cigarette smoking); populations with special needs for translations, special services (such as the physically handicapped), or alternative channels of communication (such as the deaf); populations with distinct cultural or community needs; children, pregnant women, and older people are often considered special populations

**SPONTANEOUS VOLUNTEER:** a person who arrives to provide services in response to an incident without being solicited for help or being specifically requested by a sponsoring agency involved in the emergency response

**STAGING AREA:** location established where resources can be placed while awaiting a tactical assignment

**STATE:** any state of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, or the Republic of the Marshall Islands

**STATE SNS COORDINATOR:** the individual in a project area who develops and implements and/or ensures the development and implementation of a plan that will create a project area infrastructure capable of administering pharmaceuticals and/or medical supplies to any segment of the project area's population; will securely receive SNS assets and support personnel at the predesignated and approved site(s); and will store, secure, apportion, deliver, inventory, and track SNS assets during a public health emergency necessitating these resources

**STRATEGIC NATIONAL STOCKPILE:** a national repository of antibiotics, chemical antidotes, antitoxins, life-support medications, intravenous-administration and airway-maintenance supplies, and medical or surgical materiel for use in a declared biological or chemical terrorism incident or other major public health emergency

**TACTICAL:** characterized by the execution of specific actions or plans in response to an actual incident or, prior to an incident, the implementation of individual or small unit activities, such as training or exercises

**TECHNICAL ADVISER RESPONSE UNIT:** a rapid-response unit of CDC advisors that is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to move in concert with the deployment of the 12-Hour Push Packages, Managed Inventory, or other SNS assets and provides onsite advice and guidance

**TERRORISM:** the unlawful use of force or violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof in the furtherance of political or social objectives

**TERRORIST INCIDENT:** a violent act or an act dangerous to human life in violation of the criminal laws of United States or of any state to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof in furtherance of political or social objectives

**THREAT:** the likelihood of a hazard occurring

**TOOLS:** those instruments and capabilities that allow for the professional performance of tasks, such as information systems, agreements, doctrines, capabilities, and legislative authorities

**TREATMENT FACILITY:** hospitals or other facilities where symptomatic persons will receive intravenous medications

**TRIBAL:** any Native American tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, including any Alaskan Native village, that is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Native Americans

**UNIFIED COMMAND:** an application of the Incident Command System used when there is more than one agency with incident jurisdiction; agencies work together through their designated incident commanders or managers at a single location to establish a common set of objectives and strategies and a single incident action plan

**UNITY OF COMMAND:** the concept by which each person within an organization reports to one and only one designated person; the purpose of unity of command is to ensure unity of effort under one responsible commander for every objective

**VACCINATION:** the injection or inoculation of a vaccine for the purpose of inducing active immunity

**VaxiCool™:** shipping containers that will maintain vaccine at a proper temperature for up to 2 days during shipment using external electrical or self-contained battery power

**VERIFICATION:** the act of confirming truth or authority

**VIRUS:** the simplest type of microorganism, lacking a system for its own metabolism; it depends on living cells to multiply and cannot live long outside a host

**VOLUNTEER:** a medical or healthcare professional who renders aid or performs health services without remuneration

WEAPON OF MASS DESTRUCTION: any device, material, or substance used with the intent to cause death or serious injury to persons or significant damage to property

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