



# Medical Surge Capacity: What is it?

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# Definitions: The Importance

- Enables interoperability
- Standardizes planning
- Reduces confusion
- Has operational implications
- Creates community

# Definitions: Standardizes Planning

- Need federal interagency strategic plans for scenarios with high-volume medical consequences
  - Anthrax, Plague, food-borne illness, explosive devices, and earthquakes
- Need template for operational planning for health care facilities
- Need training and exercising for health care professionals to acquire and maintain proficiency in implementation of surge medical response.

# Definitions: Enabling Interoperability

- National Incident Management System (NIMS)
- Incident Command (ICS)
- Hospital Incident Command Systems (HICS)
- Communications during an incident
  - Terminology
  - Information flow
- Compliance by traditional non-compliers

# Definitions: Who is responsible?

- Inherent responsibility of the Federal government -  
Common definitions are prerequisite for:
- Planning, training, equipping, exercising
- Operational triggers
- Standards setting
- Cost recovery
- HHS, DHS have primary roles