

Glossary

TERM/ACRONYM	DEFINITION
Agency Representative	Individual assigned to an incident from an assisting or cooperating agency who has been delegated full authority to make decisions on all matters affecting their agency's participation at the incident. Agency Representatives report to the Liaison Officer
Air Operations Branch Director	The person primarily responsible for preparing and implementing the air operations portion of the Incident Action Plan. Also responsible for providing logistical support to helicopters operating on the incident.
Allocated Resources	Resources dispatched to an incident
Alternative Response Technologies (ART)	Response methods or techniques other than mechanical containment or recovery. ART may include use of chemical dispersants, in-situ burning, bioremediation, or other alternatives. Application of ART must be authorized and directed by the OSC
Assigned Resources	Resources checked-in and assigned work tasks on the incident
Assignments	Tasks given to resources to perform within a given operational period, based upon tactical objectives in the Incident Action Plan
Assistant	Title for subordinates of the Command Staff positions. The title indicates a level of technical capability, qualifications, and responsibility subordinate to the primary positions. Assistants may also be used to supervise unit activities at camps
Assisting Agency	An agency directly contributing tactical or service resources to another agency
Available Resources	Incident-based resources which are immediately available for assignment
Base	That location at 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 be collocated with the base. There is only one base per incident
Biological Additives	Micro-biological cultures, enzymes, or nutrient additives that are deliberately introduced into an oil discharge for the specific purpose of encouraging bio-degradation to mitigate the effects of a discharge
Branch	That organizational level having functional/geographic responsibility for major incident operations. The Branch level is organizationally between Section and Division/Group in the Operations Section, and between Section and Units in the Logistics Section.
Burning Agents	Those additives that through physical or chemical means, improve the combustibility of the materials to which they are applied
Cache	A pre-determined complement of tools, equipment and/or supplies stored in a designated location, and available for incident use
Camp	A geographical site, within the general incident area, separate from the base, equipped and staffed to provide sleeping areas, food, water, and sanitary services to incident personnel
CERCLA	The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986

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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).
Chemical Agents	Those elements, compounds, or mixtures that coagulate, disperse, dissolve, emulsify, foam, neutralize, precipitate, reduce, solubize, oxidize, concentrate, congeal, entrap, fix, make the pollutant mass more rigid or viscous, or otherwise facilitate the mitigation of deleterious effects or the removal of the pollutant from the water
Chief	The ICS title for individuals responsible for command of functional sections: Operations, Planning, Logistics and Finance
Claim	A request, made in writing for a sum certain, for compensation for damages or removal costs resulting from an incident
Clear Text	The use of plain English in radio communications transmissions. No Ten Codes, or agency specific codes are used when using Clear Text
Coastal Waters	The waters of the coastal zone except for the Great Lakes and specified ports and harbors on inland rivers. Used for classifying the size of discharges.
Coastal Zone	Mean all United States waters subject to the tide, United States waters of the Great Lakes, specified ports and harbors on inland rivers, waters of the contiguous zone, other waters of the high seas subject to the NCP, and the land surface or land substrata, ground waters, and ambient air proximal to those waters. The term coastal zone delineates an area of federal responsibility for response action. Precise boundaries are determined by EPA/Coast Guard agreements and identified in federal regional contingency plans.
Command	The act of directing, ordering and/or controlling resources by virtue of explicit legal, agency, or delegated authority. May also refer to the Incident Commander/Unified Command
Command Post	See Incident Command Post
Command Staff	The Command Staff consists of the Information Officer, Safety Officer, and Liaison Officer, who report directly to the Incident Commander. They may have an assistant or assistants, as needed.
Communications Unit	A vehicle (trailer or mobile van) used to provide the major part of an incident Communication Center
Contiguous Zone	The zone established by the United States under Article 24 of the Convention of the Territorial Sea and Contiguous Zone. It is the zone contiguous to the territorial sea which extends nine miles seaward from the territorial sea.
Cooperating Agency	An agency supplying assistance other than direct tactical or support functions or resources to the incident control effort (e.g., Red Cross, telephone company, etc)
Cost Unit	Functional unit within the Finance Section responsible for tracking costs, analyzing cost data, making cost estimates, and recommending cost-saving measures

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Demobilization Unit	Functional unit within the Planning Section responsible for assuring orderly, safe and efficient demobilization of incident resources
Deputy	A fully qualified individual who, in the absence of a superior, could be delegated the authority to manage a functional operation or perform a specific task. In some cases, a Deputy could act as relief for a superior and therefore must be fully qualified in the position. Deputies can be assigned to the Incident Commander, General Staff, and Branch Directors.
Director	The ICS title for individuals responsible for supervision of a Branch.
Discharge	Any emission (other than natural seepage), intentional or unintentional, and includes, but is not limited to spilling, leaking, pumping, pouring, emitting, emptying, or dumping.
Dispatch	The implementation of a command decision to move resources from one place to another
Dispersants	Chemical agents that emulsify, disperse, or solubize oil into the water column or promote the surface spreading of oil slicks to facilitate dispersal of the oil into the water column.
Dispatch Center	A facility from which resources are directly assigned to an incident.
Division	That organization level having responsibility for operation within a defined geographic area or with functional responsibility. The Division level is organizationally between the Task Force/Team and the Branch. (See also "Group")
Documentation Unit	Functional unit within the Planning Section responsible for collecting, recording and safeguarding all documents relevant to the incident.
Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)	A health-care specialist with particular skills and knowledge in pre-hospital emergency medicine.
Emergency Operations Center (EOC)	A pre-designated facility established by an agency or jurisdiction to coordinate the overall agency or jurisdictional response and support to an emergency.
Environment	The navigable waters, waters of the contiguous zone, and the ocean waters which the natural resources are under the exclusive management of the U. S. under the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Also includes surface water, ground water, drinking water supply, land surface and subsurface strata, or ambient air.
Exclusive Economic Zone	
Facilities Unit	
Field Operations Unit	

