

Alphabet Soup: Emergency Management Acronyms

ADLS	Advanced Disaster Life Support	Procedures and techniques used by emergency response personnel that are taught in an intensive 2-day course, which applies the knowledge learned in BDLS using simulated hazards scenarios and MCIs.
BDLS	Basic Disaster Life Support	A comprehensive mass casualty management program, which includes a practical approach to casualty decontamination and reviews all-hazards topics including accidental man-made events, traumatic and explosive events, nuclear and radiological events, biological events, and chemical events.
CBRNE	Chemical, Biologic, Radiologic/Nuclear and Explosive Incidents	The potential threats that exist to our country as part of a terrorist Weapons of Mass Destruction program.
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	One of the 13 major operating components of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), which acts to prevent and control infectious and chronic diseases, injuries, workplace hazards, disabilities, and environmental health threats in the U.S. population.
CDLS	Core Disaster Life Support	A training program that is focused on the all-hazards preparedness of first responders and other healthcare workers in the community, providing instructional and practical experience in threats to public health, the incident command structure, and patient decontamination.
EMS	Emergency Medical Services	A branch of medicine that is performed in the field (i.e., the streets, peoples' homes, etc.) by paramedics, emergency medical technicians (EMTs), and certified first responders (CFRs).
EOC	Emergency Operations Center	A location from which centralized emergency management can be performed. The EOC is established by the hospital to coordinate the overall organizational response and support to an emergency.
EPC	Emergency Preparedness Committee	A group of individuals representing key components of the hospital's healthcare delivery system that develop the organization's emergency response and preparedness policies, procedures, and capabilities.
ERT	Emergency Response Team	Staff and volunteers responsible for the operational functions of emergency response; such as medical, evacuation, communications, supply procurement, shelter, building assessment and mental health services.
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency	An agency of the United States government dedicated to swift response in the event of disasters, both natural and man-made.
FRED	Facility Resource Emergency Database	Internet based communications resource to allow hospitals, health departments, and regional and state agencies to communicate during all phases of a disaster.
HAZMAT	Hazardous Material	Harmful substances that are chemical, biologic or radiological/nuclear in nature.
HAZWOPER	Hazardous Waste Operations and Response Emergency Response Standard	OSHA mandated training for workers and supervisors dealing with hazardous materials. This includes healthcare providers who may be caring for patients potentially exposed to hazardous substances.
HEICS	Hospital Emergency Incident Command System	A management program for hospitals modeled after the Fire Service Plan; comprised of an organizational chart with a clearly delineated chain of command and a preordered job action sheet that assists the individual in focusing upon his/her assigned position function.
HVA	Hazard Vulnerability Assessment	A formal analysis of the potential threats, risks, and emergencies and the impact that these emergencies may have on the community or an agency