



Appendix A

Glossary

The following is a list of terms and phrases that are typically used within the DFO. Some of these terms are used throughout this document, while others are terms that a sustainability planner should become familiar with in order to effectively communicate with DFO staff.

"100-Year" Floodplain	The area of a floodplain that historically and statistically has a 1 percent chance of significant inundation in any given year or the area of inundation by the "100-year" flood (also known as the "Base Flood").
Administrative Plan	See Hazard Mitigation State Administrative Plan.
Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)	The ADA guarantees equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities in employment, public accommodations, transportation, state and local government services, and telecommunications.
Annual Flood	The annual flood is considered the most significant flood event in a one-year cycle of a floodplain.
Applicant	The applicant is a state agency, local government, and any political subdivision of the state, including Native American Indian tribes and Alaskan native villages that apply for FEMA post-disaster assistance. Applicants may also be private non-profit organizations such as medical, emergency (fire and rescue), utility, educational, custodial care, zoos, community centers, libraries, homeless shelters, and senior citizens' centers.
Automated Deployment Database (ADD)	The ADD is a system that provides a means of deploying disaster workers to locations for disaster operations. All FEMA employees, both DAEs and PFTs, are part of the ADD. The ADD system uses specific job titles and descriptions, and is accessible through FEMA's Wide Area Network (WAN).
Base Flood	The Base Flood is defined by FEMA as the flood having a 1 percent probability of being equaled or exceeded in any given year; also referred to as the "100-year" flood.
Base Flood Elevation (BFE)	The BFE is defined by FEMA as the height of the base ("100-year") flood in relation to a specified datum, usually the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 or North American Vertical Datum of 1988. Generally speaking, this is the elevation of the 100-year flood waters relative to "mean sea level."

**Building Performance
Assessment Team (BPAT)**

The BPAT is deployed by FEMA in response to disasters to conduct on-site field investigations. BPATs include representatives of public and private sector entities who are experts in specific technical fields, such as structural and civil engineering, building design and construction, and building code development and enforcement. Activities include inspecting disaster-induced damage to residential and commercial buildings and other manmade structures; evaluating local design practices, construction methods and materials, building codes, and building inspection and code enforcement processes; and making recommendations regarding design, construction, and code issues.

**Catastrophic Disaster
Response Group (CDRG)**

The CDRG is a national-level group with representatives from the Federal departments and agencies under the FRP; serves as the centralized coordinating group supporting on-scene Federal response and recovery efforts.

Charrette

A charrette is an intensive planning and/or design workshop involving people working together under compressed deadlines. Charrettes provide an interactive forum in which planners, designers, community representatives, and other interested and appropriate parties participate in proposing alternative visions that can help the group understand, evaluate and determine future plans and options.

**Coastal Barrier Resources
Act (CoBRA)**

CoBRA is Federal legislation identifying particular coastal areas that are environmentally sensitive and are subject to rules prohibiting certain Federal expenditures within them.

Coastal Zone

The coastal zone is defined as the area along the shore where the ocean meets the land as the surface of the land rises above the ocean. This land/water interface includes barrier islands, estuaries, beaches, coastal wetlands, and land areas having direct drainage to the ocean.

**Coastal Zone Management
Act (CZMA)**

In recognition of the increasing pressures of over-development upon the nation's coastal resources, Congress enacted the CZMA in 1972. The CZMA encourages states to preserve, protect, develop, and, where possible, restore or enhance valuable natural coastal resources such as wetlands, floodplains, estuaries, beaches, dunes, barrier islands, and coral reefs, as well as the fish and wildlife using those habitats. A unique feature of the CZMA is that participation by states is voluntary. To encourage states to participate, the Act makes Federal financial assistance available to any coastal state or territory, including those on the Great Lakes, that is willing to develop and implement a comprehensive coastal management program.

**Community Assistance
Program - State Support
Services Element
(CAP-SSSE)**

The CAP-SSSE provides funding to meet negotiated objectives for reducing flood hazards in NFIP communities. The Program requires that participating communities identify, prevent, and resolve floodplain management issues before the issues require compliance action by FEMA. Available CAP funding is provided on a 75 percent Federal maximum and 25 percent minimum state cost sharing basis through the annual FEMA EMPG.

**Community Assistance Visit
(CAV)**

FEMA arranges for periodic CAVs with local officials to provide technical assistance regarding compliance with NFIP floodplain management requirements.

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)	Administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); the objective of the CDBGs is to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low to moderate-income people. Disaster-related assistance can be eligible under this program depending on state priorities; mitigation activities have been funded under this program.
Community Rating System (CRS)	The CRS is an NFIP program that provides incentives for NFIP communities to complete activities that reduce flood hazard risk. When the community completes specified activities, the insurance premiums of these communities are reduced.
Community Relations (CR)	CR is a FEMA support function within the DFO that provides disaster information to victims of a disaster especially in remote areas and to low income, welfare recipients, elderly, or handicapped victims. CR ensures assistance opportunities are made available to all affected on an equal basis and provides the ERT management with information on ethnic and cultural diversity within the affected populations.
Congressional Liaison	The Congressional Liaison is a FEMA official within the Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs who answers questions and concerns from Members of Congress and other elected officials during a disaster.
Cooperative Agreement (CA)	The CA is a mechanism whereby FEMA can reimburse states to utilize state resources to expedite the completion of a specific task associated with damage occurring from a disaster.
Damage Survey Report (DSR)	The DSR (currently referred to as Project Worksheet, PW) is the public assistance inspector's report that is reviewed by FEMA and is the basis for approving Public Assistance.
Deputy Federal Coordinating Officer for Mitigation (DFCO-M)	As part of the FCO's command staff, the DFCO-M manages and directs the mitigation component of either the regional ERT or ERT-N. The DFCO-M advises the FCO, manages the mitigation operation, and provides Federal leadership by forging partnerships to integrate effective planning and program implementation activities in the disaster operation.
Disaster Assistance Employee (DAE)	DAEs are trained temporary employees that augment permanent FEMA personnel in disaster operations in the field.
Disaster Declaration	A disaster declaration is a Presidential determination that a jurisdiction of the United States may receive Federal aid as a result of damages from a major disaster or emergency.
Disaster Field Office (DFO)	The DFO is established in or near a designated disaster site to support Federal and state response and recovery operations. It is the operating site for the ERT.
Disaster Housing	Disaster Housing (formerly called Temporary Housing) is temporary housing supplied by emergency management officials to disaster victims whose homes are no longer inhabitable due to damages sustained in a declared disaster.
Disaster Information Systems Clearinghouse (DISC)	The DISC provides centralized control, deployment, and accountability of disaster information systems. It is located at FEMA's Mount Weather Emergency Assistance Center in Bluemont, VA.

Disaster Recovery Center (DRC)	The DRC is a location within or near the disaster site at which disaster assistance clients can obtain information about assistance programs and check on the status of their teleregistration for assistance.
Disaster Recovery Manager (DRM)	The DRM is the FEMA official (normally the FCO) who has the delegated authority from the Regional Director to manage authorities under the Stafford Act, including incurring financial obligations.
Early Implementation Strategy	The Strategy is a report that is jointly developed by FEMA, state, and local governments immediately after the initial disaster response to address immediate recovery needs and their potential implications for supporting long-term mitigation and redevelopment goals. FEMA's long-term goal is to implement mitigation as the foundation for establishing disaster-resistant and sustainable communities. The Strategy provides a framework for activities to be undertaken during the weeks immediately following the event, and serves as a starting point for in-depth consideration through the IHMT and/or state mitigation planning process.
Earthquake	An earthquake is a sudden motion or trembling of the earth caused by the abrupt release of slowly accumulated strain upon tectonic plates. Synonym: Seismic Event.
Economic Development Administration (EDA)	The EDA, part of the Department of Commerce, is the Federal agency that assists communities with grants and technical assistance for economic development.
Emergency	As defined in Title V of Public Law 93-288, Section 1.02(l), an emergency is "any occasion or instance for which, in the determination of the President, Federal assistance is needed to supplement state and local efforts and capabilities to save lives and protect property and public health and safety."
Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)	An EMPG is the mechanism by which FEMA provides funding to states to develop and maintain emergency management programs. States develop a "self-assessment" of their emergency management needs, including mitigation, and a 5-year plan to meet those needs. Based on the plan, FEMA provides various levels of funding through a FEMA/State Cooperative Agreement (CA).
Emergency Response Team (ERT)	The ERT is an interagency team consisting of the lead representative from each Federal department or agency assigned primary responsibility for an ESF, and members of the FCO's staff mobilized to carry out the FCO's duties.
Emergency Response Team - Advanced (ERT-A)	The ERT-A is the portion of the ERT deployed first to the field to respond to a disaster incident.
Emergency Response Team - Mitigation (ERT-M)	The ERT-M is the portion of the ERT responsible for field mitigation operations that support sustained actions that will eliminate or reduce long-term risk to people and property from hazards and their effects.
Emergency Response Team -National (ERT-N)	The ERT-N is a national-level field response team.
Emergency Support Function (ESF)	ESF is the term used to indicate a functional area of response activity established to facilitate the delivery of Federal assistance required during the immediate response phase of a disaster to save lives and protect property and public health.

Emergency Support Team (EST)	The EST is an interagency group operating from FEMA headquarters in Washington, DC to oversee the national level response effort and coordinate activities with the ESF primary and support agencies in supporting the Federal response requirements in the field. The EST consists of the lead representatives from each Federal department or agency assigned a primary ESF responsibility and members of the EST Director's staff.
ESF-5 - Information and Planning Section	ESF-5 is the section of the ERT responsible for collecting, processing, analyzing, and disseminating information about disaster operations in order to support planning and decision making at both the field operations and Headquarters levels. The ESF-5 also coordinates short- and long-term planning at the field operations level.
Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management)	E.O. 11988 requires that no Federally assisted activities be conducted in or have the potential to affect identified Special Flood Hazard Areas, unless there is no practicable alternative.
Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands)	The companion to E.O. 11988, it requires that no Federally assisted activities be conducted in or have the potential to affect identified wetlands, unless there is no practicable alternative.
Executive Orders 12699 and 12941 (Seismic Safety)	E.O. 12699 requires 29 Federal agencies to issue regulations or procedures, and adopt minimum design and construction standards for seismic safety. E.O. 12941 requires seismic rehabilitation of Federally owned or leased buildings.
Executive Order 12898 (Environmental Justice)	E.O. 12898 requires Federal agencies to make environmental justice part of their mission by identifying and addressing disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations.
Fault	A fault is a fracture or fracture zone in the earth's surface, along which there has been displacement or the junction of two tectonic plates.
Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO)	The FCO is the responsible official who initiates action immediately to ensure Federal disaster assistance is provided in accordance with the declaration, applicable laws, regulations, and the FEMA-State Agreement; appointed by the President, FEMA Director, or FEMA Associate Director for Response and Recovery.
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	FEMA is an executive agency whose mission is to reduce loss of life and property and protect our nation's critical infrastructure from all types of hazards through a comprehensive, risk-based, emergency management program of mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.
Federal Insurance Administration (FIA)	The FIA is the branch of FEMA that administers the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), providing flood insurance to individuals and communities that would otherwise not be protected.
Federal Response Plan (FRP)	The Federal Response Plan facilitates the Federal response to disasters in the United States, territories, and other jurisdictions. The Plan outlines the planning assumptions, policies, and concepts of operations, organizational structures, and specifies responsibility assignments of Federal departments and agencies prior to and during disasters.

FEMA-State Agreement	A FEMA-State Agreement is a binding statement of the understandings, commitments, assurances, and conditions for assistance under which FEMA disaster assistance shall be provided to states. This Agreement imposes binding obligations on FEMA, states, and their local governments in the form of conditions for assistance, which are legally enforceable.
Fire Potential Index (FPI)	The FPI was developed by USGS and USFS to assess and map fire hazard potential over broad areas. Based on such geographic information, national policy makers and on-the-ground fire managers establish priorities for prevention activities in the defined area to reduce the risk of managed and wildfire ignition and spread. Prediction of fire hazard shortens the time between fire ignition and initial attack by enabling fire managers to pre-allocate and stage suppression forces to high fire risk areas.
Flash Flood	A flash flood is a flood event occurring with little or no warning where water levels rise at an extremely fast rate.
Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM)	A FIRM is the official FEMA-prepared map of a community that shows base flood elevations along with special flood hazard areas and the flood insurance risk premium zones.
Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Program	The FMA Program provides annual funding for states and local governments that are planning or taking action to reduce or eliminate long-term risk of flood damage to buildings, manufactured homes, and other insured structures. Grants may be awarded for planning assistance, implementation of mitigation strategies, and technical assistance.
Floodplain	Floodplains are low-lying areas adjacent to rivers and streams that naturally experience periodic inundation due to rainfall, snowmelt, or dam or levee failure.
Fujita Scale of Tornado Intensity	The Fujita Scale rates tornadoes with numeric values from F0 to F6 based on tornado severity and damage sustained. An F0 indicates minimal damage such as a broken tree limbs or signs, while an F6 indicates severe damage sustained.
Gap Legislation	Gap legislation authorizes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to assist communities with limited emergency work, providing 100 percent funding for up to 10 days after a disaster. The legislation was developed to provide a "fast-track" disaster assistance "revenue stream" for those instances where it might otherwise take 10-14 days for FEMA and the President to determine whether or not FEMA assistance is warranted.
Geographic Information System (GIS)	Computer software that links geographic information (where things are) with descriptive information (what things are like).
Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA)	The HIRA attempts to identify all the hazards that potentially threaten a community and provide an analysis of each hazard to determine the degree of threat posed by each. HIRA activities include identifying and mapping flood hazard areas; characterizing the impact of hurricanes using storm surge and wind decay models, mapping earthquake hazards, and using this hazard data to identify where damages may occur within a community.
Hazard Mitigation	Hazard mitigation is a sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from hazards and their effects.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)	Authorized under Section 404 of the Stafford Act, this Program provides funding for cost-effective hazard mitigation projects in conformance with the post-disaster mitigation plan required under Section 409 of the Stafford Act. Section 404 authorizes the President to contribute up to 75 percent of the cost of mitigation measures that are determined to be cost effective and substantially reduce the risk of future damage or loss in states affected by a major disaster. The remaining 25 percent of the cost may be a combination of state, local, and other non-Federal contributions.
Hazard Mitigation State Administrative Plan	The Hazard Mitigation State Administrative Plan is required to be developed to describe the state procedures for administering the HMGP
Hazard Mitigation Technical Assistance Program (HMTAP)	HMTAP is a nationwide contract to support FEMA, states, territories, and local governments with technical assistance to enhance the effectiveness of their natural hazard mitigation program efforts. HMTAP may be used to support post-disaster program needs in cases of large, unusual, or complex projects; situations where resources are not available; or where technical assistance is needed.
Hazards United States (HAZUS)	HAZUS is a PC-based GIS software that implements a standardized, nationally applicable earthquake loss estimation methodology (computer model). Flood and hurricane loss estimation models are currently under development.
HOME Investment Partnerships Program	This Program is sponsored by HUD and provides permanent housing for low-income homeowners or renters in large cities and urban counties. Funds can be used for acquisition, new construction, and rehabilitation.
Human Services (HS) (Formerly Individual Assistance, IA)	HS, formerly known as IA, provides supplementary Federal assistance (under the Stafford Act (408)) to individuals and families adversely affected by a major disaster or emergency.
Hurricane	Hurricanes are part of a family of weather systems known as "tropical cyclones." Depending on the strength of the winds extending in a counter-clockwise formation from the eye of the hurricane, it can be classified as a Category 1, to Category 5 hurricane, with 5 being the most severe.
Hurricane Program (HP)	HP is a FEMA program that provides funds to states at risk from hurricanes for the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · activities that establish, enhance, and maintain basic levels of preparedness and mitigation capabilities; · activities that promote effective mitigation measures to reduce damage to public and private property; · HIRA and evacuation studies; · post-storm analyses to evaluate the effectiveness of mitigation measures; · training and exercises; and · activities that promote public awareness and education.
Increased Cost of Compliance (ICC)	ICC is a component of the standard flood insurance policy which provides up to \$15,000 coverage for complying with the cost of meeting substantial damage requirements or towards eliminating flood damage to a structure that has had repetitive flood insurance claims paid.
Individual and Family Grant Program (IFG)	IFG is a FEMA program that provides monetary aid to individuals and families to meet disaster-related expenses for necessary items or for serious needs.

Individual Assistance (IA)	See Human Services (HS).
Information and Planning Section	See ESF-5 - Information and Planning Section.
Infrastructure	Infrastructure is a term that refers to the public services of a community that have a direct impact on the quality of life. Infrastructure refers to communication technology such as phone lines or Internet access, vital services such as public water supplies and sewer treatment facilities, and includes an area's transportation system, regional dams or bridges, etc.
Infrastructure Support (IS)	IS (also known as Public Assistance, PA) is Federal financial assistance provided by FEMA under the Stafford Act (Section 406) to state and local governments or to eligible private non-profit organizations for disaster-related requirements.
Intensity	Intensity is a measure of the effects of an earthquake at a particular place. Intensity depends not only on the earthquake magnitude, but also on the distance from the earthquake epicenter and on the local geology.
Interagency Hazard Mitigation Team (IHMT)	IHMT is the mitigation team usually activated following major disasters, pursuant to the Office of Management and Budget directive and subsequent Federal Interagency Agreement. Shortly following a Presidential declared disaster, the IHMT, composed of Federal, state, and local officials, develops a report identifying post-disaster mitigation opportunities and common post-disaster recovery policies.
Landslide	A landslide refers to the processes and landforms involving the downslope movement, under gravity, of masses of soil and rock material.
Magnitude	Magnitude is a measure of the strength of an earthquake or the strain of energy released, as determined by seismic observations.
Major Disaster	As defined under Public Law 93-288, a major disaster is any natural catastrophe (including any hurricane, tornado, storm, flood, high water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide, mudslide, snowstorm, or drought), or any fire, flood, or explosion in any part of the United States, which in the determination of the President, causes damage of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant major disaster assistance under the Stafford Act.
Mission Assignment	Mission Assignments are mechanisms whereby FEMA can task another Federal entity to provide specified resources beyond their usual authorities and resources. Mission Assignments are appropriate in situations where the required resource or expertise is of a critical nature, unique, time sensitive, and where the nature of the requirement can be best met by an OFA.
Mitigation	Mitigation refers to sustained actions taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from hazards and their effects.
Mobile Emergency Response Support (MERS)	MERS is a rapidly deployable resource operated by FEMA that provides immediate communications, logistics, and life support capabilities at a disaster site.

Mobile Mitigation Assistance Vehicle (MMAV)

An MMAV is a recreational vehicle (RV) equipped with educational tools and assigned trained mitigation counselors. The MMAV is used to implement a mobile community-based mitigation outreach program; it allows FEMA staff to provide damage prevention guidance and information to disaster-affected individuals in scattered locations and provides ancillary support to disseminate information about the Disaster Assistance Tele-registration process.

National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP)

Created by Congress in 1977 to mitigate earthquake losses by providing technical and educational assistance to communities threatened by earthquakes, NEHRP is intended to mitigate earthquake losses through development and implementation of seismic design and construction standards and techniques; technical assistance materials; education and risk reduction programs; centers addressing specific aspects of the earthquake problem; and dissemination of earthquake information.

National Emergency Management Information Systems (NEMIS)

NEMIS is a computer-based data management and communications network that links FEMA and states. The network provides necessary databases, e-mail, and software applications to enable on-line case management and request processing. It also serves to simplify program management responsibilities.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

Passed by Congress in 1970, this Act established a national policy for the protection and maintenance of the environment by mandating a planning process that all Federal agencies must follow. NEPA requires that FEMA carry out its responsibilities in a manner that ensures that all practical means and measures are used to protect, restore, and enhance the quality of the environment or to avoid or minimize adverse environmental consequences (44 CFR Part 10).

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

NFIP makes flood insurance available to property owners in exchange for the local adoption and enforcement of a minimum floodplain management ordinance that regulates new and substantially damaged or improved development in designated flood hazard areas.

National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)

Consideration of cultural resources by Federal agencies is mandated under Section 106 of the NHPA, as implemented under 36 CFR Part 800. Requirements include identifying significant historic properties that may be impacted by a proposed project.

National Interagency Emergency Operations Center (NIEOC)

NIEOC is the focal point for national-level coordination and response activities; it receives and disseminates information on natural and man-made disasters, prepares daily reports on emergency activities, and houses and provides direct support to the EST in operations and exercises.

National Mitigation Strategy

Introduced in 1995 by FEMA to focus national attention on mitigation, the Strategy encourages all levels of government and the private sector to identify potential hazards and take steps to reduce the risks.

National Weather Service(NWS)

The NWS prepares and issues flood, severe weather, and coastal storm warnings and can provide technical assistance to Federal and state entities in preparing weather and flood warning plans.

Nor'easter	Nor'easters are low-pressure systems that move along the eastern seaboard, picking up moisture from the gulf stream as they move from the central states to the northeast. There, the storm drops the accumulated moisture in the form of heavy rain or snow. Severe flooding and erosion can be associated with the rains, winds, and waves that are part of this type of storm system.
Operations Section	The Operations Section of the ERT coordinates the delivery of Federal assistance and manages the activities of various emergency teams.
Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA)	The PDA is the basis for a state's request for Presidential disaster declaration. It is a joint FEMA/State verification of actual damages and an estimate of additional resources that will be needed because of a disaster.
Preparedness	Preparedness refers to steps taken to decide what to do if essential services break down, developing a plan for contingencies, and practicing the plan. Preparedness ensures that people are ready for a disaster and will respond to it effectively.
Probability	Probability is the numeric likelihood of an event. Theoretically, the probability of the occurrence of an event is between zero (indicating that the event never occurs) and one (indicating that the event always occurs).
Project Impact	Project Impact is a FEMA initiative to demonstrate the economic, social, and environmental benefits of pre-disaster mitigation to states, local communities, businesses, and individuals. This nationwide initiative emphasizes long-term mitigation at the local level through partnering with businesses, industry, residents, and NGOs.
Project Worksheet (PW)	The PW (formerly known as the Damage Survey Report, DSR) is the public assistance inspector's report that is reviewed by FEMA and is the basis for approving public assistance.
Public Assistance (PA)	PA is the supplementary Federal assistance provided by FEMA, under the Stafford Act, to state and local governments or certain private, non-profit organizations (other than assistance for the direct benefit of individuals and families). PA deals with repair, restoration, and replacement of damaged public infrastructure and facilities and damaged private non-profit facilities.
Rapid Needs Assessment Team (RNA Team)	The RNA Team is a small, self-sufficient, regionally based interagency team designed to deploy to the disaster location within 12 hours of activation. The Team focuses on conducting a rapid assessment to determine potential requirements for immediate resources needed for basic human needs and protection of property.
Reconstruction Information Center (RIC)	RICs are centralized facilities established by FEMA to provide individuals affected by a disaster with mitigation information on reconstruction and rebuilding techniques. A RIC may be set up at a fixed or mobile location.
Recovery	Recovery activities include rebuilding homes, businesses, and public facilities; permanent repair of roads and bridges; and restoring water, sewer, and other essential services. These activities may receive Federal supplemental disaster recovery assistance under a Presidential disaster declaration.
Regional Operations Center (ROC)	The ROC is the operations facility for the coordination of Federal response and recovery activities and is often located at the FEMA regional office. The ROC staff manages Federal field response until the DFO becomes operational.

Regional Response Plan (RRP)	The RRP applies the emergency management components of the FRP to the geographic and demographic characteristics of each of the ten Federal Regions.
Response	Response activities address the immediate and short-term effects of an emergency or disaster. Response activities include immediate actions to save lives, protect property, meet basic human needs, and restore water, sewer, and other essential services.
Richter Scale	The Richter Scale is a numerical scale of earthquake magnitude devised by seismologist C.F. Richter in 1935. Small or microearthquakes can have negative magnitude values. In theory there is no limit to the upper scale an earthquake can reach, but because of rock strength there is an actual upper limit of slightly less than 9.
Section 404 of the Stafford Act (Hazard Mitigation)	Section 404 of the Stafford Act authorizes the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), which provides funding for cost-effective, environmentally sound hazard mitigation measures.
Section 406 of the Stafford Act	See Infrastructure Support (IS).
Section 408 of the Stafford Act	See Human Services (HS).
Section 409 of the Stafford Act (State Hazard Mitigation Plan)	Section 409 requires states to prepare a Mitigation Plan prior to receiving any FEMA assistance under the Act. The Plan must identify and evaluate the hazards in the areas where Federal disaster relief proceeds are provided, and set forth a plan of action to mitigate those hazards.
Seismicity	The likelihood of an area being subject to earthquakes.
Situation Report (SitRep)	Daily or weekly summaries of the disaster situation, status of operations, and identification of future priorities for response and recovery operations are known as SitReps.
Small Business Administration (SBA)	In a Presidential or SBA-declared disaster, SBA can provide additional low-interest loans for mitigation measures up to 20 percent above what an eligible applicant would otherwise qualify for.
Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs)	SFHAs are areas designated on Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) in which specific NFIP requirements apply.
Stafford Act	The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, PL 100- 107 was signed into law November 23, 1988 and amended the Disaster Relief Act of 1974, PL 93-288. The Stafford Act is the statutory authority for most Federal disaster response activities, especially as they pertain to FEMA and its programs.
State Coordinating Officer (SCO)	The SCO is appointed by the Governor to act in cooperation with the FCO.

State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO)	The SHMO is the representative of state government who is the primary point of contact with FEMA, other state and Federal agencies, and local units of government in the planning and implementation of pre- and post-disaster mitigation activities.
State Hazard Mitigation Team (SHMT)	The SHMT is composed of key state agency representatives, local units of government, and other public or private sector bodies or agencies. The purpose of the SHMT is to evaluate hazards, identify strategies, coordinate resources, and implement measures that will reduce the vulnerability of people and property to damage from hazards.
State Mitigation Plan	The State Mitigation Plan is a systematic evaluation of the nature and extent of vulnerability to the effects of natural hazards typically present in the state and includes a description of actions needed to minimize future vulnerability to hazards.
Strike-Slip Fault	A fault that strikes or slips parallel with the strike of the adjacent strata involved.
Sustainability Desk	The Sustainability Desk disseminates information promoting the integration of the principles and practices of sustainable development in the post-disaster recovery process. This information is developed by FEMA, in partnership with the state and through coordination with other agencies and organizations (Federal or non-Federal). There may or may not be an actual desk in the DFO or the DRCs at which an individual works or distributes publications.
Sustainability/Sustainable Development	Sustainable development maintains or enhances economic opportunity and community well being while respecting, protecting and restoring the natural environment upon which people and economies depend. Disaster resistance should be considered an important element of sustainability.
Sustainable Re-development	Sustainable re-development incorporates the concepts and practices of sustainable development into the disaster recovery process.
Tectonic Plate	Tectonic plates are torsionally rigid, thin segments of the earth's lithosphere that may be assumed to move horizontally and adjoin other plates. It is the friction between plate boundaries that causes seismic activity.
Teleregistration	Teleregistration refers to telephone applications for individual assistance by disaster victims. Individuals may also register for assistance in person, but Teleregistration is FEMA's preferred approach.
Temporary Housing	See Disaster Housing.
Thrust Fault	A thrust fault has a dip of 45° or less over much of its extent. Horizontal compression rather than vertical displacement is its characteristic feature.
Tornado	A tornado is a violently rotating column of air, pendant from a cumulonimbus cloud, and nearly always observable as a "funnel cloud." Tornadoes are measured in intensity by the Fujita Scale (see Fujita Scale of Tornado Intensity).

Tsunami	A tsunami is a long-period (usually 15-60 minutes) wave caused by a large-scale movement of the sea floor (from a volcanic eruption, submarine earthquake, or landslide). Although usually barely noticeable at sea, its velocity may be as high as 400 knots so that it travels great distances and in shoal water may reach heights of up to 15 meters.
Volunteer Agency (VOLAG)	A VOLAG is any chartered or otherwise duly recognized tax-exempt local, state, or national organization or group that provides needed services to the states, local government, or individuals in coping with a disaster.
Wide Area Network (WAN)	A WAN interconnects computer users in a geographic area larger than those serviced by local area networks.

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