

IDRM Glossary of Disaster Risk Management Terminology

TERM	DEFINITION
<i>Acceptable Risk</i>	Degree of human or material loss that is perceived by the community or authorities as acceptable
<i>All Hazards Approach</i>	Dealing with all types of emergencies/disasters that may impact on communities and the environment using the same set of management arrangements and includes both natural and man-made hazards.
<i>Chemical Hazards</i>	Hazards involving chemicals or processes which may realize their potential through agents such as fire, explosive, toxic or corrosive effects
<i>Command</i>	The direction of members and resources of an organization in the performance of the organization's roles and responsibilities. Authority to command is established in legislation or by agreement and operates vertically within an organization.
<i>Communications</i>	Specifically, the means of communications, for example, roads, railways, telephone lines, radio, television, fax, internet. Broadly, dissemination of disaster management messages using a variety of means to people and organizations at various stages of the disaster cycle.
<i>Comprehensive Approach</i>	The development of disaster arrangements to embrace the aspects of prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.
<i>Control</i>	Control is the overall direction of the activities in a given operation.
<i>Coordination</i>	The bringing together of organizations and resources in accordance with the requirements imposed by the threat or impact of the emergency.
<i>Coping</i>	Coping is the manner in which people and organizations act, using existing resources within a range of expectations of a situation to achieve various ends. Coping capabilities are a combination of all the strengths and resources that are useful in reducing the effects of disasters.
<i>Disaster</i>	An event, either man-made or natural, sudden or progressive, the impact of which is such that the affected community must respond through exceptional measures

<i>Disaster Management</i>	There could not be a single organization solely responsible for all aspects of disaster management. The management task is to bring together, in an integrated organizational structure, the resources of many organizations that can take appropriate action in times of disasters.
<i>Disaster Plans</i>	An agreed set of arrangements for preventing, mitigating, preparing for, responding to and recovering from a disaster. A formal record of agreed disaster management roles, responsibilities, strategies, systems and arrangements.
<i>Disaster Risk Management</i>	A development approach to disaster management, this focuses on underlying conditions of the risks which lead to disaster occurrence. The objective is to increase capacities to effectively manage and reduce risks, thereby reducing the occurrence and magnitude of disasters.
<i>Disaster Support Plans</i>	Refers to those plans, which are designed to address specific hazards and are used in support of national disaster planning arrangements. Aircraft crashes are an example of such plans.
<i>Disaster Risk Management Arrangements</i>	Linkages between the Office of the Prime Minister through the various levels of government disaster committees, community response teams, national disaster management office and emergency operations center (EOC)
<i>ECC/Emergency Coordination Center</i>	Facilities established to control and coordinate the response and support to an emergency.
<i>Emergency Management Team</i>	A group or team of disaster management personnel headed by an incident manager, which is responsible for the overall control of the emergency
<i>ESLO/Emergency Services Liaison Officer</i>	His/her task is the liaison and co-ordination of activities pre, post and during response.
<i>Fire prevention</i>	All pre-fire activities designed to reduce fuel quantities, remove known hazards, and prepare for the possibility of fire so that damage is mitigated
<i>Fire protection</i>	Provisions made to detect, suppress or limit the spread of fires, and particularly design building features aimed at limiting the spread of fire from the area of origin.
<i>Hazard</i>	A potential or existing condition that may cause harm to people or damage to property or the environment. The magnitude of the phenomenon, the probability of its occurrence and the extent and severity of its impact can vary. In many cases, these effects can be anticipated and estimated.
<i>Hazard Analysis</i>	That part of the overall planning process which identifies and describes hazards and their effects on the community

<i>Hazard Mapping</i>	The process of establishing geographically where and to what extent particular hazards are likely to pose a threat to people, property and the environment.
<i>Integrated or “All Agencies” Approach</i>	Involves the inclusion of all relevant agencies and/or departments that can assist in the effective implementation of disaster management arrangements.
<i>Lead Agency</i>	The agencies identified as primarily responsible for responding to a particular disaster
<i>Lifelines</i>	Public facilities and systems that provide basic life support services such as water, energy, sanitation, communications and transportation.
<i>Logistics</i>	A range of operational activities concerned with supply, handling, transportation, and distribution of materials.
<i>Mitigation</i>	Measures, structural and non-structural, taken to reduce the impact of disasters.
<i>People-centered approach</i>	While considering disasters as hazardous events, their occurrence is also viewed as the result of social, economic, and environmental conditions and practices. People, their livelihoods & welfare are the central concern.
<i>Preparedness</i>	Arrangements to ensure that, should a disaster occur, all those resources and services which are needed to cope with the effects can be efficiently deployed.
<i>Prevention</i>	Regulatory or physical measures to ensure that disasters are prevented or their effects mitigated.
<i>Public Awareness</i>	The process of informing the public as to the nature of the hazard and actions needed to save lives and property prior to and in the event of a disaster.
<i>Public Awareness</i>	The process of informing the community as to the nature of the hazard and actions needed to save lives and property prior to and in the event of a disaster.
<i>Recovery</i>	The coordinated process of supporting disaster affected communities in reconstruction of the physical infrastructure and restoration of emotional, social, economic and physical well being.
<i>Relief</i>	The provision of immediate shelter, life support and human needs of persons affected by a disaster
<i>Resources</i>	Any asset, physical, human, economic or environmental which can be used to assist in achieving the objectives of the plan (people, equipment, relief supplies, water, roads, warehouses and money).
<i>Response</i>	Actions taken in anticipation of, during and immediately after a disaster to ensure that its effects are minimized and that people affected are given immediate relief and support.
<i>Risk Reduction</i>	Selective applications of appropriate techniques and management principles to reduce either the likelihood of an occurrence or its consequences, or both.

<i>Search and Rescue</i>	The process of locating and recovering victims and the application of first aid and basic medical assistance as may be required
<i>Situation Report</i>	A brief report which outlines the details of the emergency as they become known
<i>Stakeholder</i>	Any one who has a vested interest or impacts on disaster risk management, either negatively or positively, and can include community members, local and central government, land owners, private enterprise, NGOs, Banks, development organizations, and the media.
<i>Standard Operating Procedures</i>	A set of directions detailing what actions could be taken, as well as how, when, by whom and why, for specific events or tasks.
<i>Support Agency</i>	Agencies that provide essential services, personnel, or material to support a control agency or affected persons.
<i>Technological Disasters</i>	Disasters arising from other than natural disaster causes and include biological, chemical, nuclear, transport and terrorist instigated disasters.
<i>Technological Hazard</i>	A hazard of a technological origin (man-made), as opposed to a hazard of natural origin.
<i>Vulnerability</i>	A set of prevailing or consequential conditions composed of physical, socioeconomic and/or political factors that adversely affect the ability to respond to disasters. Vulnerabilities can be physical, social, or attitudinal and can be primary or secondary in nature. Strategies that lower vulnerability also reduce risk.
<i>Warning Systems</i>	The purpose of warnings is to persuade and enable people and organizations to take actions to increase safety and reduce the impacts of a hazard, which can be either quick onset i.e., cyclones, floods or slow onset, famine or man-made such as fires, explosion, chemical spills etc.