

Transportation Rail Incident Preparedness and Response Volume 2: Climate Change – Acronyms and Glossary

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ACRONYMS

AAR	American Association of Railroads
ACE	Altamont Corridor Express
CISA	Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
COG	Continuity of Government
COOP	Continuity of Operations
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
DOE	Department of Energy
DOT	Department of Transportation
EMS	Emergency Medical Services
EMT	Emergency Medical Technician
EOC	Emergency Operation Center
EOP	Emergency Operations Plan
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Act
FRA	Federal Railroad Administration
FTA	Federal Transit Administration
GHG	Greenhouse gasses
GIS	Geographical Information System
GPS	Global Positioning System
HAZMAT	Hazardous materials
HSPD-7	Homeland Security Presidential Directive 7
HTUA	High threat urban area
IC	Incident Commander
ICS	Incident Command System
IED	Improvised explosive device
LNG	Liquefied natural gas

MACS	Multi-Agency Coordination System
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NCA4	4 th National Climate Assessment
NIMS	National Incident Management System
NIPP	National Infrastructure Protection Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NTSB	National Transportation Safety Board
PHMSA	Pipeline and Hazardous Material Security Administration
PIO	Public Information Officer
PPD-8	Presidential Policy Directive-8
PSPS	Public Safety Power Shut-off
PTC	Positive Train Control
SCADA	Supervisory control and data acquisition
SOC	State Operations Center, the state's EOC
TIH	Toxic inhalation hazard
TSA	Transportation Security Administration
US	United States of America
VBIED	Vehicle-borne Improvised Explosive Device
WMD	Weapon of mass destruction

GLOSSARY

Action Plan	Written plan created from the Action Planning Briefing that includes goals and objectives, operational period, maps, organization charts and any auxiliary plans to be used during the covered operational period.
Action Planning Briefing	A meeting held as needed throughout the duration of an incident to select specific strategies and tactics for event control operations and for service and support planning. The Action Planning Briefing allows all General Staff to collaborate with each other and the Management Section Chief to develop the Action Plan.
Adaptation	In climate change activities, strategies and actions that lessen the impact or damage from GHG and other human-caused climate warming activities, such as switching to solar, wind or hydro energy production from petroleum sources.
Agency	An agency is a division of government with a specific function or a non-governmental organization (e.g., private contractor, business, etc.) that offers a particular kind of assistance. In ICS, agencies are defined as jurisdictional (having statutory responsibility for incident mitigation) or assisting and/or cooperating (providing resources and/or assistance).
Agency Representative	An individual assigned to an incident from an assisting or cooperating agency who has been delegated authority to make decisions on matters affecting that agency's participation at the incident. Agency Representatives report to the Liaison Office.
Branch	The ICS organizational level that has functional responsibility for major operations. The Branch level is, organizationally, between the Section and the group or unit.
Business continuity	Plans for business to continue after a disaster or emergency, including plans for alternate locations and data recovery.
Cascading event	An emergency or disaster that starts by impacting a discrete area or single sector, and then causes additional follow-on damage in other areas or sectors.
Catastrophe	A natural, technological or human caused event that overwhelms existing plans for disasters and emergencies, causes widespread or economically significant damage across multiple jurisdictions, and requires significant outside assistance, including federal response.
Chiefs	The ICS title for the General Staff individuals responsible for supervision of functional sections: Operations, Planning, Logistics, and Finance/Administration.
Class 1 Railroads	Revenue is excess of \$447 million; Amtrak, BNSF, Canadian National, Canadian Pacific and Kansas City Southern; CSX Transportation, Norfolk Southern and Union Pacific.
Class II Railroads	Revenue is less than \$447 million but more than \$35 million; known as regional railroads.
Class III Railroads	Revenue is \$35 million or less; referred to as short line railroads.
Command Staff	The EOC Command Staff consists of the Information Officer, Safety Officer, Security Officer, Emergency Management Coordinator and Liaison Officer. They report directly to the Management Section Chief. They may have an assistant or assistants, as needed.
Continuity of Operations	Plans for a government entity to continue providing essential services after a catastrophic event, including alternate locations, vital records preservation and communications systems.
Critical infrastructure	Public and private assets that are essential to the operation of society's public health and safety, security, and economy.
Deputy	A fully qualified individual who, in the absence of a superior, could be delegated the authority to manage a functional operation or perform a specific task. In some cases, a Deputy could act as relief for a supervisor and therefore must be fully qualified in the position. Deputies can be assigned to the Incident Commander, General Staff, and Branch Directors.

Director	The ICS title for individuals responsible for supervision of a Branch.
Disaster	A natural, technological, or human caused event that overwhelms the usual systems of emergency response and requires outside assistance.
Emergency management	A system for organizing resources to mitigate against, prepare and plan for, respond to, and recover from emergencies and disasters.
Emergency Medical Technician	A healthcare specialist with particular skills and knowledge in pre-hospital emergency medicine.
Emergency Operations Center (EOC)	A pre-designated facility established by an agency or jurisdiction to coordinate the overall agency, or jurisdictional, response to an emergency or disaster event.
Emergency Services Coordinator	The individual within each political subdivision that has coordination responsibility for jurisdictional emergency management.
Finance/Administration	The Section responsible for all event costs, reimbursements, and financial considerations. Includes the Time Unit, Procurement Unit, Compensation/Claims Unit, and Cost Unit.
Fusion Center	A location where law enforcement and federal homeland security entities meet to evaluate streams of information and convert it to actionable intelligence to enhance safety and security.
General Staff	The group of personnel reporting to the Management Section Chief: Operations Section Chief, Planning Section Chief, Logistics Section Chief, and Finance/Administration Section Chief.
Greenhouse Gasses	Gasses that trap heat in the atmosphere. These include carbon dioxide (CO ₂), methane (CH ₄), nitrous oxide (N ₂ O), and fluorinated gasses (HFCs, PFCs, SF ₆ and NF ₃).
Hazardous material	Any material so categorized by federal or state law that is capable of doing harm to humans or the environment through routine or accidental exposure.
High threat urban area	An urban area in the United States that has been evaluated using risk analysis techniques and determined to have many hazards and vulnerable populations and facilities that, if damaged, would have significant security or economic consequences.
Homeland security	A concept developed after the terrorist attacks of 9/11/01 to enhance the safety, security and emergency management of domestic communities and resources, including critical infrastructure.
Homeland Security Presidential Directive 7	A directive issued by President George W. Bush that required identification, prioritization and protection of the nation's critical infrastructure.
Improvised explosive device	An explosive device made by an individual using components and explosive materials gathered from the normal commercial supply chain, not commercial or military explosive devices.
Incident Action Plan	Created by the Incident Commander in the field during an ICS event. Contains objectives reflecting the overall incident strategy and specific tactical actions and supporting information for the next operational period. The IAP may be oral or written.
Incident Command System	A standardized 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 the management of all incident operations at the incident site in the field.
Incident Objectives	In the field, statements of guidance and direction necessary for the selection of appropriate strategies and the tactical direction of resources. Incident objectives are based on realistic expectations of what can be accomplished when all allocated resources have been effectively deployed. Incident objectives must be achievable and measurable, yet flexible enough to allow for strategic and tactical alternatives.

Liaison Officer	A member of the Command Staff responsible for coordinating with representatives from cooperating and assisting agencies.
Logistics Section	The section responsible for providing facilities, services, and materials for the incident or in the EOC.
Management by Objective	In ICS, this is a top-down management activity that involves three steps to achieve the incident or EOC goal. The steps are: establishing the objectives, selection of appropriate strategies to achieve the objectives, and the tactical (in the field) or strategic (In the EOC) direction associated with the selected strategy. Tactical direction includes selection of tactics, selection of resources, resource assignments, and performance monitoring.
Mitigation	Steps taken in advance of a disaster to protect populations and critical infrastructure, or to lessen the damage should they incur; in climate change activities, an action that lessens the amount of greenhouse gasses released into the atmosphere.
Multi-Agency Coordination System (MACS)	The combination of personnel, facilities, equipment, procedures, and communications integrated into a common system. When activated, MACS has the responsibility for coordination of assisting agency resources and support in a multi-agency or multi-jurisdictional environment.
Mutual Aid Agreement	Written agreement between agencies and/or jurisdictions in which they agree to assist one another upon request by furnishing personnel and equipment.
National Incident Management System (NIMS)	Developed by the Secretary of Homeland Security at the request of the President, the National Incident Management System (NIMS) integrates effective practices in emergency preparedness and response into a comprehensive national framework for incident management. Based on ICS, the NIMS will enable responders at all levels to work together more effectively to manage domestic incidents no matter what the cause, size or complexity.
National Infrastructure Protection Plan	A national plan for protecting locations and resources in specified sectors within the United States, including transportation and utilities.
Officer	The ICS title for the person responsible for the Command Staff positions of Safety, Liaison, and Information.
Operational Period	In the field, the period scheduled for execution of a given set of operation actions as specified in the Incident Action Plan. Operational Periods can be of various lengths.
Operations Section	The Section responsible for all tactical operations at the incident or, in the EOC, for supporting field operations. Includes Branches, Divisions and/or Groups, Task Forces, Strike Teams, Single Resources, and Staging Areas in the field; branches, groups, and units in the EOC.
Planning Section	Responsible for the collection, evaluation, and dissemination of information related to an event, and for the preparation and documentation of Action Plans. The Planning Section also maintains information on the current and forecasted situation and on the status of resources assigned to the incident. This includes the Situation, Resource, Documentation, and Demobilization Units, as well as Technical Specialists.
Positive train control	A system designed to prevent train-to-train collisions, over-speed derailments, incursions into established work zones, and movements of trains through switches left in the wrong position.
Presidential Policy Directive-8	A directive issued by President Barack Obama that required emergency preparedness to be the responsibility of the whole community: government, residents, NGOs and businesses.
Preparedness	Steps taken in advance of an emergency or disaster to organize resources to enhance safety; includes planning, training, exercising and stockpiling.
Public Information Officer	A member of the Command Staff responsible for interfacing with the public, media, or with other agencies requiring information directly from the incident or the EOC. There is only one Public Information Officer per incident in the field. There is a PIO in the EOC whenever it is opened.

Public Safety Power Shutoff	When a utility provider temporarily turns off power to specific areas to reduce the risk of fires caused by electric infrastructure, especially during high heat and high wind conditions to prevent wildland fires.
Recovery	Steps taken after a disaster to repair damaged property, restart the economy, and repair critical infrastructure functionality.
Response	Steps taken during a disaster or emergency to save lives, protect the environment, and protect property including critical infrastructure.
Risk assessment	A systematic review of potential hazards, vulnerabilities and consequences focused on a specific location, community, or economic sector.
Rolling stock	Wheeled vehicles owned and used by a railroad.
Safety Officer	A member of the Command Staff responsible for monitoring and assessing safety hazards or unsafe situations and for developing measures for ensuring personnel safety. In the EOC, this includes ensuring the psychological safety of the EOC staff by ensuring regular shift changes are planned for and that appropriate food is delivered in a timely fashion during prolonged activations.
SCADA	A computer system that controls and monitors a process. This process can be infrastructure, facility, or industry based.
Section	The organizational level with responsibility for a major functional area of the event (e.g., Operations, Planning, Logistics, Finance/Administration). The Section Chief works directly for the Management Section Chief and oversees branches, groups, and units.
Span Of Control	The supervisory ratio: in the field, ranges from one supervisor for three to seven individuals, with five workers to one supervisor being optimum. In the EOC there is no minimum, and up to 10 personnel may report to one supervisor.
Staging Areas	Staging Areas are locations set up at an incident where resources can be placed while awaiting a tactical assignment. The Operations Section manages Staging Areas.
Stang	The commonly used name for a water monitor that is mounted on a support and used for fire fighting.
Toxic inhalation hazard	A material that causes distress, injury, or death to humans or animals through inhalation.
Unity of Command	The concept by which each person within an organization reports to only one designated person.
Urban Area Security Initiative	A federal program that provides terrorism preparedness, response, and mitigation funding to the nation's largest cities and their adjacent communities.
Vehicle-borne Improvised Explosive Device	An explosive device carried by a car, truck, or other vehicle that is made by an individual using components and explosive materials gathered from the normal commercial supply chain, not commercial or military explosive devices.
Weapons of mass destruction	Generally a characterization of large bombs, especially biological weapons, nuclear bombs or fire bombs, capable of destroying large areas and large numbers of people at the same time.
Weapons of mass disruption	Any explosive, chemical, biological, radiological or incendiary device capable of causing significant localized loss of life and property damage.
Weapons of mass killing	Any device capable of killing multiple people in brief period.