

# Most Frequently Used Disaster-Related Acronyms

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## A — D

<b>AAR</b>	After Action Report
<b>ADA</b>	Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
<b>AES</b>	Animal Emergency Sheltering
<b>APHIS</b>	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
<b>ARES</b>	Amateur Radio Emergency Services
<b>AHJ</b>	Authority Having Jurisdiction: person or agency with delegated authority to determine, mandate, and enforce code requirements established by jurisdictional governing bodies
<b>ARC</b>	American Red Cross
<b>CBRNE</b>	Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear or Explosive
<b>CART</b>	Community/County Animal Response Team
<b>CDC</b>	Centers for Disease Control
<b>CEMP</b>	Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
<b>CERT</b>	Community Emergency Response Team
<b>CISD</b>	Critical Incident Stress Debriefing
<b>COOP</b>	Continuity of Operations Plan
<b>COMM</b>	Communications
<b>CONOPS</b>	Concept of Operations
<b>CONUS</b>	Continental (or Contiguous) United States
<b>CP</b>	Command Post
<b>CSI</b>	Crime Scene Investigation
<b>DART</b>	Disaster Assistance Response Team
<b>DECON</b>	Decontamination Area or Decontamination Process
<b>DEM</b>	Department or Division of Emergency Management (will sometimes have the state initials in front of it): state entity responsible for disaster planning and response; Demobilization: concluding response to a disaster event
<b>DA</b>	Department of Agriculture
<b>DFO</b>	Disaster Field Office: temporary, local headquarters for FEMA staff and operations during a disaster
<b>DHS</b>	Department of Homeland Security: unifying core for national network of organizations and institutions involved in response to threats and hazards in the United States
<b>DMAT</b>	Disaster Medical Assistance Teams
<b>DNR</b>	Department of Natural Resources
<b>DOD</b>	Department of Defense
<b>DOE</b>	Department of Energy
<b>DOH</b>	Department of Health
<b>DOI</b>	Department of the Interior
<b>DOT</b>	Department of Transportation

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<b>DRC</b>	Disaster Recovery Center: facility where applicants may go for information about FEMA or other disaster assistance programs
<b>DSCA</b>	Defense Support to Civil Authority

## E — H

<b>EA</b>	Emergency Assistance
<b>EHS</b>	Environmental Health & Safety; Extremely Hazardous Substance
<b>EMA</b>	Emergency Management Agency
<b>EMAC</b>	Emergency Management Assistance Compact
<b>EMI</b>	Emergency Management Institute: organization within FEMA that offers courses for people who have emergency management responsibilities
<b>EMS</b>	Emergency Medical System: first response services such as fire, law enforcement, paramedics
<b>EOC</b>	Emergency Operations Center: physical location at which the coordination of information and resources to support incident management activities takes place
<b>EOP</b>	Emergency Operations Plan: plan each jurisdiction has for responding to appropriate hazards
<b>EPA</b>	Environmental Protection Agency
<b>ER</b>	Emergency Relief
<b>ESF</b>	Emergency Support Function: organizational structure to provide support, resources, program implementation and services most likely needed to save lives, protect property and the environment, restore essential services and critical infrastructure, and help victims and communities return to normal following domestic incidents
<b>ESF 01</b>	Transportation
<b>ESF 02</b>	Communications
<b>ESF 03</b>	Public Works and Engineering
<b>ESF 04</b>	Firefighting
<b>ESF 05</b>	Emergency Management
<b>ESF 06</b>	Mass Care, Housing and Human Services
<b>ESF 07</b>	Resource Support
<b>ESF 08</b>	Public Health and Medical Services
<b>ESF 09</b>	Urban Search and Rescue
<b>ESF 10</b>	Oil and Hazardous Materials Response
<b>ESF 11</b>	Agriculture and Natural Resources
<b>ESF 12</b>	Energy
<b>ESF 13</b>	Public Safety and Security
<b>ESF 14</b>	Long-term Community Recovery and Mitigation
<b>ESF 15</b>	External Affairs

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<b>FIR</b>	ASPCA’s Field Investigations and Response Team
<b>FOG</b>	Field Operation Guidelines
<b>GOHSEP</b>	Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (LA)
<b>GIS</b>	Geographic Information Systems
<b>HAZMAT</b>	Hazardous Material
<b>HHS</b>	Health and Human Services
<b>HUREVAC</b>	Hurricane Evacuation

## I — O

<b>IA</b>	Individual Assistance; Inter-local Agreements
<b>IA-TAC</b>	Individual Assistance, Technical Assistance Contractor
<b>IAEM</b>	International Association of Emergency Managers
<b>IAP</b>	Incident Action Plan: written plan that defines the response to a specific incident, including objectives, strategy and resources
<b>IC</b>	Incident Commander: person responsible for all incident activities, including strategies, tactics and resources
<b>ICP</b>	Incident Command Post
<b>ICS / IMS</b>	Incident Command System/ Incident Management System: standardized on-scene emergency management organization designed to aid in the management of resources during incidents
<b>IEMS</b>	Integrated Emergency Management System
<b>IMAT</b>	Incident Management Assistance Team
<b>JFO</b>	Joint Field Office
<b>JIC</b>	Joint Information Center: facility established to coordinate all incident-related public information activities
<b>JOC</b>	Joint Operations Center
<b>JITT</b>	Just in Time Training
<b>LEPC</b>	Local Emergency Planning Committee
<b>LOGS</b>	Logistics
<b>MA</b>	Mission Assignment
<b>MAA</b>	Mutual Aid Agreement: agreement between organizations that generally defines the roles each will play during a disaster
<b>MACS</b>	Multi-Agency Coordination System: architecture to support coordination for incident prioritization, critical resource allocation, communications systems integration and information coordination
<b>MASH</b>	Mobile Animal Surgical Hospital; Mobile Army Surgical Hospital
<b>MOU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding: agreement between organizations that very specifically defines the roles each may play during a disaster

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<b>MRC</b>	Medical Reserve Corp
<b>MRE</b>	Meal Ready to Eat
<b>MSDS</b>	Material Safety Data Sheet: form that provides workers and emergency personnel with procedures for working with a particular substance in a safe manner
<b>MSPSA</b>	Multi-State Partnership for Security in Agriculture
<b>NARSC</b>	National Animal Rescue and Sheltering Coalition
<b>NASAAEP</b>	National Alliance of State Animal and Agricultural Emergency Programs
<b>NDMS</b>	National Disaster Medical System
<b>NEMA</b>	National Emergency Management Association: professional association for state emergency management directors
<b>NFPA</b>	National Fire Protection Association: the NFPA mission is to reduce the worldwide burden of fire and other hazards
<b>NG</b>	National Guard
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organization
<b>NIC</b>	NIMS National Integration Center
<b>NIMS</b>	National Incident Management System: federally-mandated management structure used for disasters
<b>NOAA</b>	National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
<b>NVOAD</b>	National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster
<b>NWS</b>	National Weather Service
<b>OEM</b>	Office of Emergency Management: local or state department responsible for response plan
<b>OEP</b>	Office of Emergency Preparedness
<b>OHSEP</b>	Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (LA)
<b>OPS</b>	Operations OSHA Occupational Safety & Health Administration

## P — Z

<b>PA</b>	Public Assistance
<b>PETS Act</b>	Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2006
<b>PIO</b>	Public Information Officer: member of incident command staff responsible for communicating with the public and media
<b>PKEMRA</b>	Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act
<b>POC</b>	Point of Contact
<b>POD</b>	Point of Distribution: locations where the public picks up life-sustaining commodities following a disaster or emergency
<b>PPE</b>	Personal Protective Equipment
<b>PSA</b>	Public Service Advertising, Public Service Announcement
<b>PST</b>	ASPCA's Personnel Support Trailer

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<b>RACES</b>	Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services
<b>RRCC</b>	Regional Response Coordination Center
<b>SAADRA</b>	Southern Animal and Agricultural Disaster Response Alliance
<b>SAR, S&amp;R</b>	Search and Rescue
<b>SART</b>	State Animal Response Team
<b>SITREP</b>	Situation Report
<b>SO</b>	Safety Officer
<b>SOG</b>	Standard Operating Guidelines
<b>SOP</b>	Standard Operating Procedure
<b>SOU</b>	Statement of Understanding
<b>SUA</b>	Shared Use Agreement
<b>TS</b>	Tropical Storm
<b>UC</b>	Unified Command: representatives of multiple organizations who together have authority and responsibility for incident operations and management
<b>USDA</b>	United States Department of Agriculture
<b>USAR</b>	Urban Search and Rescue
<b>VMAT</b>	Veterinary Medical Assistance Team
<b>VRC</b>	Veterinary Reserve Corp

**Note: Many definitions in this guide are from the FEMA ICS Resource Center, which includes a more detailed glossary and a wealth of other information about disaster preparedness.**