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Glossary, Abbreviations and Acronyms



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Glossary

accountability	a sign-in / sign-out system used by emergency responders to track each responder's location at any given time.
The Collins Hall	a City-owned facility in Elliot Lake close to the Mall which was designated as a place for family members of victims or possible victims and other members of the community to gather, both to await news and to benefit from support services.
commissioner for community safety	senior position within the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services. The fire marshal and the chief of Emergency Management Ontario both report to this person.
Community Control Group (CCG)	the emergency control group, composed of officials or employees of each municipality including the mayor, the chief administrative officer, and the fire chief, which convenes when an emergency occurs to support the incident commander and look after the well-being of the community. It activates the municipality's emergency plan and also supports the responders.
crush syndrome	a condition sometimes caused when parts of the body are crushed after a structural collapse, causing muscle breakdown and the release of potentially toxic muscle cell components and electrolytes into the circulatory system. Once released, the victim can go into shock, leading potentially to lethal cardiac arrhythmias and kidney failure. The condition is treatable.
declaration of emergency	a signed declaration in writing made by the head of council (the mayor) which indicates that the situation exceeds the scope of the local emergency response. Once received at the Provincial Emergency Response Centre, this declaration can lead to the deployment of emergency response teams such as HUSAR/TF3 and UCRT.
Emergency Management Ontario (EMO)	the branch of the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services responsible for developing, promoting, implementing, and maintaining emergency management programs in the province. In addition, it maintains the Provincial Emergency Response Plan.
Emergency Operations Centre (EOC)	a designated and properly equipped facility from which the Community Control Group manages the emergency.
Emergency Preparedness and Response Unit of the Ontario Fire Marshal	During an emergency, the operations manager is on call 24 hours a day to assess needs, act as a liaison between provincial resources and local responders, and, through the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre, deploy emergency teams such as HUSAR/TF3 and UCRT.
emergency response plan	a plan developed and maintained to direct the response to an emergency. Emergency Management Ontario has developed a template for use by municipalities such as Elliot Lake.
Emergency Response Team	the OPP unit that deals with such elements as evidence searches and ground search and rescue.
graduated problem solving	the emergency response system in Ontario begins at the local level and expands when needed to involve responders from neighbouring communities, from the provincial government, and from the federal government.

hollow core slabs	a precast concrete slab containing pre-stressed cables, typically used in the construction of floors in multi-storey buildings. The precast concrete slab has tubular voids extending the full length of the slab, usually with a diameter equal to two-thirds to three-quarters of the slab thickness, thus making the slab much lighter than a solid floor slab of equal thickness or strength.
hot zone	the collapsed area within the Mall, including the fallen steel beam, the dislodged escalators, the hanging concrete slabs, and the rubble pile of concrete, wires, and glass under which the victims were thought to be located.
HUSAR/TF3	the term used in this Report for the Heavy Urban Search and Rescue team operated by the City of Toronto and known variously as Toronto HUSAR, Canada Task Force 3, and TF3. It is multi-service, multi-skilled, and multi-functional, and its primary purpose is to rescue persons trapped in collapsed structures. It is staffed by members of Toronto Police Service (the search component, including a canine unit) and Toronto Fire Service (the rescue component), paramedics from Toronto Emergency Medical Services and doctors from Sunnybrook Centre for Prehospital Medicine (the medical component), structural engineers from Stephenson Engineering, and occasionally drivers from Toronto Water. When deployed as a provincial asset, the province assumes the cost of both salaries and expenses for the duration of the deployment.
incident action plan	a written or oral plan, approved by the incident commander, which sets out the general objectives and overall strategy for managing the emergency response.
incident commander	according to the Incident Management System, the individual with overall authority for conducting the response, managing operations at the site of the emergency, and deciding when the rescue operation transitions into a recovery operation.
Incident Management System (IMS)	a standardized province-wide approach to emergency management within a common organizational structure and encompassing personnel, facilities, equipment, procedures, and communications. Under this plan, the incident commander has overall authority to conduct the emergency response operation, and all responders from the different jurisdictions and organizations work together toward a common goal.
laced-post shore	a form of shoring used to support heavy weights in which two vertical posts are laced together with cross bracing. To act efficiently, the shore must be positioned so that the load is directly over the vertical members.
LifeLocator	a sensitive portable device that can detect faint signs of breathing and movement under a collapsed structure. To operate correctly, it requires an exclusion zone where no other humans are present.
Millennium Crane	a privately owned company in Sault Ste. Marie whose 60-tonne and 165-tonne cranes removed the hanging steel beam and several concrete slabs from the collapse zone area.
Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services (MCSCS)	the ministry with the major responsibility for emergency response in Ontario, including Emergency Management Ontario, the Office of the Fire Marshal, and the commissioner for community safety.
Ministry of Labour (MOL)	the ministry charged with enforcing the <i>Occupational Health and Safety Act</i> . It typically investigates all cases of serious injury or fatalities that occur at a workplace.

Office of the Fire Marshal	a major provincial-level actor, along with the Ontario Provincial Police and Emergency Management Ontario, in monitoring or responding to an emergency at the local level.
personal accountability report (PAR)	a system designed to allow for the tracking of those responders actually in the hot zone. Responders are logged in and out of the hot zone. While inside, they are required to identify their location.
pile	the rubble pile under which the victims in the collapse zone at the Mall were thought to be located.
Priestly Demolition	a privately owned company in Toronto. Three of its large machines were transported to Elliot Lake: the Komatsu 850, a high-reach crane with an articulated arm that allowed it to extend out and down, and with attachments that could grab, crush, cut, and pile materials gently; the Komatsu 490, a standard excavator with a grapple; and the Link Belt 460, with a sheer attachment that could cut through thick steel.
Provincial Emergency Operations Centre (PEOC)	A fully equipped facility, managed by Emergency Management Ontario and located within the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, which serves as the initial point of contact for municipalities. It is staffed at all times to receive declarations of emergencies and to notify the emergency management coordinators of the various ministries.
recovery operation	the phase of a search operation when there is no hope that the victim will be found alive and the objective is to recover the body with dignity. Workers do not risk their own safety at the scene, and cadaver dogs rather than “live” dogs are used in the search. Some of the recovery tasks may be done by mechanical equipment such as cranes.
rescue operation	the phase of a search operation when there is hope that the victim will be found alive. Rescue workers perform their jobs with care not to endanger the victim and are expected to take an element of risk for their own safety. “Live” dogs rather than cadaver dogs are used in the search.
rigging	a method of removing heavy objects by wrapping and securing them with ropes, cables, and slings and hoisting them by crane from the construction or the emergency site.
search dogs	highly trained dogs that work with their handlers to assist in finding victims after a building collapse or other calamity. Most dogs now are trained to be either “live” dogs or cadaver dogs. The “live” dogs are trained to bark and show active commitment to the victims they find, such as by circling in the specific location or inserting their heads into a void. The cadaver dogs, in contrast, give a passive indication by sitting or lying down on the spot and not barking.
site commander	the HUSAR/TF3 officer in charge of the team at the emergency site.
sewer camera	a camera equipped with a light and located at the end of a long hose that can be used as a search tool in voids and probe holes within a collapse zone.
shoring	the process of supporting a structure in order to prevent collapse. Different forms of shoring are used, depending on the particular circumstances – e.g., laced-post shores and T-spot shores.
spotters	individuals who are trained to look for something. In a disaster zone, they are placed on the periphery to watch out for hazards and to alert the workers at the site.

- thermal camera** a device that forms an image using infrared radiation. Firefighters sometimes employ it to help find people at an emergency site.
- T-spot shore** a quick, temporary shore built in the shape of a T and centred directly under the load it is intended to support. It is used while workers built a more secure system such as laced-post shores.
- tunnelling** a loose term that means simply moving forward toward the objective, not actually building a tunnel.
- UCRT** the team operated by the Ontario Provincial Police which originated as the Provincial Emergency Response Team. It has two elements – Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive (CBRNE) – and includes two canine handlers and five advanced-care paramedic specialists.
- void** a cavity in a pile of concrete slabs and rubble that potentially shelters a victim fully or partially. It also enables rescue workers to look for clues in the pile or to insert cameras and other equipment in their search for trapped persons.
- “widow-maker”** a term used to describe large slabs of concrete, steel beams, and glass that are hanging precariously after a structural collapse.

Abbreviations and Acronyms

ALS	advanced life support
Capt.	captain
CBRNE	chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive
CCG	Community Control Group
CEMC	community emergency management coordinator
Cmdr.	commander
COG	continuity of government
CONOPS	concept of operations
COOP	continuity of operations
CRT	critical response team
CSA	Canadian Standards Association
Cst.	constable
Det.	detective
Det Sgt.	detective sergeant
ECG	emergency control group
EIC	emergency information centre
EIO	emergency information officer
EL	Elliot Lake
ELMAC	Elliot Lake Mall Action Committee
ELNOS	Elliot Lake and North Shore Corporation for Business Development
EMAC	Emergency Management Assistance Compact
EMCPA	Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act
EMD	emergency medical dispatch
EMO	Emergency Management Ontario
EMPC	Emergency Management Program Committee
EMS	Emergency Medical Services
EMU	Emergency Management Unit
EOC	Emergency Operations Centre
EPRU	Emergency Preparedness and Response Unit

EPSD	Emergency Planning and Strategic Development
ERP	emergency response plan
ERT	emergency response team
FAC	finance & administration chief
FC	fire chief
FD	Fire Department
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FOG	Field Operations Guide
GPS	global positioning system
GSSI	Geographical Survey Systems Inc.
HAZMAT	hazardous material
HQ	headquarters
HUSAR	Heavy Urban Search and Rescue
IAEM	International Association of Emergency Managers
IAFC	International Association of Fire Chiefs
IAFF	International Association of Fire Fighters
IAP	incident action plan
IC	incident command / incident commander
ICP	incident command post
ICS	incident command system
IMAT	incident management assistance team
IMS	Incident Management System
IMT	incident management team
Insp.	inspector
ITC	Incident Telecommunications Centre
JEPP	Joint Emergency Preparedness Program
JEIC	Joint Emergency Information Centre
JIC	Joint Information Centre
JOC	Joint Operations Centre
LEOP	Local Emergency Operations Plan
LO	liaison officer
LS	Logistics Section
LSC	logistics section chief

MAG	Ministry Action Group
MAH	Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
MBO	management by objective
MCSCS	Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services
MOL	Ministry of Labour
NCO	non-commissioned officer
NER	north east region
NFPA	National Fire Protection Association
NGO	non-governmental organization
NIMS	National Incident Management System
NRCC	National Response Coordination Centre
NRP	National Response Plan
OAFC	Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs
OBOA	Ontario Building Officials Association
OFM	Office of the Fire Marshal
OFMEM	Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management
OHSA	Occupational Health and Safety Act
OMR	Ontario Mine Rescue
OPFFA	Ontario Professional Fire Fighters Association
OPP	Ontario Provincial Police
OPS	operations
OS	operations section
OSC	operations section chief
PAR	personal accountability report
PEOC	Provincial Emergency Operations Centre
PERT	Provincial Emergency Response Team
PIO	public information officer
POC	Provincial Operations Centre
PS	Planning Section
PSC	planning section chief
RSO	Revised Statutes of Ontario
SAGE	Seniors' Action Group of Elliot Lake

SCR	Supreme Court Reports
SITREP	situation report
SO	safety officer
SO	Statutes of Ontario
SOP	standard operating procedure
Supt.	superintendent
SUV	sport utility vehicle
TBD	to be determined
TEEX	Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service
TF3	Task Force 3
TPS	Toronto Police Service
UAC	Unified Area Command
UC	Unified Command
UCRT	USAR and CBRNE Response Team
USAR	urban search and rescue
WMD	weapons of mass destruction