
Postgraduate Certificate in Military Trauma Care

Disaster Response and Preparedness

Disaster Response and Preparedness Glossary

A

Acute Stress Reaction (ASR)

- Related Terms: Psychological First Aid, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- An immediate psychological response to a traumatic event, characterized by symptoms such as anxiety, dissociation, and irritability.

B

Basic Life Support (BLS)

- Related Terms: Advanced Life Support (ALS), Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)
- The level of medical care which is used for victims of life-threatening illnesses or injuries until they can be given full medical care at a hospital.

C

Command and Control

- Related Terms: Incident Command System (ICS), Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
- The exercise of authority and direction by a properly designated individual over assigned resources in the accomplishment of a common goal during a disaster response.

D

Disaster

- Related Terms: Natural Disaster, Man-Made Disaster, Catastrophe
- A sudden event, such as an accident or a natural catastrophe, that causes great damage or loss of life.

E

Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

- Related Terms: Incident Command System (ICS), Command and Control
- A centralized location from which government officials exercise direction and control in a disaster.

F

Field Hospital

- Related Terms: Mobile Medical Unit, Triage
- A mobile medical unit set up near the scene of a disaster to provide medical care to victims.

G

Golden Hour

- Related Terms: Platinum Ten Minutes, Trauma Triage
- The first hour after a traumatic injury, when immediate medical treatment is most likely to prevent death.

H

Hazard

- Related Terms: Risk Assessment, Vulnerability
- A potential source of harm or danger that may affect individuals, communities, or the environment.

I

Incident Command System (ICS)

- Related Terms: Command and Control, Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
- A standardized, on-site, all-hazards incident management concept designed specifically to allow responders to adopt an integrated organizational structure.

J

Joint Task Force (JTF)

- Related Terms: Multi-Agency Coordination, Interagency Cooperation
- A joint task force is a joint force that is constituted and so designated by a joint force commander.

K

K9 Search and Rescue

- Related Terms: Canine Unit, Urban Search and Rescue (USAR)
- The use of specially trained dogs to locate victims in disaster situations.

L

Logistics

- Related Terms: Supply Chain Management, Resource Management
- The detailed organization and implementation of a complex operation.

M

Mass Casualty Incident (MCI)

- Related Terms: Triage, Disaster Response, Casualty Collection Point (CCP)
- An incident in which emergency medical services resources, such as personnel, equipment, and supplies, are overwhelmed by the number and severity of casualties.

N

National Incident Management System (NIMS)

- Related Terms: Incident Command System (ICS), Emergency Management
- A systematic, proactive approach to guide departments and agencies at all levels of government, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector to work seamlessly to prevent, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of incidents, regardless of cause, size, location, or complexity.

O

Organizational Resilience

- Related Terms: Business Continuity Planning, Crisis Management
- The ability of an organization to anticipate, prepare for, respond and adapt to incremental change and sudden disruptions in order to survive and prosper.

P

Psychological First Aid (PFA)

- Related Terms: Acute Stress Reaction (ASR), Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- An approach to helping people in the immediate aftermath of disaster and terrorism to reduce initial distress and to foster short- and long-term adaptive functioning.

Q

Quarantine

- Related Terms: Isolation, Biosecurity
- A state, period, or place of isolation in which people or animals that have arrived from elsewhere or been exposed to infectious or contagious disease are placed.

R

Rehabilitation

- Related Terms: Recovery, Resilience
- The action of restoring someone to health or normal life through training and therapy after an illness or injury.

S

Search and Rescue (SAR)

- Related Terms: Urban Search and Rescue (USAR), K9 Search and Rescue
- The search for and provision of aid to people who are in distress or imminent danger.

T

Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC)

- Related Terms: Triage, Trauma Triage
- A set of evidence-based, best practice trauma care guidelines for the prehospital setting.

U

Urban Search and Rescue (USAR)

- Related Terms: Search and Rescue (SAR), K9 Search and Rescue
- The location and rescue of persons trapped in confined spaces due to natural disasters or structural collapse.

V

Vulnerability

- Related Terms: Hazard, Risk Assessment
- The state of being exposed to the possibility of being attacked or harmed, either physically or emotionally.

W

Wilderness First Aid (WFA)

- Related Terms: Remote Medicine, Survival Medicine
- The assessment and treatment of an ill or injured person in a remote environment where definitive care by a physician and/or rapid transport is not readily available.

X

Xenophobia

- Related Terms: Discrimination, Prejudice
- Dislike of or prejudice against people from other countries.

Y

Yellow Incident

- Related Terms: Incident Command System (ICS), Mass Casualty Incident (MCI)
- An incident that requires a larger response than a single agency can handle and may involve multiple jurisdictions or agencies.

Z

Zero Tolerance Policy

- Related Terms: Accountability, Consequences
- A policy that imposes strict consequences for breaking rules or laws, with no exceptions made.