

PUEBLO COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

ANNEX Z – DEFINITIONS & ABBREVIATIONS

Advisory - Highlights special weather conditions that are less serious than a warning. It is for less serious conditions that may cause significant inconvenience and, if caution is not used, could lead to situations that may threaten life and/or property.

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) - A volunteer radio communications service available to Federal, state, county and local governments, as well as nonprofit organizations.

American Red Cross (ARC) - The Red Cross is a humanitarian organization, led by volunteers, that provides relief to victims of disasters and helps people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies. It does this through services that are consistent with its Congressional Charter and the Principles of the International Red Cross Movement.

Behavioral Health Treatment – Includes professional conducted assessment, therapies, and treatment that are provided to persons who usually qualify for or already have a behavioral health diagnosis.

Casualty - A person or thing injured, lost, or destroyed.

Chemical Accident/Incident (CAI) - A military chemical accident/incident (CAI) is any situation involving an unintentional or uncontrolled release of a chemical agent which results in any of the following: (a) exposure of personnel to a chemical agent that results in a fatality, a lost work day case (away from work), or physiological symptoms requiring more than standard first aid procedures, (b) property damage of \$10,000 or more, (c) chemical agent presence in the atmosphere outside a chemical limited area that exceeds the permissible exposure limits (PEL) for non-agent workers and general populace, (d) a production interruption that will exceed or has exceeded 24 hours, unless voluntarily interrupted pending the outcome of an investigation, or (e) significantly degraded operational capability.

Chemical Accident/Incident Control Officer (CAICO) - An individual, designated by the PCD or Ft. Carson Commander, having CAIRA responsibility, who controls all emergency teams and supervises operations at the immediate accident or incident site.

Chemical Accident/ Incident Response and Assistance (CAIRA) - A federal plan that defines the Army's response to and recovery from a chemical event. This plan

must be coordinated carefully with local and state plans.

Chemical Agent - A compound or material included in the lethal stockpile of a variety of munitions and bulk containers covered by Public Law 99-145, Title 14, Part B, Section 1412. Lethal chemical agent mustard (HD and HT) is the only chemical agent stored at PCD.

Civil Air Patrol (CAP) - An auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, that has volunteered its services to conduct various emergency services missions. These missions are mainly the use of light aircraft in search and rescue (SAR) and disaster relief operations.

Colorado Crime Information Center (CCIC) - The computer system with terminals in most law enforcement and communications agencies in Colorado as well as the State EOC. It is used primarily for law enforcement functions, but one of its secondary uses is as a part of the warning and communications system for disaster emergencies. It is connected to the National Crime Information Center (NCIC).

Colorado Emergency Planning Commission (CEPC) - Shall conduct an assessment of available resources and identify methods needed to utilize the available resources at the federal, state, and local levels to react to emergency response situations, investigate and evaluate the ability of local jurisdictions to implement the federal act, and make recommendations about administrative and legislative changes needed to implement the federal act. The commission shall also assist in the appropriate training of personnel to react to emergency response situations.

Colorado Division of Emergency Management (CDEM) - Branch of the Department of Local Affairs responsible for the comprehensive emergency management program for the state.

Comprehensive Emergency Management (CEM) - An integrated approach to the management of emergency programs and activities for all four emergency phases (mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery), for all types of emergencies and disasters (natural, man-made and attack) and for all levels of government (local, state and federal), and the private sector.

Contamination, Radiological - The deposit of radioactive material on the surfaces of structures, areas, objects, or personnel following a nuclear explosion or an accident involving civilian (e.g., medical or power plant) supplies of radioactive material.

Continuity of Government (COG) - All measures that may be taken to assure the continuity of essential functions of government in the event of enemy attack or other emergencies.

Crisis Counseling Team - A team of paraprofessionals, including one or more behavioral health professionals, who provide behavioral health triage, psychological first aid and assessment to survivors immediately after a natural or human-caused emergency/disaster.

Crisis Counseling – A short-term intervention with individuals and groups experiencing psychological reactions to a major disaster and its aftermath. Crisis counseling assists people in understanding their current situation and reactions, reviewing their options, addressing their survival. It is assumed that, unless there are contrary indications, the disaster survivor is capable of resuming a productive and fulfilling life following the disaster experience if given support, assistance, and information in a manner appropriate to the person’s experience, education, developmental stage and ethnicity. Crisis counseling does not include treatments or medication for people with severe and persistent mental illnesses, substance abuse problems or developmental disabilities.

Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD) – This technique is provided to emergency responders, survivors or relief workers within 48 hours of the disaster event. CISD has three goals:

- To reduce to prevent Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) by helping victims tell their story, unload their emotions and access their coping skills
- To offer support with the healing process
- To reduce costs to the employer for lost productivity and health and human costs due to untreated trauma.
- Only individuals trained specifically in CISD should perform this process. This specialized technique is not crisis counseling.

Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) – An integrated system of interventions designed to prevent and/or mitigate the adverse psychological reactions that so often accompany emergency services, public safety and disaster response functions.

D2PC - A straight-line gaussian dispersion model developed to estimate downwind hazard distances caused by release of chemical agents.

Damage Assessment - The appraisal or determination of the actual effects resulting from a manmade or natural disaster.

Debriefing – Usually, a formal meeting between a trained individual and a disaster/crisis responder or a disaster/crisis survivor, generally conducted within 72 hours of exposure to the disaster/crisis. The purpose of the meeting is to allow the person who was exposed to a disaster/crisis to communicate his/her cognitive and emotional reactions to the highly stressful event to a clinician who will provide

therapeutic assistance to that person in the recovery process.

Decontamination (DECON) - The reduction or removal of the health hazard resulting from contaminated materials. This may be accomplished by: (1) treating the surface to remove the contaminating agent, or reducing it to a safe level; (2) letting the material stand long enough for a reduction of the concentration through natural decay; (3) covering the substance with a sealing material; or, (4) removing the material and disposing of it properly.

Designated Emergency Response Authority (DERA) - authority for hazardous substance incidents occurring within the specified jurisdiction (29-22-102, CRS)

Disaster - The occurrence or imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property resulting from either natural or manmade cause that exceed the responding jurisdiction's ability to respond and/or recover.

Doppler Radar – A new weather radar system used by the National Weather Service (NWS). About 120 of these radars are installed at NWS office nationwide (including the Pueblo office). This sensitive radar system generates many useful products for meteorologists, which helps them issue accurate and timely weather products and warnings. Basis products include reflectivity echoes, which show intensity of precipitation, wind velocity, which shows air motion toward and away from the radar (which can show circulations (tornadoes)), and real quantitative precipitation estimates, used in potential flood/flash flood situations.

Emergency - Any accidental, natural, man-caused, or wartime emergency or threat thereof, which may cause substantial injury or harm to the population or substantial damage or loss of property.

Emergency Alert System (EAS) – Consists of broadcast stations and interconnecting facilities which have been authorized by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to operate in a controlled manner during a war, state of public peril or disaster, or other national emergency as provided by the EAS Plan. EAS disseminates prompt, reliable information to the public during other emergencies, such as tornadoes, flash floods, blizzards, earthquakes, widespread power failures, fires, and major accidents involving hazardous materials and toxic gases.

Emergency Management (EM) – The organized analysis, planning, decision-making, and assigning and coordinating of available resources, for the purpose of preparing for, responding to, or recovering from major community-wide emergencies and disasters.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) – Formal and informal system designed to provide emergency care and transportation of the sick and injured. This typically

includes bystanders, first responders, fire fighters, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, ambulance services, law enforcement, hospital emergency rooms, physicians and other affiliated personnel.

Emergency Preparedness Network (EPN) – A vendor provided means of telephonic notification for the public and responders. Used as an alternate warning/notification means. For public notification, the system will call “land line” telephone numbers in any area selected with a pre-recorded message.

Emergency Operations Center (EOC) - The site from which officials from government and private organizations exercise coordination of resources in a disaster. This is the nerve center of disaster response operation. The EOC is designed to be self sufficient for a reasonable amount of time, with provisions for electricity, water, sewage disposal, ventilation and security. The major functions of the EOC are information management, situation assessment, and resource allocation. A protected site, from which government officials and emergency response personnel exercise direction and control in an emergency/disaster. The Emergency Communications Center is usually an essential part of the EOC

Essential Services Personnel – Positions providing service that must be maintained regardless of the emergency/disaster situation to ensure quality care. These positions include direct care in 24-hour, 7-day-a-week programs such as residential services, emergency services, medication delivery to clients, medical personnel, and maintenance/transportation personnel.

Evacuation - Organized, timed, and supervised dispersal of civilians from potentially dangerous areas.

Executive Order - A rule or order having the force of law, issued by an executive authority.

Executive Policy Group (EPG) - The official(s) of the community who have the responsibility and authority to implement and administer policy decisions and commit resources and funding for the community.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) - The agency responsible for the federal government's portion of the comprehensive emergency management program. It consists of a national office in Washington, D.C. and ten regional offices, one of which (Region VIII) is in the Denver Federal Center.

Federal Joint Operations Command Center – Operations Center established by Federal government agencies in cooperation with state and local agencies.

Flood/Flooding - A general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of normally dry land areas from the overflow of inland and/or tidal waters, and/or unusual and rapid accumulation of runoff of surface waters from any source.

Five Hundred Year Floodplain (the 500-year floodplain or 0.2 percent chance floodplain) - means that area, including the base floodplain, which is subject to inundation from a flood having a 0.2 percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year.

Flash flood warning signifies a dangerous situation when rapid flooding of rivers, small streams, or urban areas occurs. Very heavy rain that falls in a short period of time can lead to flash flooding which depends on local terrain, ground cover, degree of urbanization, degree of man-made changes to river or stream banks, and initial ground moisture or river conditions. Flash Flood Warnings are issued by the local National Weather Service (in south central and southeast Colorado by the WFO Pueblo).

Flash flood watch indicates that flash flooding is a possibility in or close to the watch area. Those in the affected area are urged to be ready to take quick action if a flash flood warning is issued, or if flooding is seen. Flash Flood Watches are issued by the local National Weather Service office (in south central and southeast Colorado by WFO Pueblo).

Flood Crest – Maximum height of a flood wave as it passes a location.

Flood Stage – The level at which a river or creek begins to leave its banks.

Flood warning means long term flooding is either imminent or is occurring.

Flood watch means long term flooding is possible in specified areas.

Floodplain - The lowland and relatively flat areas adjoining inland and coastal waters including that area subject to flooding.

One Hundred-Year Floodplain - The land area adjoining a river, stream, lake or ocean which is inundated by the 100-year flood. The 100-year flood is the regulatory (**base**) flood under the National Flood Insurance Program.

Hazard Analysis - A review of the vulnerability of life, property, the environment, and social and economic activity to the actual or potential impact of hazards.

Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) - Any element, compound, or combination thereof, which is flammable, corrosive, detonable, toxic, radioactive, an oxidizer, an

etiologic agent, or highly reactive, and which because of handling, storing, processing or packaging, may have detrimental effects upon operating and emergency personnel, the public, equipment and/or the environment.

Hazardous substance - any substance, material, waste, or mixture designated as a hazardous material, waste, or substance according to 49 Code of Federal Regulations Part 172, as amended, or by section 18-13-112 (2) (b), C.R.S. 1973, or as designated pursuant to the federal "Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980" (PL 96-510) as in effect July 1, 1983.

Hazardous substance incident - Any emergency circumstance involving the sudden discharge of a hazardous substance which, in the judgment of an emergency response authority, threatens immediate and irreparable harm to the environment or the health and safety of any individual other than individuals exposed to the risks associated with hazardous substances in the normal course of their employment. "Hazardous substance incident" includes those incidents of spilling, dumping, or abandonment of a hazardous substance, whether or not such spilling, dumping, or abandonment is found to threaten immediate and irreparable harm, but such term does not include any discharge of a hazardous substance authorized pursuant to any federal, state, or local law or regulation. "Hazardous substance incident" includes those incidents which occur during transportation of a hazardous substance, in which a spill does not occur during the incident but is threatened prior to or during the cleanup period.

Immediate Response Zone (IRZ) - the CSEPP emergency planning zone immediately surrounding the Pueblo Chemical Depot.

In-Place Sheltering - A protective action that involves taking cover in a building. Generally, any building suitable for winter habitation will provide some protection with windows and doors closed and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems turned off. Effectiveness can be increased by methods such as using an interior room or basement, taping doors and windows, and employing other systems to limit natural ventilation.

Incident Command System (ICS)/National Incident Management System (NIMS) - A standardized method of managing emergency incidents based on a common organizational structure, common terminology, common operating procedures and known qualifications of agency operating personnel; used on-scene or to coordinate two or more on-scene operations.

Joint Information Center (JIC) - A location or facility where public information officers and staff from jurisdictions, organizations (public or private) and businesses meet to coordinate the gathering and dissemination of timely, accurate and

appropriate emergency public information.

Joint Information System (JIS) - A cooperative system of providing coordinated, timely, accurate and appropriate emergency public information from jurisdictions, organizations (public and private) and businesses involved in disaster response and recovery.

Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP) - A description of actions or instructions to meet a disaster situation. The plan will state the method or scheme for taking coordinated action to meet the needs of the situation. Provides basic information on coordinated disaster response and recovery. Refers to/relies on more detailed SOP's of responding agencies.

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) – A local committee responsible for planning for chemical accidents in the community. As part of the Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization Act (SARA), the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) has increased the awareness of hazardous materials in the community and has provided valuable information to help with emergency response planning.

Mass Care - The providing of feeding, sheltering and other needs to large groups of people separated from their normal domiciles and without their own resources.

Mitigate - To lessen in force or intensity. To reduce deaths, injuries, property damage, and community losses by anticipating disasters' destructive effects and taking advance hazard management actions.

National Law Enforcement Channel (NLEC) – Radio frequency utilized by law enforcement departments to coordinate inter-jurisdictional responses.

National Warning System (NAWAS) - The Federal portion of the civil defense warning system used to disseminate warning and other emergency information from the National Warning Center or Regions to warning points in each State.

Local Warning Point - A facility in a city, town, or community which receives warnings over NAWAS and activates the public warning system in its area of responsibility.

State Warning Point - Responsible for supervising and controlling that part of NAWAS which is within a State.

Federal Warning Point - A NAWAS Warning Point located at a Federal installation.

National Weather Service (NWS) – provides metrological and hydrological forecasting and information.

NOAA Weather Radio - A broadcast system from the National Weather Service that furnishes continuous weather messages on dedicated frequencies.

Operations Task Force (OTF) - Temporary control group for crisis management. Assembles in the EOC and is composed of government/private agency representatives to coordinate use of personnel, equipment and funds.

Political Subdivision - any county, city and county, city or town and may include any other agency designated by law as a political subdivision of the state.

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

Protective Action - An action take to avoid or reduce exposure to a hazard.

Protective Action Zone (PAZ) - A CSEPP geographical area around a hazard site (broader than the Immediate Response Zone) in which agent exposure is possible. However protective actions therein can significantly enhance the ability to protect the public.

Pueblo Chemical Depot (PCD) - The U.S. Army's Pueblo Chemical Depot located in Pueblo County, Colorado. (Also denoted as **PDA**.)

Pueblo Emergency Response Teams (PERT) - Comprised of three teams that collectively provide wildland fire suppression in those parts of Pueblo County lacking a fire department, search & rescue throughout unincorporated Pueblo County, and dive rescue and recovery in all waters of unincorporated Pueblo County. PERT is funded by Pueblo County and managed through the Department of Emergency Management. It is a statutory volunteer organization.

Recovery - Those long-term activities and programs beyond the initial crisis period of an emergency or disaster designed to return systems to normal status or to reconstitute these systems to a new state that is less vulnerable.

Response - Those activities and programs designed to address the immediate and short-term effects of the onset of an emergency or disaster.

Search and Rescue (SAR) - The employment, coordination, and utilization of available resources and personnel in locating and relieving distress of lost, stranded, entrapped, or injured persons.

Severe Thunderstorm Warning - A severe thunderstorm or thunderstorm expected to develop to or above severe limits is indicated by radar or seen by weather spotters.

A severe thunderstorm produces hail 3/4 of an inch or larger in diameter and/or winds of 58 miles an hour or higher and/or a tornado.

The severe thunderstorm warning is issued by the local National Weather Service Office (in south central and southeast Colorado by WFO Pueblo). The warning is typically in effect for 30 minutes to one hour. Sometimes WFO Pueblo will issue a warning for longer than one hour if the severe thunderstorm is expected to persist for over an hour and is moving very slowly through the warned area. The severe thunderstorm warning includes communities or areas in the path of the severe thunderstorm, where the severe thunderstorm was at the time the warning was issued, and past storm history, if available. Eighty to 90% of the time severe thunderstorm warnings are issued in our area for large hail. Small hail (1/4 to one half inch in diameter) which accumulates to a depth of a couple inches or several inches, at this time, is NOT considered to be a SEVERE event by the National Weather Service, even though, much damage could occur. Therefore, if small hail is expected to accumulate up to several inches, the event will probably be covered in a Special Weather Statement (SPS), NOT a warning.

Severe Thunderstorm Watch - Weather conditions are favorable for the development of severe thunderstorms IN and CLOSE to the watch area. Watches are issued by the Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Oklahoma, and are in effect for several hours, with 4 to 6 hours being the most common time frame.

Shelter - A shelter provided for the communal care of individuals or families made homeless or isolated from their homes by a major disaster or an emergency.

Staging Area(s) - Provides a base for coordinated emergency operations, assembly of persons to be moved by public transportation, a rally point for mutual aid, and a debarking area for returning evacuees.

Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) - Each agency's specific plans for operations of routine or emergency response.

State Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP) - The state level plan for actions to be taken by government and citizens when disaster threatens or strikes. It consists of assignment or responsibilities to state agencies, coordinating instructions, staffing, essential facilities and general operations common to all major emergencies.

Terrorist Incident - Terrorist incident is a violent act, or an act dangerous to human life, property, live-stock or a hoax in violation of the criminal laws of the United

States or of any State, to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof in furtherance of political or social objects.

Tornado – A violently rotating column of air in contact with the ground. The visible accessory condensation cloud often does NOT extend all the way to the ground in Colorado due to low atmospheric humidity.

Tornado Warning - A tornado or developing tornado is indicated by radar or seen by weather spotters. The tornado warning is issued by the local National Weather Service Office (in south central and southeast Colorado by WFO Pueblo). The warning is typically in effect for 30 minutes to one hour. The tornado warning includes communities or areas in the path of the severe thunderstorm producing the tornado or developing tornado, where the tornado or developing tornado was at the time the warning was issued, and past storm history, if available.

Tornado Watch - Weather conditions are favorable for the development of tornadoes and severe thunderstorms IN and CLOSE to the watch area. Watches are issued by the Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Oklahoma, and are in effect for several hours, with 4 to 6 hours being the most common time frame.

Traffic Control Point - A location which is blocked or barricaded to ensure the continued movement of traffic inside or outside an area of risk. Traffic control is a temporary function to be implemented at points where normal traffic controls are inadequate or where redirection of traffic becomes necessary due to emergency conditions.

Volunteer - A person who, of his/her own free will, assumes responsibility for the performance of a task for which he/she receives no salary.

Warning - Issued to alert the public that a hazardous weather element is imminent or has a very high probability of occurrence. A warning is issued for conditions that pose a major threat to life or property.

Watch - Alerts the public to the possibility of severe weather, or some other hazardous weather element. It is intended to provide enough lead-time so those who need to set their plans into motion can do so.

Weapon Of Mass Destruction (WMD) - Title 18, U.S.C. 2332a, defines a weapon of mass destruction as (1) any destructive device as defined in Section 921 of this title, (which reads) “any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas, bomb, grenade, rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, mine or device similar to the above; (2) poison gas; (3) any weapon involving a disease organism; or (4) any

weapon that is designed to release radiation or radioactivity at a level dangerous to human life.” (Definition provided by FEMA)

Winter Storm Watch - Issued when conditions are favorable for the development of hazardous weather elements such as heavy snow and/or blizzard conditions, or significant accumulations of freezing rain or sleet, which are quite rare in Colorado. These conditions may occur singly, or in combination with others. Watches are typically issued 12 to 36 hours in advance of the event(s).

Heavy snow amounts for the following Winter Storm Warning:

in mountain zones at least 8” in 12 hours, or 10” or more in 24 hours
in plains zones at least 6” in 12 hours, or 8 “ or more in 24 hours

In WFO Pueblo's county warning area, Zones 58, 59, 60, 61, 65, 66, 67, and 70 are mountain zones, which includes the San Juan and La Garita mountains, eastern Sawatch mountains, Sangre de Cristos and Wet mountains and Teller and western El Paso counties.

Winter Storm Warning - Issued when heavy snow accumulations and some windiness are imminent or likely, perhaps in combination with sleet and/or freezing rain/freezing drizzle. Winter Storm Warnings are usually issued for a 12-hour duration, but can be extended out to 24 hours.