

A Quick Guide to Emergency Preparedness Terms

National Preparedness Goal

The National Preparedness Goal defines what it means for the whole community to be prepared for all types of disasters and emergencies. The goal itself is succinct:

"A secure and resilient nation with the capabilities required across the whole community to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk."

These risks include events such as natural disasters, disease pandemics, chemical spills and other man-made hazards, terrorist attacks and cyber-attacks. <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/national-preparedness/goal>

Community-Based Emergency Response

Preparedness is a shared responsibility; it calls for the involvement of everyone — not just the government — in preparedness efforts. By working together, everyone can help keep the nation safe from harm and help keep it resilient when struck by hazards, such as natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and pandemics. Whole Community includes individuals and families, including those with access and functional needs, businesses, faith-based and community organizations, nonprofit groups, schools and academia, media outlets and all levels of government, including state, local, tribal, territorial, and federal partners. <https://www.fema.gov/glossary/whole-community>

ASPR

The Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response leads the nation's medical and public health preparedness for, response to, and recovery from disasters and public health emergencies. ASPR constantly scans the horizon to prepare for whatever emergency may come next, whether natural or manmade. ASPR works under the direction of the Secretary of Health and Human Services to support preparedness and response activities that include vaccine development, maintenance of the national supply stockpile, availability of accurate testing, MRCs and HERCs are in place and medical counter measures are ready. <https://aspr.hhs.gov/Pages/Home.aspx>

Emergency Preparedness

Preparedness is defined by DHS/FEMA as "a continuous cycle of planning, organizing, training, equipping, exercising, evaluating, and taking corrective action in an effort to ensure effective coordination during incident response." This cycle is one element of a broader National Preparedness System to prevent, respond to, and recover from natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other disasters. <https://www.dhs.gov/plan-and-prepare-disasters>

Emergency Management

Emergency management describes the science of managing complex systems and multidisciplinary personnel to address extreme events, across all hazards, and through the phases of mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

<https://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/planning/mscc/handbook/chapter1/Pages/emergencymanagement.aspx>

Emergency Management and Homeland Security

Professionals in the fields of emergency management and homeland security have responsibilities for ensuring that all levels of government, urban areas and communities, nongovernmental organizations, businesses, and individual citizens are prepared to deal with such hazards through actions that reduce risks to lives and property. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>

FEMA

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is the federal agency responsible for leading the Nation's efforts to prepare for, protect and mitigate against, respond to, and recover from the impacts of natural disasters and man-made incidents or terrorist events. <https://www.fema.gov/about>

HERC

Healthcare Emergency Readiness Coalitions (HERC) are comprised of a core group of hospitals and healthcare organizations, local and tribal public health agencies, state, regional, and local and tribal emergency management, and emergency medical services to collaborate for the common goal of making their communities safer, healthier, and more resilient. Wisconsin has seven regional HERCs that support communities before, during, and after disasters and other health-related crises.

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/preparedness/healthcare/index.htm>

Medical Reserve Corp

The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is a national network of more than 300,000 volunteers, organized locally to improve the health and safety of their communities. MRC volunteers step up to keep their family, friends, and neighbors safe and healthy. MRC units organize and utilize local volunteers who want to donate their time and expertise to prepare for and respond to emergencies and to support ongoing preparedness initiatives. MRC volunteers include medical and public health professionals as well as other community members without healthcare backgrounds who want to improve the health and safety of their communities. <https://aspr.hhs.gov/MRC/Pages/About-the-MRC.aspx>

OPEHC

The Office of Preparedness and Emergency Healthcare supports and enhances the capacity of the state, local public health departments/Tribes, and the health care system to prepare for public health threats and emergencies through planning, exercising, responding and training. OPEHC is part of the State Division of Public Health and is responsible for multiple functions.

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/dph/opehc.htm>

PHEP

The Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) is a cooperative agreement that provides a critical source of funding for state, local, and territorial public health departments. Since 2002, the PHEP cooperative agreement has provided assistance to public health departments across the nation to help health departments build and strengthen their abilities to effectively respond to a range of public health threats, including infectious diseases, natural disasters, and biological, chemical, nuclear, and radiological events. Preparedness activities funded by the PHEP cooperative agreement specifically target the development of emergency-ready public health departments that are flexible and adaptable.

<https://www.cdc.gov/orr/readiness/phep/index.htm>

WEAVR

The Wisconsin Emergency Assistance Volunteer Registry (WEAVR) is a secure, password-protected, web-based volunteer registration system for health care and behavioral health professionals. Volunteers interested in filling critical response and recovery roles following a major public health emergency self-register and are the only ones that can update their information. Based on the information collected from each volunteer, public health officials identify those professionals willing to fill the specific volunteer roles needed in an emergency. <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/preparedness/weavr/index.htm>