**Introduction to Hazardous Materials Key Terms**

Confinement – the procedures that keep hazmat in a specific area

Cold zone – (a.k.a. support zone) the outermost area of a hazmat incident site, which is considered uncontaminated; special protective clothing measures are unnecessary in this zone

Contaminant – a hazmat that physically remains on or in people, animals, the environment, or equipment and thereby creates a continuing risk of injury

Hazard-control zones – provide scene control by designating zones at a hazmat incident based upon the degree of hazard (i.e. hot zone, warm zone, and cold zone)

Decontamination – the physical and/or chemical process of reducing and preventing the spread of a contaminant from personnel and/or equipment used at a hazmat incident

Environmental hazard – a condition capable of posing an unreasonable risk to air, water, or soil quality that directly impacts plants and/or wildlife

Hot zone – (a.k.a. exclusion zone) the area of greatest hazard at a hazmat incident site; no person should enter unless in approved PPE

Placards – diamond-shaped signs attached to hazmat transportation vehicles that identify the following:

1. Explosive (orange)
2. Flammable or non-flammable gas (green or red)
3. Flammable combustible liquids (red)
4. Flammable solids (red candy-stripe or blue)
5. Oxidizers (yellow)
6. Poison (white)
7. Radioactive (yellow and white)
8. Corrosives (black and white)

Perimeter – the geographical boundary where access into an incident scene is restricted; responders are only allowed to enter if they have the required training

Warm zone – (a.k.a. contamination reduction zone or corridor) the area between the hot zone and the cold zone where danger exists but risk is limited; responders can put on PPE and clean materials, if needed, but civilians and media are not allowed in this zone