

Glossary – Acronyms, Abbreviations and Terms

The information contained in this document comes from a variety of resources. This list is representative of acronyms, abbreviations and terms that Amateur Radio communicators may encounter while operating. The list is not all encompassing and has been compiled to reflect items that may be encountered during an emergency response or exercise.

AEC – Assistant Emergency Coordinator. A position of leadership within the ARES organization reporting to the EC.

Agency Representative – An individual assigned to an incident from an assisting or cooperating agency who has been delegated full authority to make decisions on all matters affecting that agency's participation at an incident. Agency representatives report to the incident liaison officer. (ICS)

Alert – Notification that an emergency situation has occurred, standby for possible activation.

Allocated Resources – Resources dispatched to an incident that have not been checked in by the Incident Commander. (ICS)

ALS – Advanced Life Support (SAR)

AM – Amplitude Modulation. A modulation system where the carrier amplitude is modulated producing equal sidebands or varying amplitude.

AMTOR – Amateur Teleprinting Over Radio uses time diversity to minimize the effects of fading. Sent in either ARQ or FEC mode.

APRS – Automatic Position Reporting System. A packet based communication system where information from a Global Position Satellite (GPS) is fed to another computer for use.

ARC – American Red Cross

ARES – Amateur Radio Emergency Service

ARQ – Automatic Repeat Request is an AMTOR communication mode where a repeat is sent only when requested by the receiving station.

Assigned Resources – Resources checked-in and assigned work tasks on an incident. (ICS)

Assisting Agency – An agency directly contributing suppression, rescue, support or services resources to another agency. (ICS)

Assumptions – Basic understandings about emergency situations that the emergency operations plan is based on. (ICS)

ATV – Amateur Television

AFSK – Audio Frequency Shift Keying

AUTODIN – Automatic Digital Network, a military teletype-based messaging system.

Autopatch – A device that interfaces a repeater to the telephone system to permit repeater users to make telephone calls. Often just called a "patch."

Available Resources – Resources assigned to an incident and available for an assignment. (ICS)

Base(1) – The location from which the primary logistics functions are coordinated and administered (incident name or other designator will be added to the term "Base".) The incident command post may also be located with the base. There is on one base per incident. (ICS)

Base(2) - A radio station located at a fixed location as opposed to a mobile. Used to identify the control location in a network of radio stations.

BIFC – Boise Interagency Fire Center

BLM – Bureau of Land Management

BLS – Basic Life Support (SAR)

BNICE – Biological, Nuclear, Incendiary, Chemical and Explosive. (Five categories of terrorist incidents)

Branch – The organizational level having functional/geographic responsibility for major segments of incident operations. The branch level is organizationally between section and division/group. (ICS)

Break - Term used to interrupt a conversation on a repeater to indicate that there is an emergency or urgent message. If non-urgent, simply interject your callsign.

Briefing – A meeting before an operation in which information is disclosed to the members in order to ensure proper initiation and execution of the operation.

Brush Truck – A light, mobile vehicle with limited pumping and water capacity for off-road operations.

Burnout – Mental and emotional problems that occur soon after or even during a stressful incident or series of incidents.

Care and Shelter – A function providing food, clothing and housing for people on a mass care basis.

Cache – A predetermined complement of tools, equipment and/or supplies stored in a designated location, available for incident use.

Calling Frequency -A defacto standard frequency where stations attempt to contact each other. Example -- 146.520 MHz is the USA National FM simplex calling frequency

Camp – A geographic site, within the general incident area, separate from the incident base, equipped and staffed to provide food, water, sleeping and sanitary facilities to incident personnel.

CAP – Civil Air Patrol

CAT – Crisis Action Team (DHS)

C/B-RRT – Chemical/Biological Rapid Response Team (SAR)

CB – Citizen Band is an unlicensed radio service for personal communications using low-power 27 MHz transceivers.

CCP – Casualty Collection Point – Serves as a location near the incident site which provides areas to triage, treat and transport victims in a multi-casualty incident. CCPs are not an official facility in the NIIMS ICS.

CERT – Citizens Emergency Response Team. A program enabling citizens to organize into neighborhood response teams.

Chain of Command – A series of management positions in order of authority.

Check-in – The process whereby resources first report to an incident. Check-in locations include: Incident Command Post (Resources Unit), Incident Base, Camps, Staging Areas, Helibases, Helispots and Division Supervisors (for direct line assignments).

Chief – Incident Management System (IMS) title for individuals responsible for command of the functional sections; Operations Section Chief, Planning Section Chief, Logistics Section Chief, Financial/Administration Section Chief. (ICS)

CISD – Critical Incident Stress Debriefing

CISM – Critical Incident Stress Management. (part of CISD)

Clear – Term used to indicate a station is done transmitting.

Clear Text – Use of plain English in radio communications transmissions. No ten-codes or agency specific codes are used when using clear text.

CMT – Crisis Management Team

Command – The act of directing and/or controlling resources by virtue of explicit legal, agency or delegated authority. May also refer to the Incident Commander.

Communications Unit (Comm Unit) – A functional unit within the service branch of the logistics section. This unit is responsible for the incident's communications plan, the installation and repair of communications equipment, and the operation of the incident communications center. Also may refer to a communications center. The amateur radio liaison officer reports to the comm unit leader for use of amateur radio volunteers. (ICS)

Company – A ground vehicle providing specified equipment capabilities and personnel (engine company, truck company, rescue company, etc.) (ICS)

Compensation Unit/Claims Unit – The functional unit within the finance/administration section responsible for financial concerns resulting from property damage, injuries or fatalities at the incident. (ICS)

Complex – Two or more individual incidents located in the same general area which are assigned to a single incident commander or to unified command. (ICS)

Consequence Management – The response to a disaster, focusing on alleviating damage, loss, hardship or suffering. (ICS)

Contingency Plan – A sub or supporting plan which deals with one specific type of emergency, it's probable effect on the jurisdiction and the actions necessary to offset these effects. (ICS)

CONTROLLED NET – A net, run by a NCS where all traffic is authorized by the NCS. Casual discussions are discouraged.

Control Operator - The Amateur Radio operator designated to "control" the operation of the repeater, as required by FCC regulations.

Cooperating Agency – An agency supplying assistance other than direct suppression, rescue or service functions to the incident control effort (Red Cross, law enforcement, telephone company, etc.) (ICS)

Coordination – The process of systematically analyzing a situation, developing relevant information and informing appropriate command authority of viable alternatives for selection of the most effective combination of available resources to meet specific objectives. The coordination process (which can be either intra- or interagency) does not involve dispatch actions. However, personnel responsible for coordination may perform command delegations, procedures, legal authority, etc. (ICS)

Coordination Center – Any facility that is used for the coordination of agency or jurisdictional resources in support of one or more incidents. (ICS)

Copy - Indication of how well communications are received. "I have a good copy on you" also used as a question, as in "did you copy/understand all"

COQ – Call Out Qualified (SAR)

Cost Unit – A functional unit within the finance/administration section that is responsible for tracking costs, analyzing cost data, making cost estimates and recommending cost-saving measures. (ICS)

Coverage - The geographic area that the repeater provides communications.

CP – Command Post – The location from which primary command functions are executed; usually located with the incident base. (ICS)

Crew – A specific number of personnel assembled for an assignment such as search, ventilation or hose deployment and operations. The number of personnel in a crew should not exceed recommended span-of-control guides (over seven personnel). A crew operates under the direct supervision of a crew leader. (ICS)

Crisis Management – Measures to identify, acquire and plan the use of resources needed to anticipate, prevent and/or resolve a threat or act. (ICS)

Critical Angle - The angle at which a radio signal is refracted in the ionosphere. Lower angles generally result in greater distance transmissions. Used with NVIS propagation.

Critical Frequency - The highest frequency at which a vertically incident radio wave will return from the ionosphere. Above the critical frequency radio signals pass through the ionosphere instead of returning to Earth.

Critical Functions – Business activities or information that could not be interrupted or unavailable for several business days without significantly jeopardizing the operation of the organization.

Critical Incident Stress – Problems that can arise as a result of an over taxing situation, such as a major disaster event.

Critical Records – Records or documents, if damaged or destroyed, would cause considerable inconvenience and/or require replacement or recreation at a considerable expense.

Critique – A formal review of any incident, no matter how large or small. The critique is a process intended to identify the lessons learned from an exercise or mission and is not for placing blame, pointing the finger or allowing adversaries to embarrass each other.

Cross Band - The process of transmitting on one band and receiving on another.

CTCSS – Continuous Tone Coded Squelch System. A form of sub-audible tone squelch that is used to minimize interference caused by inter-modulation. (Also referred to as 'PL' an acronym for Private Line, a registered trademark of Motorola, Inc.)

Damage Assessment – The process of assessing damage, following an emergency, to facilities, infrastructure, computer hardware, vital records, etc. and determining what can be salvaged or restored and what must be replaced.

DART(1) – Downed Aircraft Rescue Transmitter

DART(2) – Disaster Assistance Response Team DCO – Disaster Coordinating Office

Debriefing - A meeting after an operation or a team is called in, in which all information is disclosed and where suggestions can be made for the future.

DEC – District Emergency Coordinator. A position of leadership within the ARES organization reporting to the SEC.

Demobilization Unit – A functional unit within the planning section that is responsible for ensuring the orderly, safe and efficient demobilization of resources committed to the incident. (ICS)

Deploy – The term used to describe the distribution and/or dispatching of resources.

Desense – (Desensitization) The reduction of receiver sensitivity due to overload from a nearby transmitter.

DF – Direction Finding (As in equipment described under “ELT”)

DFO – Disaster Field Office (DHS)

DHS – Department of Homeland Security

Digipeater - A store-and-forward digital repeater which will receive and transmit a data packet on the same frequency.

Diplexer - A frequency splitting and isolation device. Typically used to couple two transceivers to a single or dual band antenna, thus allowing one to receive on one transceiver and transmit on the other transceiver. Typical application, 2 meters and 440 MHz transceivers into a dual-band antenna.

Director – Incident management system (IMS) title for individuals responsible for command of a branch.

Dispatch – The implementation of a command decision to move a resource or resources from one place to another.

Dispatch Center – A facility that directly assigns resources to an incident. (ICS)

Division – An organization level that has responsibility for operations within a defined geographic area. The division level is organizational between single resources, task force or the strike team and the branch. (ICS)

DMAT – Disaster Medical Assistance Team

DMORT – Disaster Mortuary Response Team

Documentation Unit – An organization level that has responsibility for recording/protecting all documents relevant to an incident. (ICS)

Dog Team – One handler and one canine. (SAR)

DRC – Disaster Recovery Center

DSP – Digital Signal Processor. A high-speed numeric processor IC chip that filters audio signals to improve intelligibility of received information.

DTMF – Dual Tone Multi Frequency. A signaling and control method using two simultaneous tones. The same method as used in telephones.

Duplex - A communication mode in which a radio transmits on one frequency and receives on another (also see full duplex, half duplex, and simplex)

DWI – Disaster Welfare Inquiry (ARC)

EAS – Emergency Alert System. A system used by broadcasters to enable emergency management authorities to alert and inform the community via TV and radio.

EC – Emergency Coordinator. A position of leadership within the ARES organization, reporting to the DEC.

ECC – Emergency Communications Center
EICC – Emergency Information and Coordination Center

ELT – Emergency Locator Transmitter – A low-power transmitting device carried on light aircraft as required by federal law, and on most military aircraft. It is impact activated and transmits a distinctive sweeping tone that can be detected by aircraft mounted or hand-held direction finding (DF) equipment. (SAR)

EmComm – Emergency Communications. Also the ARRL's Continuing Education program in Emergency Communications.

Emergency Operations – Those actions taken during the emergency period to protect life, property and the environment and to care for the people affected and temporarily restore essential services.

Emergency Power – The term used to describe a power source other than normal commercial power sources. (e.g., generator, batteries, solar panels, etc.)

EMS – Emergency Medical Services

EMT – Emergency Medical Technician

EOC – Emergency Operations Center. A facility designed to serve as a focal point of operations during emergencies.

EPA – Environmental Protection Agency

ERT – Emergency Response Team

ESF – Emergency Support Function Located in the EST; includes staff members of Federal Response Plan participants)

EST – Emergency Support Team (sent to disasters)

ETA – Estimated Time of Arrival

ETD – Estimated Time of Departure

Event – A planned, non-emergency activity. ICS can be used as the management system for a wide range of events (e.g., parades, concerts or sporting events).

Eyes Only – Term utilized for prefacing "confidential" information.

FAX – Facsimile

FEC – Forward Error Correction. One of the two modes of AMTOR communications. In this mode, each character is sent twice.

FCO – Federal Coordinating Officer (DHS/FEMA)

FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency (part of DHS)

Facilities Unit – A functional unit within the support branch of the logistics section that provides fixed facilities for an incident. These facilities may include the incident base, feeding areas, sleeping areas, sanitary facilities and a formal command post. (ICS)

Finance/Administration Unit – Responsible for all costs and financial actions of the incident. Includes the time unit, procurement unit, compensation/claims unit, and the cost unit. (ICS)

FIPS – Federal Information Processing Standards codes. A system of five digit codes assigned by the federal government to designate each county in the country.

Fixed Station – The term used to describe a radio station that is neither mobile or portable, normally a permanent installation.

FLIR – Forward Looking Infrared – A thermal imaging device designed to be aircraft mounted, usually on a helicopter, that can detect heat sources at night. Useful in locating persons on foot, in concealed vehicles, aircraft wreckage and other heat sources. (SAR)

FOC – Federal Operations Center

Food Unit – A functional unit within the service branch of the logistics section. Responsible for providing meals for personnel involved with the incident. (ICS)

FOUO – For Official Use Only

FRN – Federal Radio Network

FRP – Federal Response Plan. (Plan that includes multiple federal agencies under FEMA's oversight to respond to presidentially declared disasters, now called NRP)

FRS – Family Radio Service. An unlicensed service for personal communications using low powered (1/2 watt) UHF (460 MHz) transceivers.

FSK – Frequency Shift Keying. The transmitter shifts between two predetermined frequencies. The standard shift is now 170 Hz.

FSTV – Fast Scan Television. An amateur radio image communication mode that closely resembles the picture quality available in commercial broadcast.

FTL – Field Team Leader (SAR)

FTM – Field Team Member (SAR)

Full Duplex - A communications mode in which a radios can transmit and receive at the same time by using two different frequencies (see "duplex" and half duplex)

General Staff – The group of incident management personnel comprised of the operations section chief, planning section chief, logistics section chief, and finance/administrative section chief. (ICS)

GMRS – General Mobile Radio Service. Type of communications positioned in the UHF (460 MHz) spectrum that required a personal license. Some “channels” correspond with the Family Radio Service (FRS) and communication between the two is permitted.)

GPS – Global Position System

Group – The organizational level having responsibility for a specific functional assignment at an incident (ventilation, salvage, water supply, etc.) The need to group resources to perform a like task or function. (ICS)

GSU – Ground Support Unit. A functional unit within the support branch of the logistics section, which is responsible for fueling, maintaining and repairing vehicles and the transportation of personnel and supplies. (ICS)

Half Duplex - A communications mode in which a radio transmits and receives on two different frequencies but performs only one of these operations at any given time (see "duplex" and "full duplex")

Hazardous Chemical – Any chemical which is a physical or health hazard.

HazMat – Hazardous Materials

Helibase – A location within the general incident area for parking, fueling, maintenance and loading of helicopters. (ICS)

Helispot – A location where a helicopter can take off and land. (ICS) HF – High Frequency. The radio spectrum from 3 to 30 MHz.

HHS – Department of Health and Human Services

HT – Hand-Held – A small, lightweight portable transceiver small enough to be carried easily; also called HT (for Handie-Talkie, a Motorola trademark).

IAIP – Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (DHS)

IC – Incident Commander – The individual responsible for the management of all incident operations. (ICS)

ICAP – Incident Communications Action Plan ICP – Incident Command Post – The location at which the primary command functions are executed. (ICS)

ICS – Incident Command System. A concept of command and control for emergency situations that is scalable to handle events of any size.

IMT – Incident Management Team (designed to operate within NIMS)

Incident – An occurrence or event, either human caused or natural phenomena, that requires action by emergency service personnel to prevent or minimize loss of life or damage to property and or natural resources. (ICS)

Incident Action Plan – The strategic goals, tactical objectives and requirements for the incident. All incidents require an action plan. For simple incidents, the action plan is

not usually in written form. Large or complex incidents will require an action plan to be documented in writing. (ICS)

Incident Communications Center (ICC) – The location of the communications unit and the message center.

Incident Support Organization (ISO) – Includes any off-incident support provided to an incident. Examples would be agency dispatch centers, airports, mobilization centers, etc.

Input Frequency - The frequency of the repeater's receiver (and your transceiver's transmitter).

Intermod - Short for "intermodulation," this means false or spurious signals produced by two or more signals mixing in a receiver or repeater station.

IPP - Initial Planning Point (SAR)

IST – Incident Support Team (FEMA)

JNOS – A NOS (Network Operating System) that can be used as a platform for exchanging messages using a wide range of methods such as Internet, amateur radio and TCP/IP.

Leader – The individual responsible for command of a task force, strike team or functional unit. (ICS)

LFA – Lead Federal Agency

Liaison Officer – The point of contact for assisting or coordinating agencies. Member of the command staff. (ICS)

LKP – Last Known Position (SAR)

LL – Land-Line – Term used to describe telephone communications over a wire connection.

Logistics Section – Is responsible for providing facilities, services and materials for the incident. Includes the communications unit, medical unit and food unit, within the services branch and the supply unit, facilities unit and ground support unit within the support branch. (ICS)

LSB – Lower Sideband. The sideband below the base operating frequency. This is the common single sideband operating mode on the 40, 80, and 160 meter amateur bands.

MACC – Multi-Agency Coordination Center Managers – Individuals within ICS organizational units who are assigned specific managerial responsibilities (e.g., Staging Area Manager or Camp Manager).

MARS – Military Affiliate Radio System

MATF – Multi-Agency Task Force MATTS – Mobile Air Transportable Telecommunications System (deployed to disaster sites to re-establish emergency communications)

MD – Medical Doctor

Media – All means of providing information and instructions to the public, including radio, television and newspapers.

Medical Unit – A functional unit within the service branch of the logistic section, which is responsible for providing emergency medical treatment of emergency personnel. This unit does not provide treatment for civilians. (ICS)

Message Center – The message center is part of the Incident Communications Center and is co-located or placed adjacent to it. It receives, records and routes information about resources reporting to the incident, resource status and administrative and tactical traffic. (ICS)

Mission – A specific incident such as a search and rescue operation. (ICS)

Mission Coordinator – The person designated by the legal responsible authority to coordinate and manage on-scene operations during a specific SAR incident. Depending upon the management system used and the organizations involved, this person may be called the Mission Coordinator, On -Scene Commander or Incident Commander. (ICS)

Mobile Station – An amateur radio station installed in a vehicle - a mobile station can be used while in MOTION. A portable station is one that is designed to be easily moved from place to place but can only be used while stopped.

Mobilization – The process and procedures used by all organizations – Federal, State and local – for activating, assembling and transporting all resources that have been requested to respond to or support and incident.

Mobilization Center – An off-incident location at which emergency service personnel and equipment are temporarily located pending assignment, release or reassignment. (ICS)

MOU – Memorandum of Understanding

Mounted Team – One rider and one horse. (SAR)

MRE – Meals Ready to Eat (Military)

Mutual Aid Search – A search that is too large scale to be handed by one organization. One or more organizations or groups outside the initial group are called in to assist in the effort. (SAR)

NAWAS – National Warning System. The federal notification system used to inform and coordinate regional and national emergency management.

NBC – Nuclear, Biological and Chemical

NET – Network. An on-the-air meeting of amateurs to handle messages and/or pass information relating to a scheduled or unscheduled event. May be conducted by an NCS.

NCS – Net Control Station. The person charged with maintaining orderly flow of information during a net. Also “National Communication System” par of IAIP.

Negative Offset (-) - The repeater input frequency is lower than the output frequency.

Night Vision – A monocular or binocular piece of equipment that allows you to see in near total darkness by intensifying existing light. It may also be utilized in total darkness with an infrared attachment. Night vision is very useful for search and rescue missions.

NIMS – National Incident Management System (A nationwide approach for federal, state and local governments to work together to prepare for, respond to and recover from domestic incidents, regardless of cause, size or complexity.)

NOAA – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The administration under the federal Department of Commerce responsible for oceanic and atmospheric study.

Node - A remotely controlled TNC/digipeater - used as a connect point in packet radio.

NRT – National Response Team

NTS – National Traffic System -National Traffic System - an amateur radio relay system for passing messages.

NVIS – Near Vertical Incidence Skywave. The mode of HF propagation that uses the ionosphere overhead as a reflector for a vertical radio signal and provide HF coverage for a service radius of approximately 250 miles. Usually from a half-wave dipole mounted no more than 1/8 wavelength above the ground.

NVOAD – National Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (Includes Red Cross and Salvation Army)

NWS – National Weather Service. The weather forecasting arm of the NOAA.

OO – Official Observer. Monitors amateur frequencies for rule compliance.

Odd Split - Unconventional frequency separation between input and output frequencies of a repeater.

OEM – Office of Emergency Management

Officer – The ICS title for the personnel responsible for the Command Staff positions of Safety, Liaison and Information.

Offset - In order to listen and transmit at the same time, repeaters use two different frequencies. On the 2 meter ham band these frequencies are typically 600 kHz apart. As a general rule, if the output frequency (transmit) of the repeater is below 147 MHz then the input frequency (listening) is 600 kHz lower. This is referred to as a negative offset (-). If the output is above 147 MHz then the input is 600 kHz above. This is referred to as a positive offset (+).

OPEN NET – A net that may be run by an NCS but only to designate who is to speak next. Casual conversation is accepted and traffic is handled on a first-come -first-served basis.

Operational Period – The period of time scheduled for execution of a given set of operation actions as specified in the incident action plan (ICS).

OPSEC – Operational Security

OSC – On-Scene Coordinator

OSCAR – Orbital Satellite Carrying Amateur Radio

Out-of-Services Resources – Resources assigned to an incident but unable to respond for mechanical, rest, or personnel reasons (ICS).

Output Frequency - The frequency of the repeater's transmitter (and your transceiver's receiver).

Over – Word used during a two way communication under difficult copy - to alert the other station that you are returning the communication back to them. Other terms are in CW the letter K is used as an invitation to transmit. Not normally necessary on 2 Meter FM repeaters, as a courtesy beep serves this function.

Overhead Team – A highly trained, quick response management team that can respond to assist with incident planning, coordination and operations. The overhead team usually consists of a manager and two assistants. (ICS)

PA – Public Assistance

Packet Radio – A system of digital communication whereby information is transmitted in short bursts. The bursts ("packets") also contain call sign, addressing and error detection information.

PACTOR – PACketized Telex Over Radio. A digital mode of radio communications.

PAO – Public Affairs Officer

PDA's – Preliminary Damage Assessments (done by FEMA as a preliminary in the disaster declaration process)

Phone Patch - A connection between a two-way radio unit and the public telephone system. (Also see Autopatch).

PIC – Public Information Coordinator. Person assigned to coordinate and appoint Public Information Officers.

PIO – Public Information Officer – The person assigned to provide information to the media and general public. (ICS)

Planning Meeting – A meeting held as needed throughout the duration of an incident to select specific strategies and tactics for incident control operations and for service and support planning. (ICS)

Planning Section – Is responsible for the collection, evaluation, dissemination and use of information about the development of the incident and the status of resources.

Includes the situation status, resources status, documentation and demobilization units, as well as technical specialists. (ICS)

Plan of Action – A written document that consolidates all of the operational actions to be taken by various personnel in order to stabilize and incident. (ICS)

PLB – Personal Locator Beacon

PLS – Place (or point) Last Seen – The location where the missing subject was actually seen by another person. (SAR)

Portable Station – A portable station is one that is designed to be easily moved from place to place but can only be used while stopped. Portable operation is away from the home base station.

Positive Offset (+) - The repeater input frequency is higher than the output frequency.

Post Traumatic Stress/Shock – Emotional problems that can arise after a critical incident that can be long lasting. Search managers, team leaders, etc. should know the signs and symptoms and be alert to the well-being of every team member.

PPE – Personal Protective Equipment

Procurement Unit – A functional unit within the finance/administration section, which is responsible for financial matters involving vendors. (ICS)

PSK – Phase Shift Keying. The phase angle of the transmitted signal is shifted in response to the modulating signal.

PSK31 – Phase Angle Keying 31 Baud. A point-to-point communication mode that works very well in low signal strength situations. Worldwide communication is possible on HF with as little as one watt of output power.

PTSD – Post Traumatic Stress Disorder – (see Post Traumatic Stress)

RACES – Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service. The FEMA program for organizing amateur radio operators registered with civil defense organizations into a reserve of emergency communicators.

Radio Cache – A supply of radios stored in a predetermined location for assignment to incidents.

REC – Regional Emergency Coordinator

Recorders – Individuals within ICS organizational units who are responsible for recording information. Recorders may be found in Planning, Logistics and Finance/Administration Sections. (ICS)

Recovery Plan – The document that defines the resources, actions and tasks required to restore facilities and business practices in the event of a business interruption. The plan is designed to assist in restoring business processes within stated emergency recovery goals.

Repeater - A repeater is a receiver/transmitter that listens for your transmission and re-transmits it. Repeaters usually enjoy the advantage of height and power to extend the range of your transmission. Repeaters listen on one frequency and transmit on another. The separation between these two frequencies is referred to as the Offset.

Reporting Location – Any one of six facilities/locations where incident-assigned resources may be checked in. Direct line assignment locations are: Incident Command Post, Resource Unit (RESTAT), Base Camp, Staging Area, Helibase and Division Supervisor. (See Check-in) (ICS)

Resource Net – A radio net that is used for ARES/RACES activation and resource management, including responder recruiting and dispatching.

Resource Unit (See RESTAT)

Resources – All personnel and major items of equipment available or potentially available, for assignment to incident tasks on which status is maintained. (ICS)

Responder Rehabilitation – (REHAB) – The function and location which will include medical evaluation and treatment, food and fluid replenishment and relief from extreme climatic conditions for emergency responders according to the circumstances of the incident. (ICS)

RESTAT – Resource Status Unit. A functional unit within the planning section, which is responsible for recording the status and accounting of resources committed to an incident and evaluation of resources currently committed to the incident, the impact that additional responding resources will have on the incident and anticipated resource needs. (ICS)

RIT – Receiver Incremental Tuning

ROC – Regional Operations Center

RTTY – Radio Teletype. A digital mode of radio communications.

Safety Officer – Responsible for monitoring and assessing safety hazards, unsafe situations and developing measures for ensuring personnel safety and a member of the command staff. (ICS)

SAME – Specific Area Message Encoding. An alert messaging scheme used by the National Weather Radio Service to alert specific counties of emergency conditions. SAME uses FIPS codes to address the counties.

SAR – Search and Rescue SAR Emergency – Any SAR incident, whether related to any other type of incident or not, that requires the utilization of resources to resolve, due to the threat or potential threat to human life.

SATERN – Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network – The national network of amateur radio operators supporting the Salvation Army.

SCBA – Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus

SCO – State Coordinating Officer

Scope – Predefined areas of operation for which an emergency operations plan is developed.

SEC – Section Emergency Coordinator. A position of leadership within the ARES organization charged with leading a section who reports to the section manager. May also be appointed as State RACES Officer, in accordance with State RACES plan.

Section – The organization level having functional responsibility for primary segments of incident operations such as; operations, planning, logistics and finance/administration. The section level is organizationally between branch and the incident commander. (ICS)

Service Branch – A branch within the logistics section, which is responsible for service activities. Components include the communications unit, medical unit and food unit. (ICS)

Shadow – A radio operator assigned to a particular public safety officer or organization VIP to provide them with auxiliary communications. (ICS)

Shift Supervisor – The ARES/RACES responder who has responsibility for overall net management. Shift Supervisors serve 6-8 hour shifts at the ECC. (ICS)

Simplex - A communications mode in which a radio transmits and receives on the same frequency.

Single Resource – An individual company or crew. (ICS)

SITSTAT – Situation Status – A functional unit within the planning section, which is responsible for analysis of the situation as it progresses. Reports to the planning section chief. (ICS)

SITREP – Situation Report

Sizeup – The rapid mental evaluation of the factors that influence an incident. Sizeup is the first step in determining a course of action. (SAR)

SKYWARN – A network of community weather spotters serving the National Weather Service.

SM – Section Manager. A position of leadership within the ARRL Field Services Organization just below the national level.

SNS – Strategic National Stockpile (pharmaceuticals and medical supplies ready for deployment)

SOP – Standard Operating Procedures – A set of instructions having the force of a directive, covering those features of operations that lend themselves to a definite or standardized procedure. Standard operating procedures indicate in detail how a particular task will be carried out.

Space Blanket – Emergency blanket that looks like foil. This thin, light blanket keeps the body heat in. (SAR)

Span of Control – The supervisory ratio of from three to seven individuals, with five-to-one being optimum.

Split - The difference (in kHz) between a repeater's transmitter and receiver frequencies. Repeaters that use unusual separations, such as 1 MHz on 2 meters, are sometimes said to have "odd splits."

Squelch Tail - A brief bit of noise heard between the end of a radio transmission and the reactivation of the receiver's squelch circuit.

SSB – Single Sideband. A method of modulation where only one sideband is transmitted. The carrier and other sideband are suppressed.

Staging Area – The location where incident personnel and equipment gather and are assigned with an immediately available status. (ICS)

Strategic Goals – The overall plan that will be used to control the incident. Strategic goals are broad in nature and are achieved by the completion of tactical objectives. (ICS)

Strike Team – Specified combinations of the same kind of resources, with common communications and a leader. (ICS)

Supervisor – Individual responsible for command of a division/group. (ICS)

Supply Unit – Functional Unit within the Support Branch of the Logistics Section responsible for ordering equipment and supplies required for incident operations.

Support Branch – A branch within the logistics section, which is responsible for providing the personnel, equipment and supplies to support incident operations. Components include the supply unit, facilities unit and ground support unit. (ICS)

Tactical Call Sign – An identifier used by all radio operators at a specific location. They may include jurisdiction names (Washoe County), agency names (Red Cross), location names (milepost 120), ICS names (Incline Village Command), individual names (EMS Shadow), or net names (Resource). All tactical communications are made using tactical call signs. Use amateur call signs to identify per FCC Part 97 requirements (every ten minutes and at the end of a series of transmissions).

Tactical Net – A radio net whose operation is directly in support of agencies involved in an incident.

Tactical Objectives – The specific operations that must be accomplished to achieve strategic goals; tactical objectives must be both specific and measurable. Tactical level officers are division/group. (ICS)

Task Assignment – Specific tasks assigned to companies (single resource, task level assignment). (ICS)

Task Force – A group of any type and kind of resources, with common communications and a leader, temporarily assembled for a specific mission. (Not to exceed five resources) (ICS)

TCP – Telecommunications Priorities

TCXO – Temperature controlled crystal oscillator (see OCXO).

TDS – Time, Distance and Shielding. Three types of protective measures commonly associated with hazardous materials training.

Team – (See Single Resource)

Technical Specialists – Personnel with special skills who are activated only when needed. Technical specialists may be needed in the areas of: fire behavior, water resources, environmental concerns (HazMat, etc), resource use and training. Technical specialists report initially to the planning section but may be assigned anywhere within the incident management system organizational structure as needed. (ICS)

TFR – Temporary Flight Restriction – Temporary airspace restrictions for non-emergency aircraft in the incident area. TFRs are established by the FAA to ensure aircraft safety and are normally limited to a five-nautical-mile radius and 2000 feet in altitude.

Third Party Communications - Messages passed from one amateur to another on behalf of a third person.

Time Unit – A functional unit within the finance/administration section, which is responsible for keeping records of the time for personnel working at the incident. (ICS)

TNC2 – Terminal Node Controller, Version 2. A piece of equipment for packet radio communications.

Tracker – (SAR) An individual who can detect and follow signs of human passage.

Traffic Net – A radio net allowing interface between ARES/RACES, NTS and MARS stations for the handling of formal message traffic into and out of a disaster area.

Transceiver – A radio that combines a transmitter and receiver into one unit.

Triage – Sorting out the wounded at a major incident so that most serious cases are treated first.

Triplexer – (see diplexer)

Truck Company – A ground vehicle that provides an aerial ladder or other aerial device, specific portable ladders and equipment capability and personnel. (ICS)

TSA – The Salvation Army

TSP – Telecommunications Service Priority

Type – Refers to resource capability. A Type-1 resource provides a greater overall capability because of power, size, capacity, etc., than would be found in a Type-2 resource. Resource typing provides managers with additional information in selecting the best resource for the task.

UHF – Ultra High Frequency. The radio spectrum from 300 to 3,000 MHz.

Unified Command (UC) – A method for all agencies or individuals who have jurisdictional responsibility at the incident, to contribute to determining overall objectives for the incident and selection of a strategy to achieve the objectives.

Unit – The organizational element having functional responsibility for the specific planning of an incident, logistics or finance/administration activity. (ICS) Unity of Command – The concept by which each person within an organization reports to only one designated person.

USB – Upper Sideband - Upper Side Band the common single-sideband operating mode on the 20, 17, 15, 12, and 10 meter HF amateur bands, and all the VHF and UHF bands.

US&R – Urban Search and Rescue UTC - Coordinated Universal Time, the time (expressed in 24-hour format) at the zero-degree Meridian, which passes through Greenwich, England.

VA – Veterans Administration

VHF – Very High Frequency. The radio spectrum from 30 to 300 MHz.

VOAD – Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters

VOX – Voice Operated Transmit. A circuit that will cause a transmitter to automatically transmit when the microphone picks up voice or loud sounds. Water Tender – Any ground vehicle that can transport specific quantities of water. Wind Chill – The temperature when the temperature is lowered by the speed or gusts of wind to create an actual temperature that one would feel against the body.

WMD – Weapon of Mass Destruction

WX – Weather

XIT – Transmit Incremental Tuning control; allows for slightly changing the transmit frequency while leaving the receive frequency the same. Useful for split operations.

Zulu – Military designation for GMT or Coordinated Universal Time.