**Disaster and Emergency Management Key Terms**

1. **Critical infrastructure assets** – items that are vital to a nation’s security, governance,public health and safety, economy, and public confidence, such as telecommunications, electrical power systems, gas and oil distribution and storage, water supplies, banking and finance, transportation, emergency services, industrial assets, information systems, and continuity of government operations
2. **Biochemicals** –the chemicals that make up or are produced by living things
3. **Biological weapons** –intentional use of biological agents as weapons to kill or injurehumans, animals, or plants, or to damage equipment
4. **Antiterrorism** –defensive measures used to reduce the vulnerability of individuals andproperty to terrorist acts, including limited response and containment by local military forces
5. **Biological weapons agents** –living organisms or the chemical compounds derived fromthem that cause disease or disrupt physiological activity in humans, animals, or plants, or that cause deterioration of material. Biological agents may be dispersed as liquid droplets, aerosols, or dry powders
6. **Bioterrorism** –the illicit use of biological agents such as bacteria, viruses, and parasitesto cause illness and spread fear