

Section 12 – Acronyms and Glossary

Acronyms

ANSI – American National Standards Institute
CFR - Code of Federal Regulations
CRS - Community Rating System
DMA 2000 - Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000
EOC – Emergency Operations Center
ETG - Environmental Technology Group, Inc.
FEMA - Federal Emergency Management Agency
FIRM - Flood Insurance Rate Map
FIS - Flood Insurance Study
FMAP - Flood Mitigation Assistance Program
GIS - Geographical Information System
Haz-Mat – Hazardous Materials operation or incident
HAZNY - Hazards New York, Computer process for identifying and ranking hazards
HAZUS - Hazards United States, GIS-based software tool developed by FEMA for estimating losses from various hazards
HMGP - Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
LCSN – Lamont-Doherty Cooperative Seismographic Network of Columbia University.
LISWIC - Long Island Sound Watershed Intermunicipal Council
NCDC - National Center for Disaster Control
NFIP - National Flood Insurance Program
NIMS – National Incidence Management System
NOAA - National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration
NWS – National Weather Service.
NYC DEP - New York City Department of Environmental Protection
NYCEM – New York City Earthquake Mitigation
NYS - New York State
NYSDEC - New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
NYSDOT - New York State Department of Transportation
NYSOEM - New York State Office of Emergency Management
PDM - Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program
PGA - Peak Ground Acceleration
SEQRA – State Environmental Quality Review Act
SLOSH - A tidal flood inundation zone caused by a hurricane
USACE – U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
USEPA - United States Environmental Protection Agency
USDOT - United States Department of Transportation
USGS – United States Geological Survey
VMFD - Village of Mamaroneck Fire Department

Glossary of Technical and Planning Terms

100-Year (or Base) Flood: A flood event that statistically has a 1 out of 100 (or one percent) chance of being equaled or exceeded on a specific watercourse in any given year. A flood event of this magnitude is often used to determine if flood insurance is either advisable or required on a property. It is also known as the Base Flood.

500-Year Flood: A flood event that statistically has a 1 out of 500 (or 0.2 percent) chance of being equaled or exceeded on a specific watercourse in any given year.

Air contamination: Air contamination is the result of emissions chemicals from industry, transportation into the air.

Base Flood: the flood having a 1-percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. It is also known as 100-year flood. The Base Flood has been adopted by the National Flood Insurance Program as the basis for mapping, insurance rating and regulating new construction.

Base Flood Elevation (BFE): A base flood elevation (BFE) is the height of the base flood, usually in feet, in relation to the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929, the North American Vertical Datum of 1988, or other datum referenced in the Flood Insurance Study report, or the depth of the base flood, usually in feet, above the ground surface. It is shown on the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM).

Base Map: Map of the community that depicts cultural features (roads, railroad, bridges, dams, culverts, etc.), drainage features, and the corporate limits.

Blizzard: Low temperatures, winds 35 mps or more, and sufficient falling and or blowing snow to reduce visibility to ¼ mile or less for a duration of at least three hours.

Civil Unrest: The unruly or violent crowds during public events, and political protests.

Coastal Storm: Non-tropical storm that produce gale-force winds and precipitation in the form of heavy rain or snow and includes Nor'easters and severe winter low-pressure systems.

Community Rating System (CRS): A program created by FEMA to provide new incentive for activities that reduce flood losses and support the sale of flood insurance. Any community participating in the NFIP may apply for CRS classification by demonstrating that it is implementing floodplain management and public information activities that exceed the minimum requirements of the NFIP. Once qualified, the community benefits by obtaining flood insurance premium rate credits for its residents. The credits vary by the level of activities undertaken by the community.

Dam Failure: A dam failure is the collapse or failure of an impoundment that causes downstream flooding.

Disaster: An occurrence of a natural catastrophe, technological accident, or human-caused event that has resulted in severe property damage, deaths, and/or multiple injuries.

Drought: A prolonged period of limited precipitation affecting the supply and quality of water.

Earthquakes: A sudden motion or trembling of the ground that is caused by abrupt displacement of rock masses under the earth's surface.

Emergency: Any occasion or instance such as a hurricane, tornado, storm, flood, tidal wave, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide, mudslide, snowstorm, fire, explosion, nuclear accident, or any other natural or man-made catastrophe that warrants action to save lives and to protect property, public health, and safety.

Emergency Operating Center: The protected site from which State and local civil government officials coordinate, monitor, and direct emergency response activities during an emergency.

Emergency Operations Center (EOC): The physical location at which the coordination of information and resources to support domestic incident management activities normally takes place. An EOC may be a temporary facility or may be located in a more central or permanently established facility, perhaps at a higher level of organization within a jurisdiction. EOCs may be organized by major functional disciplines (e.g., fire, law enforcement, and medical services), by jurisdiction (e.g., Federal, State, regional, county, city, tribal), or some combination thereof.

Epidemic: The occurrence or outbreak of disease in a large number of individuals or proportion of human or animal populations.

Explosions: An explosion is a sudden and violent release of energy from chemical reaction, ignition of a fuel, gas under pressure or nuclear reaction.

Extreme Temperatures: Extended periods of excessive cold or hot weather with a serious impact on human populations, particularly the elderly and/or persons with respiratory ailments.

Federal Insurance Administration (FIA): This organizational unit administers the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which was created by Congress in 1968 in response to the rising cost of taxpayer-funded disaster relief for flood victims and the increasing amount of damage caused by floods.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): The agency reporting directly to the President and responsible for identifying and mitigating natural and man-made hazards.

Fire Hazard: Uncontrolled combustion of materials, buildings or other structures that threaten human life and property

Flood: A general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of normally dry land areas from (1) the overflow of inland or tidal waters, (2) the unusual and rapid accumulation of runoff or surface waters from any source or (3) from intense and severe rainfall.

Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM): A map on which the 100- and 500-year floodplains, BFEs, and risk premium zones are delineated to enable insurance agents to issue accurate flood insurance policies to homeowners in communities participating in the NFIP.

Flood Insurance Study (FIS): An examination, evaluation, and determination of the flood hazards, and if appropriate, the corresponding water-surface elevations.

Floodplain: The area adjoining a watercourse that may be covered by floodwater during a flood. Storm runoff and flood events may cause alterations in the floodplain.

Flood Zone: An area shown on a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) that reflects the severity or type of flooding. (See also Zones A, B, C and X below.)

Fuel Oil Spill: Release of any liquid fuels that when involved in an accident and released in sufficient quantities, poses a risk to people's health, safety, and/or property.

Geographic Information System (GIS): System of computer hardware, software, and procedures designed to support the capture, management, manipulation, analysis, modeling, and display of spatially referenced data for solving complex planning and management problems.

Goals: General guidelines that explain what you want to achieve. They are usually broad policy-type statements, long term in nature, and represent broad outcomes.

Hazard: A source of potential danger or an adverse condition.

Hazard Event: A specific occurrence of a particular hazard.

Hazard Mitigation: Any action taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from hazards or reduce the potential for damage to a facility or structure from a disaster event.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP): FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) gives grants to State and local governments for long-term hazard mitigation measures after a major disaster declaration.

Hazardous Material: Any substance or material that when involved in an accident and released in sufficient quantities, poses a risk to people's health, safety, and/or property. These substances and materials include explosives, radioactive materials, flammable liquids or solids, combustible liquids or solids, poisons, oxidizers, toxins, and corrosive materials.

Hazardous Material Release: Release of any substance or material that when involved in an accident and released in sufficient quantities, poses a risk to people's health, safety, and/or property. These substances and materials include explosives, radioactive materials, flammable liquids or solids, combustible liquids or solids, poisons, oxidizers, toxins, and corrosive materials.

Hazard Profile: A description of the characteristics of a hazard including its magnitude, duration, frequency, probability and extent.

Hurricane: A tropical cyclone, formed in the atmosphere over warm ocean areas, in which wind speeds reach 74 miles per hour or more and blow in a large spiral around a relatively calm

center or "eye". Circulation is counter-clockwise in the Northern Hemisphere and clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere.

Incident: An occurrence or event, natural or human-caused that requires an emergency response to protect life or property. Incidents can, for example, include major disasters, emergencies, terrorist attacks, terrorist threats, wild land and urban fires, floods, hazardous materials spills, nuclear accidents, aircraft accidents, earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, tropical storms, war-related disasters, public health and medical emergencies, and other occurrences requiring an emergency response.

Infrastructure: Facilities serving the public and a community such as communication structures, public water supplies, sewage treatment facilities, electric power systems and transmission structures, transportation systems, navigable waterway facilities, dams and other vital services.

Landslides: Downward movement of a slope and materials under the force of gravity.

Major Disaster: Any natural catastrophe (including any hurricane, tornado, storm, high water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide, mudslide, snowstorm, or drought) or, regardless of cause, any fire, flood, or explosion in any part of the United States that, in the determination of the President, causes damage of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant major disaster assistance under the Stafford Act to supplement the efforts and available resources of States, local governments, and disaster relief organizations in alleviating the damage, loss, hardship, or suffering caused.

Mitigation: The activities designed to reduce or eliminate risks to persons or property or to lessen the actual probability, potential effects or consequences of an incident. Mitigation measures may be implemented prior to, during, or after an incident.

Multi-Hazard Plan: A plan that includes both natural and manmade emergencies and disasters.

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP): The Federal program, created by an act of Congress in 1968, that makes flood insurance available to residents in flood prone communities that enact satisfactory floodplain management regulations.

Objectives: Objectives define strategies or implementation steps to attain the identified goals. Unlike goals, objectives are specific and have measurable outcomes.

Preparedness: Those activities, programs, and systems that exist before an emergency and that are used to support and enhance response to an emergency or disaster.

Resources: Personnel and major items of equipment, supplies, and facilities available or potentially available for assignment to incident operations and for which status is maintained. Resources are described by kind and type and may be used in operational support or supervisory capacities at an incident or at an EOC.

Response: Activities to address the immediate and short-term effects of an emergency or disaster.

Risk: The likelihood of a hazard event resulting in an adverse condition that causes injury, death or damage.

Stafford Act: Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, PL 100-707, signed into law November 23, 1988; amended the Disaster Relief Act of 1974, PL 93-288. A Federal statute designed to supplement the efforts of the affected States and local governments in expediting the rendering of assistance, emergency services, and the reconstruction and rehabilitation of devastated areas.

Snow Storm: A storm that deposits heavy snow which amounts to 12 inches in 12 hours or less.

Stakeholder: Groups or individuals including businesses, private organizations, agencies, and citizens that will be affected in any way by an action or policy.

Storm Surge: A dome of sea water created by the strong winds and low barometric pressure in a hurricane that causes severe coastal flooding as the hurricane strikes land.

Terrorism: The use of—or threatened use of criminal violence against civilians or civilian infrastructure to achieve political ends through fear and intimidation, rather than direct confrontation. Emergency management is typically concerned with the consequences of terrorist acts directed against large numbers of people (as opposed to political assassination or hijacking, which may also be considered "terrorism").

Thunderstorm: Storms accompanied by lightning, thunder, strong winds and heavy rain. Other associated dangers of thunderstorms include tornadoes, strong winds, hail, and flash flooding. Flash flooding is responsible for more fatalities—more than 140 annually—than any other thunderstorm-associated hazard.

Tornado: A local atmospheric storm, generally of short duration, formed by winds rotating at very high speeds, usually in a counter-clockwise direction. The vortex, up to several hundred yards wide, is visible to the observer as a whirlpool-like column of winds rotating about a hollow cavity or funnel. Winds may reach 300 miles per hour or higher.

Tropical Storm: A tropical cyclone, formed in the atmosphere over warm ocean areas, in which wind speeds are less than 74 miles per hour.

Utility Failure: Utility Failure refers to periodic cessation of electrical or communication services due to adverse weather conditions, human error or mechanical failure.

US Geological Survey (USGS): The Federal agency responsible for nationwide civilian mapping projects and standards development.

Vulnerability: Exposure or susceptibility of an asset or community to damage or harm.

Watershed: An area from which water drains into a lake, stream or other body of water. A watershed is also often referred to as a basin, with the basin boundary defined by a high ridge or divide, and with a lake or river located at a lower point.

Wildfire: An uncontrolled fire including trees, brush, or grass involving a substantial land area which has the potential to threatening human life and property.

Wind Storm: Storms accompanied by strong gale force or stronger winds that may or may not be accompanied with precipitation. These winds may be associated with tornadoes, thunderstorms, Nor'easters, tropical storms, and hurricanes.

Winter Storm: A storm system in winter that deposits snow, sleet or freezing rain, with a significant impact on transportation systems and public safety. This includes snow storms and blizzards.

Zoning: The division of land within a community or local jurisdiction into zones of allowable types and intensities of land use.

Zone A (unnumbered): Zone A is a Special Flood Hazard Area identified by FEMA that is subject to inundation from a 100-year flood event. Because detailed hydraulic analyses have not been performed, no base flood elevation or depths are shown. Mandatory flood insurance requirements apply.

Zone AE and A1-30: Special Flood Hazard Areas subject to inundation by the 100-year flood determined by a Flood Insurance Study (FIS). Base flood elevations are shown within these zones and mandatory flood insurance requirements apply. (Zone AE is used on newer maps in place of Zones A1-30.)

Zone AH: Special Flood Hazard Areas subject to inundation by 100-year shallow flooding (usually areas of ponding) with average depths between one and three feet. Base flood elevations derived from detailed hydraulic analyses are shown in this zone. Mandatory flood insurance requirements apply.

Zone AO: Special Flood Hazard Areas subject to inundation by 100-year shallow flooding, usually resulting from sheet flow on sloping terrain, with average depths between one and three feet. Average flood depths derived from detailed hydraulic analyses are shown within this zone. Mandatory flood insurance requirements apply.

Zone B, C and X: Areas that have been identified in a community flood insurance study as having moderate or minimal hazard from flooding. Buildings or other improvements in these zones could be flooded by severe, concentrated rainfall, in the absence of adequate drainage systems. Flood insurance is available in participating communities, but it is not required in these zones. (Zone X is used on newer maps in place of Zones B and C.)

Zone D: Unstudied areas where flood hazards are undetermined but where flooding is possible. No mandatory flood insurance requirements apply, but coverage is available in participating communities.