

HAZWOPER Definitions

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleanup operation 	An operation where hazardous substances are removed, contained, incinerated, neutralized, stabilized, cleared up, processed or handled in any other manner with the ultimate goal of making the site safer for people or the environment.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency response 	A response effort to an incident that results, or is likely to result, in an uncontrolled release of a hazardous substance.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lethal concentration 	Concentration of a potentially toxic substance in an environmental medium that causes death following a certain period of exposure.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lethal dose 	Amount of a substance or physical agent (radiation) that causes death when taken into the body by a single absorption.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Priorities List (NPL) 	List of national priorities among the known releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants throughout the United States and its territories. Intended primarily to guide the EPA in determining which sites warrant further investigation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) 	The maximum amount or concentration of a chemical that a worker may be exposed to under OSHA regulations.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permit-required confined space 	<p>A permit-required confined space or permit space is a confined space that has one or more of the following characteristics capable of causing death or serious physical harm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contains or has a potential to contain a hazardous atmosphere • Contains a material with the potential for engulfing someone who enters the space • Has an internal configuration that could allow someone entering to be trapped or asphyxiated by inwardly converging walls, or by a floor that slopes downward and tapers to a smaller cross-section • Contains any physical hazard. This includes any recognized health or safety hazards including engulfment in solid or liquid material, electrical shock or moving parts • Contains any other recognized safety or health hazard that could either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Impair the ability to self-rescue, or ◦ Result in a situation that presents an immediate danger to life or health
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threshold Limit Value 	This is an airborne concentration of a substance under which nearly all workers may be repeatedly exposed without adverse effect.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superfund 	Superfund is the common name for the environmental law that is officially known as the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9601-9675), which was enacted by the United States Congress in 1980 in response to the Love Canal disaster. This law created a tax on petroleum and chemical industries and provided broad federal authority to respond directly to releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances that may endanger public health or the environment.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small quantity generator 	A generator of hazardous wastes who in any calendar month generates no more than 1,000 kilograms (2,205 pounds) of hazardous waste in that month.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uncontrolled hazardous waste site 	An area where an accumulation of hazardous substances creates a threat to the health and safety of individuals or the environment or both. Some sites are found on public lands such as those created by former municipal, county or state landfills where illegal or poorly managed waste disposal has taken place. Other sites are found on private property, often belonging to generators or former generators of hazardous substance wastes. Examples of such sites include, but are not limited to, surface impoundments, landfills, dumps, and tank or drum farms.

