

# Acronyms and Definitions

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<b>AAND</b>	Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development
<b>A-MOH</b>	Associate Medical Officer of Health
<b>AED</b>	Automated External Defibrillator
<b>ARES</b>	Amateur Radio Emergency Service
<b>BEM</b>	Basic Emergency Management course
<b>CACC</b>	Central Ambulance Communications Centre
<b>CAER</b>	Community Awareness Emergency Response
<b>CANUTEC</b>	Canadian Transport Emergency Centre (TDG)
<b>CAO</b>	Chief Administrative Officer
<b>CBRN(E)</b>	Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (Explosive)
<b>CCAC</b>	Community Care Access Centre
<b>CCG</b>	Community Control Group (external)
<b>CDC</b>	Centre for Disease Control – Atlanta, Georgia
<b>CEMC</b>	Community Emergency Management Coordinator
<b>CERCA</b>	Canadian Emergency Response Contractor's Alliance
<b>CERV</b>	Community Emergency Response Volunteers
<b>CIAC</b>	Chemistry Industry Association of Canada
<b>CISM</b>	Critical Incident Stress Management
<b>CN or CNR</b>	Canadian National Railway
<b>COOP</b>	Continuity of Operations Plan
<b>CP</b>	Canadian Pacific Railway
<b>CPPI</b>	Canadian Petroleum Products Institute
<b>CPR</b>	Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation
<b>CRIB</b>	Central Registration & Inquiry Bureau
<b>CSA</b>	Canadian Standards Association
<b>CVECO</b>	Chemical Valley Emergency Coordinating Organization (Sarnia, ON)
<b>DND</b>	Department of National Defence (Canadian Forces)
<b>EAP</b>	Employee Assistance Program
<b>EIC</b>	Emergency Information Centre
<b>EIO</b>	Emergency Information Officer
<b>EMAP</b>	Emergency Management Accreditation Program
<b>EMAT</b>	Emergency Medical Assistance Team
<b>EMCPA</b>	Emergency Management & Civil Protection Act, R.S.O. 1990
<b>EMO</b>	Emergency Management Ontario
<b>EMS</b>	Emergency Medical Services
<b>EMU</b>	Emergency Management Unit (Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care)
<b>EOC</b>	Emergency Operations Centre (external)
<b>EOCG</b>	Emergency Operation Centre Group
<b>ERAP</b>	Emergency Response Action Plan
<b>ERG</b>	Emergency Response Guide
<b>ESM</b>	Emergency Site Manager
<b>FTE</b>	Full-time Equivalent
<b>HAZMAT</b>	Hazardous Materials
<b>HC</b>	Health Canada
<b>HIRA</b>	Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment
<b>HRSDC</b>	Human Resources & Social Development Canada
<b>HUSAR</b>	Heavy Urban Search and Rescue
<b>ICS</b>	Incident Command System

<b>IMG</b>	Incident Management Group (internal)
<b>IMS</b>	Incident Management Systems
<b>IOC</b>	Incident Operations Centre (internal)
<b>IT</b>	Information Technology
<b>JEPP</b>	Joint Emergency Preparedness Program
<b>JOHSC</b>	Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee
<b>LDCSB</b>	London District Catholic School Board
<b>LHIN</b>	Local Health Integration Networks
<b>LHSC</b>	London Health Sciences Centre
<b>MCSS</b>	Ministry of Community & Social Services
<b>MLHU</b>	Middlesex-London Health Unit
<b>MMAH</b>	Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing
<b>MNR</b>	Ministry of Natural Resources
<b>MOE</b>	Ministry of the Environment
<b>MOH</b>	Medical Officer of Health
<b>MOHLTC</b>	Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
<b>MOL</b>	Ministry of Labour
<b>MSDS</b>	Materials Safety Data Sheet
<b>MTO</b>	Ministry of Transportation
<b>NESS</b>	National Emergency Stockpile System
<b>NFPA</b>	National Fire Protection Agency
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Government Organization
<b>ODRAP</b>	Ontario Disaster Relief Assistance Program (through MMAH)
<b>OHA</b>	Ontario Hospital Association
<b>OMAFRA</b>	Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs
<b>OPP</b>	Ontario Provincial Police
<b>OSACH</b>	Ontario Safety Association for Community and Healthcare
<b>OSHA</b>	Occupational Safety Health Act
<b>PAD</b>	Priority Access Dialing or Public Access Defibrillator (AED)
<b>PERT</b>	Provincial Emergency Response Team
<b>PHAC</b>	Public Health Agency of Canada
<b>PIMS</b>	Provincial Incident Management System
<b>POC</b>	Provincial Operations Centre
<b>PPE</b>	Personal Protective Equipment
<b>R &amp; I</b>	Registration & Inquiry Service
<b>RCMP</b>	Royal Canadian Mounted Police
<b>SAC</b>	Spills Action Centre
<b>SAR</b>	Search and Rescue
<b>SATERN</b>	Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network
<b>SCPS</b>	Strathroy-Caradoc Police Service
<b>SCORPA</b>	Size up the Situation
<b>SJHC</b>	St. Joseph's Hospital Centre
<b>SMEAC</b>	Situation, mission, execution, administration, command and communication
<b>TC</b>	Transport Canada
<b>TDG</b>	Transport Dangerous Goods
<b>TEAP III</b>	Transport Emergency Assistance Program, version three
<b>TERC</b>	Transportation Emergency Rescue Committee Canada
<b>TransCAER</b>	Transport Community Awareness and Emergency Response
<b>TVDSB</b>	Thames Valley District School Board
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization

**WHMIS** Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System  
**WSIB** Workplace Safety and Insurance Board

**Accident** – An unplanned event that harms people or damages property.

**Agreements** – a contract that has been negotiated for the provision of goods and services prior to an emergency. Agreements include Mutual Aid Agreements and Memorandums of Understanding.

**Anti-virals** – Drugs used for the prevention and early treatment of influenza. If taken shortly after getting sick (within 48 hours), they can reduce influenza symptoms, shorten the length of illness and reduce the serious complications of influenza.

**Area Municipality** - The municipalities or townships of the County of Middlesex.

**Business Continuity Program** – An ongoing process supported by senior management and funded to ensure that necessary steps are taken to identify the impact of potential losses, maintain viable recovery strategies and recovery plans, and ensure continuity of services through staff training, plan evacuation, and maintenance.

**Catastrophic** – A momentous, destructive and/or tragic event, usually sudden and widespread.

**Community** – A political body/organization, within a defined boundary, having authority to adopt and enforce laws and provide services and leadership to its residents. This term includes upper and lower tier municipalities and First Nations.

**Community Emergency Management Coordinator (CEMC)** – The individual officially designated by a community who is responsible and accountable for the community emergency management program. The Community Emergency Management Coordinator must be, by definition, a municipal employee, as per the *Municipal Act*.

**Community Resilience** – The capacity of a community to counter hazards, to withstand loss or damage and to recover from the impact of an emergency.

**Complex Incidents** – Some or all of the following components: long duration, large in scale, require a larger number of resources, are multi-jurisdictional, require specialized knowledge and/or training to resolve, pose a significant risk to the responders or the jurisdiction as a whole. Potential to cause widespread damage or loss of life/injury. Require a more complex organizational structure, and/or necessitate formal planning.

**Comprehensive Emergency Management** – An all-encompassing risk management program that integrates community resilience, critical infrastructure assurance and continuity of operations.

**Consequence** – A determination of how severe a hazard is or would be. This process is fundamental to the process of determining a community's vulnerable areas and populations.

**Continuity of operations program** - An ongoing process supported by senior management and funded to ensure necessary steps are taken to identify the impact of potential losses, maintain viable recovery strategies and recovery plans, and ensure continuity of services through staff training, plan evaluation, and maintenance.

**County Warden** – The Head of Council for the County of Middlesex and is Chair of the Community Control Group (CCG).

**Critical Incident** – Is any situation faced by emergency service personnel or others that causes them to experience unusually strong emotional reactions which have the potential to interfere with their ability to function either at the emergency scene or later.

**Critical incident stress management (CISM)** - A comprehensive, systematic and multi-component approach for the reduction and control of harmful aspects of stress.

**Declaration of emergency** – Term used in the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*.

**Declared emergency** – A signed declaration made in writing by the Head of Council or the Premier of Ontario in accordance with the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*. This declaration is usually based on a situation or an impending situation that threatens public safety, public health, the environment, critical infrastructure, property, and/or economic stability and exceeds the scope of routine community emergency response.

**Disaster** - A wide spread or severe emergency that seriously incapacitates a community.

**Drill** - A coordinated, supervised exercise activity normally used to evaluate a specific operation, procedure or function. It can include notification, telecommunications etc.

**Emergency** – (1) An urgent and/or critical situation temporary in nature that threatens or causes harm to people, the environment, the MLHU properties or disrupts critical operations.

(2) *“an abnormal situation that demands prompt, coordinated actions that exceed normal procedures, thereby limiting damage to person, property and/or the environment”* (Public Safety Canada).

and/or

(3) *“A situation or impending situation caused by the forces of nature, an accident, intentional act or otherwise that constitutes a danger of major proportions to life or property”* (Emergency Management Ontario).

**Emergency Operations Centre** – (1) The temporary, time limited, emergency management organization established by a site/sector to provide incident support.

(2) Established recognized team of people, who are responsible for providing direction, coordination, communications and support during emergency operations.

**Evacuees** – are all persons who were forced to leave their home or who having been away from their homes are unable to return. As a result of this they are deprived of food, shelter and clothing during an emergency.

**Fatality** – An injury resulting in death.

**Fan-out** – A telephone notification system that begins with telephone calls placed by a few key personnel who in turn notify others of the disaster, creating a multiplied, fan-like effect.

**Fume** – An airborne dispersion consisting of minute solid particles arising from the heating of a solid.

**Hazards** – Any practice, behaviour, condition or a combination that could cause injury or illness in people or damage to property. The hazard (undesirable event) produces adverse consequences and the possibility of an emergency. It is an event or physical condition that has the potential to cause fatalities, injuries, property damage, infrastructure damage, agricultural loss, and damage to the environment, interruption of business or other types of harm or loss:

- A **likely hazard** is defined as a hazard that has occurred in recent memory and is likely to occur again.
- A **possible hazard** is defined as not having occurred in recent memory, but could occur based on prior incidence or 'expert' assessment (e.g. a nuclear facility incident, terrorism, or earthquake).
- An **unlikely hazard** is one that has never occurred, and likely will not in the foreseeable future

**Hazardous Material** – Any substance having properties capable of producing adverse effects on the health or safety of a human. Substances, which if released from their protective containers, may result in serious harm to life, property and/or the environment. These substances are listed in the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act, Schedule XII and the Major Industrial Accident Council of Canada List of Hazardous Substances.

**Health Hazard** – Affect one or more of the body's systems to cause occupational illness.

- a) a condition of a premises,
- b) a substance, thing, plant or animal other than man, or
- c) a solid, liquid or combination of any of them, that has or that is likely to have an adverse effect on the health of any person.

**Impact** – Expressed quantitatively or qualitatively, it is the estimated damage/loss to, or the ultimate effect on, an entity as an outcome of an event caused by a hazard. This phase may last for moments (i.e. a tornado or crash) or for several days (i.e. a flood or forest fire).

**Incident** – An unusual occurrence in the workplace that could have resulted in harm to workers or property. Also referred to as a "near miss".

**Incident Management System** - A standardized emergency response management concept, specifically designed to allow its user(s) to adopt an integrated organizational structure equal to the complexity and demands of an incident, event or disaster. Combination of facilities, equipment, staff, procedures, and communications operating within a common organizational structure with responsibility for the management of assisted resources to effectively respond to an incident or emergency/disaster.

**Ingestion** - The swallowing of a substance in the form of a gas, vapour, fume, mist, smoke, dust, or solid into the body for digestion.

**Inhalation** – A route of entry. Breathing in of a substance in the form a gas, vapour, fume, mist, smoke, or dust.

**Injection** - A route of entry, through the skin.

**Isolation** - The separation of ill persons with contagious disease, often in a hospital setting, may be applied to individuals or groups

**Mitigation/Prevention** - Actions taken to eliminate or reduce the degree of long-term risk to human life, property and the environment from natural and technological hazards. Mitigation assumes that we are exposed to risks whether or not an emergency occurs. Mitigation measures include, but are not limited to, hazard analysis, monitoring and inspection, public education, risk analysis, safety policies and procedures, building design, insurance, legislation and stocking emergency supplies.

**Occupational Illness** - A health problem caused by exposure to a health hazard in the workplace

**Occupational Injury** – Damage or harm done to the body, usually immediate, resulting from a workplace accident.

**Pre-emergency** – The time when the writing and testing of an emergency plan occurs and the education components are initialized. People who recognize that an emergency is possible will ensure that there is an emergency plan in place. They have been given basic information on what they should do and are therefore better equipped to face an emergency.

**Preparedness** - Actions that are taken in advance of an emergency to develop operational capabilities and facilitate an effective response in the event that an emergency occurs. Preparedness measures include, but are not limited to, business continuity planning, emergency alert systems, emergency communications, emergency operations centres, emergency operations plans, emergency public information materials, exercise of plans, mutual aid agreements, resource management, safety, security, training response personnel and warning systems.

**Probability** – The determination of the likelihood of occurrence for each identified community hazard, often judged by past experience and expert advice.

**Psychological Harassment** – Any vexatious behaviour in the form of repeated and hostile or unwanted conduct, verbal comments, actions or gestures that affect an employee's dignity and that results in a harmful work environment for the employee.

**Quarantine** – The restriction of well persons who are presumed exposed. May be applied at the individual or community level and may be voluntary or mandatory.

**Radiation** – Energy that is emitted, transmitted or absorbed in wave or energy particle form.

**Reception centre** - Usually located outside the impact zone of the emergency, the reception centre is a place to which evacuees can go to register, receive assistance for basic needs, information and referral to a shelter if required.

**Recovery** – Activity that returns vital support systems to minimum operating standards and long-term activity designed to return operations to normal or an improved level, including some form of economic viability. Recovery measures include, but are not limited to, crisis counselling, damage assessment, debris clearance, computer systems restoration, decontamination, disaster loans and grants, disaster unemployment assistance, public information, reassessment of emergency plans, reconstruction, temporary housing and full scale business resumption.

**Response** – Actions that are taken immediately before, during or directly after an emergency occurs, to save lives, minimize damage to property and the environment and to enhance the effectiveness of recovery. Response measures include, but are not limited to, emergency plan activation, emergency alert system activation, emergency instructions to the public, emergency medical assistance, staffing the emergency operations centre, senior management alerting, reception and care, shelter and evacuation, search and rescue, resource mobilization and warning systems activation.

**Risk** - Chance or possibility of danger, loss, injury, or other adverse consequences.

**Safety Hazards** – Can cause the workplace incidents and accidents resulting in occupational injury.

**Severity** – The potential or intensity associated with a hazard to disrupt normal operations and/or cause damage to an entity. (Severity of a hazard may be countered with measures to lower an entity's vulnerability to the hazard).

**Simple Incidents** - Dealt with routinely and locally. They require relatively few resources, have a limited command structure, and are relatively short in duration, use no special arrangements, do not over task the resources of the local jurisdiction and do not require tactics or actions beyond the training and knowledge of regular first responders.

**Threat** – a situation with the potential for human or animal injury or death, damage to property, damage to the environment or some combination of these. Interchangeable with hazard.

**Triage** – The sorting of in-coming evacuees or casualties requiring treatment or care, whereby priorities are determined to affect the placement of the victims for treatment purposes.

**Type I Trauma** - An unexpected and discreet experience that overwhelms the individual's ability to cope with the stress, fear, threat and/or horror of this event leading to post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) (i.e., motor vehicle accident, airplane crash, fire, rape, flood, burglary, physical assault, diagnosis with life-threatening illness). It can be the witnessing of an event (secondary traumatic stress).

**Type II Trauma** - Expected, but unavoidable, ongoing experience(s) which overwhelm the individual's ability to process the event (i.e., childhood physical or sexual abuse, combat trauma, hostages, concentration-camp survivors, survivors of some religious cults, survivors of domestic battery or organized sexual exploitation, etc.). This type of trauma is the origin of Disorders of Extreme Stress Not Otherwise Specified (or Complex PTSD) and dissociative disorders.

**Vaccines** – Administered by injection and are the primary means to prevent illness and death. They cause the production of antibodies against virus included in the vaccine, providing immunity against the virus.

**Vulnerability** – The degree of an entity's, the environment's or the economy's susceptibility to potential hazards in terms of damage or losses from such hazards.

**Warning** – Applies mainly to gradual emergencies – those that may be forecast. Weather information, flood predictions, forest fires miles away, etc. may allow time for preparation.