GLOSSARY ON ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

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World Health Organization
Pan American Health Organization
Sustainable Development and Environmental Health Area
Introduction

The Glossary on Environmental Health in English has 3,567 terms. The printed version was taken from the database on the REPIDISCA section of the Portal: About the BVSDE, within the Virtual Library on Sustainable Development and Environmental Health (BVSDE), developed by the Sustainable Development and Environmental Health Area (SDE) of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) Regional Office of the World Health Organization (WHO). The Internet version allows searches through the following electronic address:

www.bvsde.ops-oms.org

In this printed version you will find the English terms in alphabetical order, with its translation to Portuguese and Spanish. The following line shows the definition and also the source where the meaning was taken from. Only when necessary, more than one definition will be provided. For some terms, the Synonyms and Related Terms have been included.

There is another version of the Glossary on Environmental Health in Spanish.
Abiotic / Abiótico
This is a term used to describe anything which is characterized by the absence of life or incompatible with life. In toxicology and ecotoxicology it refers to physical (e.g. heat, sunlight) or chemical processes (e.g. hydrolysis) that are capable of modifying chemical structures. Thus, abiotic transformation is a process in which a chemical in the environment is modified by non-biological mechanisms.

Abiotic degradation / Degradación abiótica
Degradation of a substance not resulting from the action of any living organism.
Related terms:
Degradation

Abiotic transformation / Transformación abiótica
An abiotic transformation is any process in which a chemical in the environment is modified by non-biological mechanisms.

Aborigine / Aborigen
The indigenous or original living people (and fauna and flora) of a particular geographical region, before the arrival of colonists. In Australia, the designation of the original people of that continent.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Abrasion / Abrasión
The wearing away of surface material by the scouring action of moving solids, liquids or gas.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a

Absolute humidity / The weight of water vapor carried by a unit weight of dry air or gas.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a
Synonyms:
Humidity, absolute
Related terms:
Humidity

Absolute lethal concentration / Concentración letal absoluta
Lowest concentration of a potentially toxic substance in an environmental medium which kills 100% of test organisms, or species.
Synonyms:
LC100
Related terms:
Lethal concentration
Absolute lethal dose / Dosis letal absoluta
Lowest amount of potentially toxic substance which kills 100% of test animals, denoted by 
LD$_{100}$.
Source: OMS. Programa Internacional de Seguridad de Sustancias Químicas.
Seguridad química; principios básicos de toxicología aplicada. La naturaleza de 
capacitación, 1. También en inglés. (IPCS)
Synonymes:
LD$_{100}$
Related terms:
Toxic substances
Toxicity
Lethal dose

Absolute risk / Riesgo absoluto
The excess risk due to exposure to a hazard is referred to as the absolute risk.
Source: OMS. Programa Internacional de Seguridad de Sustancias Químicas.
Seguridad química; principios básicos de toxicología aplicada. La naturaleza de 
capacitación, 1. También en inglés. (IPCS)
Related terms:
Excess risk

Absorbed dose / Dosis absorbida
(of a toxic substance)Amount of a substance absorbed into the body, or into organs and 
tissues of interest.
Source: OMS. Programa Internacional de Seguridad de Sustancias Químicas.
Seguridad química; principios básicos de toxicología aplicada. La naturaleza de 
capacitación, 1. También en inglés. (IPCS)

Absorption / Absorción
Process of active or passive transport of a chemical into an organism, or into the body, 
usually through the lungs, gastrointestinal tract, or skin.
Source: IPCS
(1)The taking up of one substance into the body of another. (2)Selective concentration of 
dissolved solids from solution by diffusion into the interior of a solid material.
Source: Banco Mundial
The penetration of one substance into or through another.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a
Synonymes:
Biological absorption
Related terms:
Oxigenation
Wastewater treatment
Water treatment
Coagulation

Absorption (biological) / Absorción (biológica)
Process of active or passive transport of a chemical into an organism, or into the body, 
usually through the lungs, gastrointestinal tract, or skin.
Source: OMS. Programa Internacional de Seguridad de Sustancias Químicas.
Seguridad química; principios básicos de toxicología aplicada. La naturaleza de 
capacitación, 1. También en inglés. (IPCS)

Acceleration / Aceleración
A change in velocity with time; in seismology and in earthquake engineering, it is expressed 
as a fraction of gravity (g), with reference to vibrations of the ground or of a structure.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre 
desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Accelerograph / Acelerógrafo
Instrument for recording acceleration.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
  Acceleration

Acceptable daily intake / Ingesta diaria admisible
This is an estimate of the amount of a substance in food that can be ingested daily over a lifetime by humans without appreciable health risk. The concept of the ADI has been developed principally by WHO and FAO and is relevant to chemicals such as additives to foodstuffs, residues of pesticides and veterinary drugs in foods. ADIs are derived from laboratory toxicity data, and from human experiences of such chemicals when this is available, and incorporate a safety factor. The ADI is thus an estimate of the amount of a substance in food that can be ingested over a lifetime by humans without appreciable health risk (for contaminants in food and drinking water, Tolerable Intakes - daily or weekly - are used).
Synonyms:
  ADI
  Tolerable Daily Intake
  TDI

Acceptable risk / Riesgo aceptable
This concept relates to the probability of suffering disease or injury that will be tolerated by an individual, group, or society. Acceptability of risk depends on scientific data, social, economic, and political factors, and on the perceived benefits arising from a chemical or process.

Degree of human and material loss that is perceived by the community or relevant authorities as tolerable in action to minimize disaster risk.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
  Risk
  Tolerable risk

Acceptance criteria / Criterio de aceptación
Specific limits for the characteristics of a product, process or service as defined by the requirements of a quality program.
Source: Korc M.E., Farias F., Cevala R. El proceso de fijación y revisión de normas de calidad del aire. Lima: CEPIS; 2000. (CEPIS)

Accidental spills /
Accidental spills Unplanned release of substances, either directly or indirectly, in such magnitude that substantial effects on receiving systems will be noted. Release is the result of accident, acts of nature, or operational malfunctions.
Source: Banco Mundial

Accrued depreciation /
The estimated loss in service value of the utility plant accrued before the date of balance sheet.
Source: Banco Mundial
Acculturation / Aculturación
Process by which a human society assimilates or adopts part of all of the customs, beliefs and cultural values of another society. Also refers to the results of such assimilation.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Accumulation / Acumulación
Repeated doses of a chemical may result in its concentration in an organism, organ or tissue increasing progressively and the toxic effects may become more marked with successive doses. Factors involved in accumulation include selective binding of the chemical to tissue molecules, concentration of fat soluble chemicals in body fat, absent or slow metabolism, and slow excretion. Accumulation is a mass balance effect where input exceeds output.

Related terms:
- Bioaccumulation
- Bioconcentration

Accuracy / Exactitud
The degree of reliability with which a measured value or average of measured values represents the real value. Accuracy is a combination of precision and bias.
Source: Korc M.E., Farías F., Cevala R. El proceso de fijación y revisión de normas de calidad del aire. Lima: CEPIS; 2000. (CEPIS)

In physical measurements it is the degree of agreement between the quantity measured and the actual quantity. It should not be confused with precision, which denotes the reproducibility of the measurement.
Source: Banco Mundial

Related terms:
- Precision

Acid gases /
Corrosive gases formed during combustion of chlorinated or halogenated compounds, e.g., hydrogen chloride (HC1).
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a

Related terms:
- Chlorine compounds

Acid mine drainage /
Water discharge, usually from coal mines, made acidic by biological oxidation and leaching of sulfur-containing minerals.
Source: Banco Mundial

Acid rain / Lluvia ácida
Rain containing dissolved acidic compounds, resulting from chemical pollution of the atmosphere by sulphur and nitrogen compounds. When deposited these, increase the acidity of the soil and water causing agricultural and ecological damage.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Synonyms:
- Acid precipitation
- Acid deposition

Related terms:
- Water acidity
- Air contamination
- Acidification
Acid wastes /
Wastes that contain appreciable acidity; they are characterized by low pH and an ability to react with hydroxylions.
Source: Banco Mundial

Acidity / Acidez
The quantitative capacity of aqueous solutions to react with hydroxylions. It is measured by titration with a standard solution of a base to specified end point. Usually expressed as milligrams of calcium carbonate per liter.
Source: Banco Mundial
Related terms:
- Acidification
- Acids
- Corrosion
- pH

Action level / Nivel de actuación
(i) Concentration of a pollutant in air, soil, water, or other defined medium at which specified emergency counter measures, such as the seizure and destruction of contaminated materials, evacuation of the local population or closing down the sources of pollution, are to be taken. (ii) Concentration of a pollutant in air, soil, water, or other defined medium at which some kind of preventive action (not necessarily of an emergency nature) is to be taken.
Related terms:
- Concentration of pollutants in air, soil, water
- Emergency counter measures
- Destruction of contaminated materials
- Evacuation of local population
- Closing down sources of pollution
- Preventive action

Activated carbon (Environmental health)/ Carbón activado (Salud ambiental)
Adsorptive particles or granules usually obtained by heating carbonaceous material in the absence of air or in steam and possessing a high capacity to selectively remove trace and soluble components from solution.
Source: Banco Mundial
A highly absorbent form of carbon used to remove odors and toxic substances from gaseous emissions or to remove dissolved organic material from wastewater.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a
Synonyms:
- Activated charcoal

Related terms:
- Charcoal
- Filtration media
- Adsorption
- Contact column
- Advanced treatment

Activated sludge process /
A biological wastewater treatment process in which a mixture of wastewater and activated sludge is agitated and aerated. The activated sludge is subsequently separated from the treated wastewater (mixed liquor) by sedimentation and wasted or returned to the process as needed.
Source: Banco Mundial
Related terms:
- Biological wastewater treatment
- Sludge digestion
- Digestion
Activated sludge / Lodos activados
Sludge withdrawn from a secondary clarifier following the activated sludge process; it consists mostly of biomass, with some inorganic settleable solids. Return sludge is recycled to the head of the process; waste (excess)sludge is removed to conditioning.
Source:Banco Mundial

Related terms:
- Biological process
- Sludge
- Pure oxygen activated sludge
- Prolonged aeration activated sludge
- High rate activated sludge
- Fermentation
- Denitrification
- Biodegradation
- Digesters
- Aeration
- Aerobic digestion
- Diffusers
- Wastewater treatment
- Oxidation ditches
- Secondary sedimentation
- Biological treatment
- Nitrification
- Sludge treatment
- Suspended biomass reactors

Acute effect / Efecto agudo
Effect of short duration and occurring rapidly (usually in the first 24 h or up to 14 days) following a single dose or short exposure to a chemical.
Source:OMS. Programa Internacional de Seguridad de Sustancias Químicas.

Related terms:
- Chemical compounds
- Air pollutants

Acute LC (50)/
A concentration of a substance, expressed in parts weight per million parts of medium, that is lethal to 50 percent of the test population of animals under specific test conditions.
Source:Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Acute toxicity / Toxicidad aguda
Adverse effects occurring within a short time of administration of a single dose of a chemical, or immediately following short or continuous exposure, or multiple doses over 24 hours or less.
Source:OMS. Programa Internacional de Seguridad de Sustancias Químicas.

Any poisonous effect produced within a short time, usually up to 24 to 96 h, resulting in severe biological harm and often death.
Source:Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Related terms:
- Toxicity
- Chronic toxicity
Adaptation / Adaptación
Change in an organism, in response to changing conditions of the environment (specifically chemical), which takes place without any irreversible disruptions of the given biological system and without exceeding normal (homeostatic) capacities of its response.

The process by which an organism stabilizes its physiological condition after an environmental change.


The process and the result of physical, biological and psychological changes of an organism or a population in order to adjust to given environmental conditions.

Source:Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Related terms:
- Acclimatization (biological)
- Biological adaptation

Added risk / Riesgo añadido
Difference between the incidence of an adverse effect in a treated group (of organisms or a group of exposed humans) and a control group (of the same organisms or the spontaneous incidence in humans).


Adenocarcinoma / Adenocarcinoma
This term is applied to a malignant tumour originating in glandular tissue.


Related terms:
- Tumour
- Cancer

Adenoma / Adenoma
This term is applied to a tumour, usually benign, in glandular tissue.


Related terms:
- Adenocarcinoma
- Cancer

Adhesion /
Molecular attraction which holds the surfaces of two substances in contact, such as water and rock particles.

Source:Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Adiabatic lapse rate / Gradiente adiabático
Theoretical temperature lapse rate of a parcel of air, which moves adiabatically in the vertical.
Related terms:
Dry adiabatic lapse rate
Lapse rate

Adjuvant / Adyuvante
In immunology, this is a substance injected with antigens (usually mixed with them but sometimes given before or after the antigens) which non-specifically enhances or modifies the immune response to the antigens.
Synonymes:
Coadjuvant

Admissible risk / Riesgo admisible
Probability of suffering disease or injury which can be lived with by an individual, group or society in order to obtain certain benefits assuming that the risk is minimized by appropriate control procedures.
Synonymes:
Tolerable risk
Related terms:
De minimis risk

Adsorption / Adsorción
Enrichment (positive adsorption or briefly adsorption) of one or more components in an interfacial layer.
The adherence of a gas, liquid, or dissolved material on the surface of a solid. Should not be confused with absorption.
Source: Banco Mundial
The attachment of the molecules of a liquid of gaseous substance to the surface of a solid.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
Flocculation filtration
Filtration
Aeration
Contact column
Activated carbon
Absorption
**Advanced treatment / Tratamiento avanzado**

Any physical chemical or biological treatment process used to accomplish a degree of treatment greater than that achieved by secondary wastewater treatment.

The treatment of wastewater beyond the secondary or biological stage. Term normally implies the removal of nutrients, such as phosphorus and nitrogen and of a high percentage of suspended solids. Term now being replaced by preferable term, advanced waste treatment.

Source: Banco Mundial  
**Synonymes:**  
Tertiary treatment  
Advanced removal  
Advanced waste treatment  

**Related terms:**  
Freezing  
Distillation  
Activated carbon  
Ion exchange  
Inverse osmosis  
Chemical oxidation  
Advanced treatment plants  
Electrodialysis  
Wastewater treatment

**Advection / Advección**

The process of transport of a chemical by the movement of the containing medium.  
Source: OMS. Programa Internacional de Seguridad de Sustancias Químicas.  

**Adverse effects / Efectos adversos**

Change in morphology, physiology, growth, development or life span of an organism exposed to air pollution, which results in impairment of functional capacity or impairment of capacity to compensate for additional stress or increase in susceptibility to the harmful effects of other environmental influences.  
(of noise): A change in morphology and physiology of an organism which results in impairment of functional capacity or impairment of capacity to compensate for additional stress or increase in susceptibility to the harmful effects of other environmental influences. This definition includes any temporary or long term lowering of physical, psychological or social functioning of humans or human organs.  
Source: OMS. Community noise  
**Synonymes:**  
Water contamination effects  
Air contamination effects  

**Related terms:**  
Water contamination  
Air contamination  
Environmental impact

**Aerated ponds / Lagunas aeradas**

A natural or artificial wastewater treatment pond in which mechanical or diffused-air aeration is used to supplement the oxygen supply. See oxidation pond.  
Source: Banco Mundial  
**Related terms:**  
Oxidation pond
Aeration / Aeración
The bringing about of intimate contact between air and a liquid by one or more of the following methods: (a)spraying the liquid in the air, (b)bubbling air through the liquid, (c)agitating the liquid to promote surface absorption of air.
Source:Banco Mundial
Related terms:
Adsorption
Aerators
Air
Chemical oxygen demand
Biochemical oxygen demand
Diffusers
Gases
Activated sludge
Water self-purification
Oxigenation
Oxygen
Oxygen transfer
Secondary treatment

Aeration tank /
A tank in which wastewater or other liquid is aerated.
Source:Banco Mundial
Related terms:
Aeration

Aerobe / Aerobio
Organism which needs molecular oxygen for respiration and hence for growth and life.
Source:OMS. Programa Internacional de Seguridad de Sustancias Químicas.
Seguridad química; principios básicos de toxicología aplicada. La naturaleza de los peligros químicos.2. ed. (revisada). Lima: CEPIS; 1997. Módulo de capacitación, 1. También en inglés. (IPCS)
Related terms:
Oxygen

Aerobic / Aeróbico
Requiring the presence of molecular oxygen.
Source:OMS. Programa Internacional de Seguridad de Sustancias Químicas.
Seguridad química; principios básicos de toxicología aplicada. La naturaleza de los peligros químicos.2. ed. (revisada). Lima: CEPIS; 1997. Módulo de capacitación, 1. También en inglés. (IPCS)

Aerobic digestion / Digestión aerobia
The breakdown of suspended and dissolved organic matter in the presence of oxygen.
Usually associated with digestion of wastewater sludge.
Source:Banco Mundial
Synonymes:
Aerobic breakdown
Aerobic process
Related terms:
Sludge digestion
Aerobic bacteria
Aerobic decomposition
Digesters
Aerobic ponds
Activated sludge
Aerobic treatment

Aerobic lagoon /
An oxygen-containing lagoon, often equipped with mechanical aerators, in which wastewater is partially stabilized by the metabolic activities of bacteria and algae. Small lagoons (less than + hectare and less than 1 meter deep) may remain aerobic without mechanical aeration.
Source:Banco Mundial
Aerosols / Aerosoles
This is a very broad term applied to any suspension of solid or liquid particles in a gas. Particle diameters may range from about 0.001 micrometres to about 100 micrometres. Mass concentrations may range from $10^{-9}$ to 10 grams per cubic metre of gas.
Source: IPCS

A suspension in a gaseous medium of solid particles, liquid particles or solid and liquid particles having a negligible falling velocity.
Source: OMS. Guidelines for air quality

A particle of solid or liquid matter than can remain suspended in the air because of its small size.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Related terms:
- Colloids
- Photochemical mist
- Dust
- Gaseous contaminants
- Suspended particles

Aetiology / Etiología
In medicine this is the science of the investigation of the cause or origin of a disease.
Source: OMS. Programa Internacional de Seguridad de Sustancias Químicas.
Seguridad química; principios básicos de toxicología aplicada. La naturaleza de los peligros químicos. 2. ed. (revisada). Lima: CEPIS; 1997. Módulo de capacitación, 1. También en inglés. (IPCS)

Afterburner /
A device that includes an auxiliary fuel burner and combustion chamber to incinerate combustible gas contaminants.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Agonist / Agonista
Chemical which binds to cell receptors normally responding to naturally occurring substances and which produces a response of its own.
Source: OMS. Programa Internacional de Seguridad de Sustancias Químicas.
Seguridad química; principios básicos de toxicología aplicada. La naturaleza de los peligros químicos. 2. ed. (revisada). Lima: CEPIS; 1997. Módulo de capacitación, 1. También en inglés. (IPCS)

Agricultural solid wastes / Residuos sólidos agrícolas
The solid waste that is generated by the rearing of animals and the producing and harvesting of crops or trees.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Related terms:
- Solid waste

Air classifier /
A system that uses a forced air stream to separate mixed material according to size, density, and aerodynamic drag of the pieces.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Air contaminants / Contaminantes del aire
Dust, fumes, smoke and other particulate matter, vapor, gas, odorous substances, or any combination thereof. Also any air pollution agent or combination of such agents, including any physical, chemical, biological, radioactive substance, or matter which is emitted into or otherwise enters the ambient air.
Source:Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Synonymes:
Air contamination sources
Air pollutants
Related terms:
Biological contaminants
Photochemical mist
Chemical contaminants
Physical contaminants
Air contamination
Gas exhaust
Smoke
Occupational air contaminants
Radioactive air contaminants
Plumes

Air contamination / Contaminación del aire
Greatest distance at which a black object of suitable dimensions can be seen and recognised against the horizon sky during daylight or could be seen and recognised during the night if the general illumination were raised to the normal daylight level.
Source:OMS. Vegetation fire events
The presence of any air pollutant in sufficient quantities and of such characteristics and duration as to be, or likely to be, injurious to health or welfare, animal or plant life, or property, or as to interfere with the enjoyment of life or property.
Source:Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Synonymes:
Visibility
Air pollution
Atmospheric pollution
Atmospheric contamination
Air contamination control
Air contamination effects
Environmental contamination
Related terms:
Air analysis
Air quality
Ozone layer
Air characteristics
Contaminant dispersion
Incineration
Acid rain
Radioactive air contamination
Air contaminants
Contaminant transport
Air monitoring
Air quality standards
Baghouse

Air emissions /
For stationary sources, the release or discharge of a pollutant by an owner or operator into the ambient air either by means of a stack or as a fugitive dust, mist, or vapor as a result inherent to the manufacturing or forming process.
Source:Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
**Air heater /**
A heat exchanger through which air passes and is heated by a medium of a higher temperature, such as hot combustion gases in metal tubes.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

**Related terms:**
Heaters

**Air-cooled wall /**
A refractory wall with a lane directly behind it through which cool air flows.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

**Alarm / Alarma**
Signal giving warning of danger.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

**Related terms:**
Warning
Alert

**Alcohol resistant foam / Espuma resistente al alcohol**
A foam that is resistant to "polar" chemicals, such as ketones and esters, which may break down other types of foam.

**Alert / Alertas**
Advisory that hazard is approaching but is less imminent than implied by warning message.
See also "warning".
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

**Related terms:**
Warning
Alarm

**Alkylating agent / Agente alquilante**
This is a term that describes any substance that introduces an alkyl radical into a compound in place of a hydrogen atom.

**Allergens / Alergenos**
This descriptor may be applied to any substance which produces an allergy.

Any substance that causes manifestations of allergy. Among common allergens are inhalants, foods, drugs, infectious agents, contactants, and physical agents.

**Related terms:**
Allergy
Antibody
Antigen
Hapten
Hipersensitivity
Immunoglobulin
Alternating device /
(1)A device in a wastewater treatment plant whereby wastewater may be delivered automatically or manually into different parallel treatment units in a cycle in accordance with a predetermined sequence. (2)A device in a pumping plant that will automatically divert flow to be pumped through two or more pumps in a cycle in accordance with a predetermined sequence.
Source:Banco Mundial

Alum /
A common name, in the water and wastewater treatment field, for commercial-grade aluminum sulphate.
Source:Banco Mundial
Synonyms:
Aluminum sulphate

Aluminum sulphate / Sulfato de aluminio
A chemical formerly sometimes called waterworks alum in water and wastewater treatment, prepared by combining a mineral known as bauxite with sulfuric acid.
Source:Banco Mundial
Synonyms:
Alum
Related terms:
Aluminium

Ames test / Prueba de Ames
In vitro test for mutagenicity using mutant strains of the bacterium Salmonella typhimurium which cannot grow in histidine-deficient medium: mutagens can cause mutations which enable the bacterium to grow on the medium. The test can be carried out in the presence of a microsomal fraction (S-9) from rat liver to allow metabolic transformation of mutagen precursors to active derivatives.
Source:OMS. Programa Internacional de Seguridad de Sustancias Químicas.
Seguridad química; principios básicos de toxicología aplicada. La naturaleza de los peligros químicos.2. ed. (revisada). Lima: CEPIS; 1997. Módulo de capacitación, 1. También en inglés. (IPCS)
Related terms:
In vitro test
Mutagenicity
Salmonella typhimurium

Ammonia / Amoniaco
A measure of the nitrogen compounds present, generally from biological activity, by their conversion to ammonia.
Source:OMS. Programa Internacional de Seguridad de Sustancias Químicas.
Seguridad química; principios básicos de toxicología aplicada. La naturaleza de los peligros químicos.2. ed. (revisada). Lima: CEPIS; 1997. Módulo de capacitación, 1. También en inglés. (IPCS)
Synonyms:
Ammonia nitrogen
Ammoniacal nitrogen
Related terms:
Nitrogen compounds
Hydroxydes
Fertilizers
Nitrification

Amortization / Amortización
(1)Gradual reduction, redemption, or liquidation of the balance of an account according to a specified schedule of times and amounts. (2)Provision for the extinguishment of a debt by means of a sinking fund.
Source:Banco Mundial
**Amplitude / Amplitud**

The difference between zero level and peak of any wave such as a seismic wave.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

*Related terms:*
- Amplitude tidal range

**Amplitude tidal range / Amplitud de ola de marea**

The difference between the height of the mean level and the maximum or minimum height of the water in the partial movement caused by the wave.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

*Related terms:*
- Amplitude tidal range
- Storm surge

**Anaerobe / Anaerobio**

Organism which does not need free-form oxygen for life. Many anaerobes are sensitive to free oxygen. Obligate (strict)anaerobes grow only in the absence of oxygen. Facultative anaerobes can grow either in the presence or in the absence of molecular oxygen.


*Related terms:*
- Anaerobic

**Anaerobic / Anaeróbico**

Relative to organisms which do not need free-form oxygen for life.


1) A condition in which no free oxygen is available.

2) Requiring, or not destroyed by, the absence of air or free oxygen.

Source: Banco Mundial

*Related terms:*
- Anaerobic waste treatment

**Anaerobic waste treatment /**

Waste stabilization brought about through the action of microorganisms in the absence of air or elemental oxygen. Usually refers to waste treatment by methane fermentation.

Source: Banco Mundial

*Related terms:*
- Anaerobic

**Analysis / Análisis**

A procedure for determining the composition of a substance or mixture of substances in a sample.

Source: Korc M.E., Farias F., Cevala R. El proceso de fijación y revisión de normas de calidad del aire. Lima: CEPIS; 2000. (CEPIS)

The laboratory conduct of an examination of water, wastewater, or solids.

Source: Banco Mundial

*Related terms:*
- Chemical analysis
- Water analysis
- Food analysis
Anemia / Anemia
A reduction in the number of circulating red blood cells.

Anemometer / Anemómetro
Instrument which measures wind speed or wind speed and direction.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Anemoscope

Animal waste /
The high organic waste that is generated by the breeding, maintenance, use, and slaughter of animals.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
Organic waste

Animism / Animismo
A belief that objects, phenomena and happenings in nature, such as trees, gales, earthquakes, have a spirit and conscious life. In some cultures and primitive beliefs, animism is used to explain natural disasters and other catastrophes.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Annual flood / Crecida anual
Highest peak discharge in a year.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Synonyms:
Annual overflow
Related terms:
Inundations
Flood control

Antagonism / Antagonismo
Antagonism arises when the combined effect of two or more factors is smaller than the solitary effect of any of those factors. In bioassays, the terms may be used when a specified response is produced by exposure to either of two factors, but not by exposure to both together.
Related terms:
Synergism

Antagonistic effect / Efecto antagónico
This is the consequence of one chemical (or group of chemicals) countering the effects of another: in other words, the situation where exposure to two chemicals together has less effect than the simple sum of their independent effects; such chemicals are said to show antagonism.
Related terms:
Chemicals
Antecedent precipitation index / Índice de precipitación antecedente
Weighted summation of past daily precipitation amounts, used as an index of soil moisture.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Precipitation
- Precipitation intensity

Anthropic erosion / Erosión antrópica
Land erosion caused or accelerated by excessive clearing or grazing, with destruction of the surface vegetation, which leads to the degradation of the upper layers of the soil.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Deforestation

Anticholinesterase / Anticolinesterasa
Substance which inhibits the action of the enzyme cholinesterase which catalyses the hydrolysis of choline esters; such a substance causes hyperactivity in parasympathetic nerves.
Related terms:
- Cholinesterase inhibitor

Anticyclone / Anticiclón
A region where barometric pressure is high or relative to that in the surrounding regions at the same level.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Continental anticyclone
- Semipermanent anticyclone
- Subtropical anticyclone

Antigen / Antígeno
The descriptor applied to any substance that produces a specific immune response when it enters the tissues of an animal.
Related terms:
- Allergen
- Allergy
- Hypersensitivity
- Antibody
- Haptene

Antimetabolite / Antimetabolito
Chemical, structurally similar to a metabolite, which competes with it or replaces it and so prevents its normal utilization.
Application factor / Factor de aplicación
A factor for converting data from one exposure period or end point to another, e.g. from acute EC$_{50}$ (measured) to chronic NOEC (predicted).

Aquifers / Acuíferos
Subsurface zones or formations of rocks which contain exploitable resources of groundwater.

A porous, water-bearing geologic formation. Generally restricted to materials capable of yielding an appreciable supply of water.
Source: Banco Mundial
Related terms:
- Marine intrusion
- Wells
- Aquifers recharge
- Saturated soils
- Groundwater

Arid /
(1) A term applied to regions where precipitation is so deficient in quantity, or occurs at such times, that agriculture is impracticable without irrigation. (2) In climatology, a term applied to climates which have rainfall insufficient to support vegetation.
Source: Banco Mundial
Related terms:
- Arid zones

Arid zone / Zona árida
An area in which the water resources from ground water and rainfall are insufficient to counterbalance the evaporation.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Aridity

Arid zones / Zonas áridas
An area in which the water resources from ground water and rainfall are insufficient to counterbalance the evaporation.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Synonymes:
- Desert
- Arid soils
Related terms:
- Oases
- Desertification
- Aridity

Arithmetic growth / Crecimiento aritmético
Growth of an organism or population by linear increase in size or number.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
**Armed conflicts / Conflictos armados**
State of hostilities in which two or more organized armies are at war against each other. In modern warfare the attack may be with conventional weapons, chemical and/or biological weapons or nuclear weapons.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
**Related terms:**
War wounded

**Artesian /**
Pertaining to groundwater, or things connected with groundwater (e.g., a well or underground basin), where the water is under pressure and will rise to a higher elevation if afforded an opportunity to do so.
Source: Banco Mundial

**Aseismic / Asísmico**
Nonseismic; used to designate an area free from seismic activity or a tectonic deformation process not accompanied by seismic events.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
**Related terms:**
Aseismic zone

**Ash / Cenizas**
Inorganic residue remaining after ignition of combustible substances determined by definite prescribed methods.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
**Related terms:**
Incineration
Ash flow

**Ash combustibles /**
The fraction of combustible organic material remaining in the bottom ash as measured by the loss on combustion technique.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a

**Ash flow / Flujo de ceniza**
Pyroclastic flow including a liquid phase and a solid phase composed mainly of ashes.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
**Related terms:**
Pyroclastic flow
Ashes

**Assay / Ensayo**
A technical operation that consists of determining one or more characteristics or the performance of a product, material, piece of equipment, organism, physical phenomenon, process or service, in accordance with a specific procedure.
Source: Korc M.E., Farías F., Cevala R. El proceso de fijación y revisión de normas de calidad del aire. Lima: CEPIS; 2000. (CEPIS)
**Related terms:**
Assay or analysis method

**Assay or analysis method / Método de ensayo o análisis**
A defined technical procedure for carrying out an assay or analysis.
Source: Korc M.E., Farías F., Cevala R. El proceso de fijación y revisión de normas de calidad del aire. Lima: CEPIS; 2000. (CEPIS)
**Related terms:**
Analysis
Assay
Assessment factor / Factor de evaluación
A factor applied to a data point when assessing a substance in order to derive a safe level of that substance in the environment.

Asthma / Asma
A disease caused by increased responsiveness of the tracheobronchial tree to various stimuli, which results in paroxysmal constriction of the bronchial airways. Also see paroxysm.
Synonyms:
- Bronchial asthma
Related terms:
- Paroxysm

ASTM /
American Society for Testing and Materials.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a
Synonyms:
- American Society for Testing and Materials

Asylum / Asilo
Temporary or permanent stay on its territory, consented by a State to a refugee, stateless person or other persecuted people.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Diplomatic asylum

Atmospheric front / Frente atmosférico
1. The interface or transition zone between air masses or different physical properties (temperature, humidity); 2. Line of intersection of the surface separating two air masses usually with the ground.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Front
- Air masses

Atmospheric pressure / Presión atmosférica
The pressure exerted by the atmosphere as a consequence of the force of gravity.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Synonyms:
- Barometric pressure
Related terms:
- Meteorology
- Atmosphere

Atoll / Atolón
A circular coral reef, generally with one or more low islands, surrounding a central lagoon which may or may not communicate with the ocean.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Coral reef
Atomization /
The reduction of liquid to a fine spray.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a

Atrophy / Atrofia
The process which is observed during the wasting of a tissue or an organ.
Source: OMS. Programa Internacional de Seguridad de Sustancias Químicas. 
Seguridad química; principios básicos de toxicología aplicada. La naturaleza de los peligros químicos. 2. ed. (revisada). Lima: CEPIS; 1997. Módulo de capacitación, 1. También en inglés. (IPCS)

ATSDR /
The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a

Synonyms:
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

Attenuation / Atenuación
The decrease in concentration of chemical species present in a liquid, e.g. the decrease in concentration of pollutants in liquid seeping from the foot of a landfill as a result of its passage through the soil.
Source: OMS. Programa Internacional de Seguridad de Sustancias Químicas. 
Seguridad química; principios básicos de toxicología aplicada. La naturaleza de los peligros químicos. 2. ed. (revisada). Lima: CEPIS; 1997. Módulo de capacitación, 1. También en inglés. (IPCS)

Audit / Auditoría
A systematic and independent assessment to determine whether the activities related to a quality program and its results comply with the measure planned, whether these measures are adequate in accordance with objectives and whether they are being implemented in an effective way.
Source: Korc M.E., Farias F., Cevara R. El proceso de fijación y revisión de normas de calidad del aire. Lima: CEPIS; 2000. (CEPIS)

In the absence of any express limitation, an examination of the subject matter of the accounting in all its financial aspects, including, so far as the several classifications of accounts may be involved, the verification of assets, liabilities, receipts, disbursements, revenues, expenditures, reserves, and surplus in the detail necessary to permit certification of the statements rendered and of the accountability of the fiduciary parties.
Source: Banco Mundial

Related terms:
Environmental audits

Autochthonous / Autóctono
Material produced or organisms grown within a defined ecosystem.
Source: OMS. Programa Internacional de Seguridad de Sustancias Químicas. 
Seguridad química; principios básicos de toxicología aplicada. La naturaleza de los peligros químicos. 2. ed. (revisada). Lima: CEPIS; 1997. Módulo de capacitación, 1. También en inglés. (IPCS)

Autogenous combustion /
The burning of wet organic material where the moisture content is at such a level that the heat of combustion of the organic material is sufficient to vaporize the water and maintain combustion at a particular temperature; no auxiliary fuel is required except for startup of the process.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Synonyms:
Autothermic combustion
Automatic sampling /
Collection of samples of prescribed volume over a defined time period by an apparatus designed to operate remotely without direct manual control. See also composite sample.
Source:Banco Mundial
Related terms:
Composite sample

Autophagosome / Autofagosoma
This is the name given to the membrane-bound body occurring inside a cell and containing decomposing cell organelles.

Auxiliary fuel burner /
Burner in either the primary or secondary chamber fueled by natural gas or fuel oil. Used to maintain temperature if waste has insufficient heat content.
Source:Brünnner, Calvin R.; 1996a

Auxotroph / Auxótrofo
Organism unable to synthesize an organic molecule which is required for its growth; when the compound is given to the organism with the other nutrients it requires, growth of the organism occurs.
Backwater / Remanso
A rise of water level in a stream caused by a natural or artificial obstruction.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Related terms:
Backwater

BACT /
Best available control technology.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a

Synonymes:
Best available control technology.

Bacteria / Bacterias
A group of universally distributed, rigid, essentially unicellular microscopic organisms lacking chlorophyll. They perform a variety of biological treatment processes including biological oxidation, sludge digestion, nitrification, and denitrification.
Source: Banco Mundial

Organism capable of causing disease.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Synonymes:
Pathogenic agents
Pathogens
Pathogenic organisms

Related terms:
Contamination indicators
Bacteriophages
Bactericides
Bacteriology
Bacterial growth
Bacterial infections

Bacterial analysis /
The examination of water and wastewater to determine the presence, number and identity of bacteria; more commonly called bacterial examination.
Source: Banco Mundial

Synonymes:
Bacterial examination

Baffles /
Deflector vanes, guides, grids, grating, or similar devices constructed or placed in air or gas flow systems, flowing water, or slurry systems to effect a more uniform distribution of velocities; absorb energy; divert, guide, or agitate fluids; and check eddies.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Bagasse /
An agricultural waste material consisting of the dry pulp residue that remains after juice is extracted from sugar cane or sugar beets.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Related terms:
Solid wastes

Baghouse /
An air pollution abatement device used to trap particulates by filtering gas streams through large fabric bags usually made of cloth or glass fibers.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a

Related terms:
Air pollution control
Baling /  
Compressing and wrapping a material with wire, twine, string to form a unit which is more readily handled, stored and transported.
Source: State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.

Bar screen /  
A screen composed of parallel bars, either vertical or inclined, placed in a waterway to catch debris. The screenings are raked from it either manually or automatically. Also called bar rack, rack.
Source: Banco Mundial  
Synonymes:  
Bar rack  
Rack  
Related terms:  
Coarse screen

Barometer / Barómetro  
Instrument of measuring atmospheric pressure.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:  
Barometric pressure

Barometric damper /  
A hinged or pivoted plate that automatically regulates the amount of air entering a duct, breeching, flue connection, or stack, thereby maintaining a constant draft within an incinerator.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996  
Related terms:  
Damper

Barrier / Barrera de hielo  
In the polar regions, the mass of ice formed by the freezing of sea water.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Base pairing / Apareamiento de bases  
A process involving the linking of the complementary pair of polynucleotide chains of deoxyribonucleic acid by means of hydrogen bonds between the opposite purine and pyrimidine pairs. Stable base pairs form only between adenine and thymine (A-T) and guanine and cytosine (G-C). In ribonucleic acid, uracil replaces thymine and can form a base pair with adenine.

Basic data /  
Records of observations and measurements of physical facts, occurrences, and conditions, as they have occurred, excluding any material or information developed by means of computation or estimate. In the strictest sense, basic data include only the recorded notes of observations and measurements, although in general use it is taken to include computations or estimates necessary to present a clear statement of facts, occurrences, and conditions.
Source: Banco Mundial
Basins / Cuencas
All land within the confines of a drainage divide. This is also called a "catchment" or "drainage basin". All surface water has a common outlet.
Source: CRID

1) A natural or artificially created space or structure, either surface or underground, which has a shape and character of confining material that enable it to hold water. (2) The surface area within a given drainage system. (3) A small area in an irrigated field or plot surrounded by low earth ridges and designed to hold irrigation water. (4) An area upstream from a subsurface or surface obstruction to the flow of water.
Source: Banco Mundial
Synonyms:
- Basin development

Related terms:
- Hydrology
- Water resources
- Interbasin transfer

Batch-fed incinerator /
An incinerator that is periodically charged with waste; one charge is allowed to burn out before another is added.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Related terms:
- Incinerator

Battery wall /
A double or common wall between two incinerator combustion chambers; both faces are exposed to heat.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Bays / Bahías
A recess or inlet in the shore of a sea or lake between two capes or headlands, not as large as a gulf but larger than a cove.
Source: Banco Mundial

Related terms:
- Coasts

Beaufort scale / Escala de Beaufort
Scale of wind force, measured from 0 (calm) to 12 (hurricane force wind).
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Related terms:
- Wind
- Wind force

Bed /
The bottom of a watercourse or any body of water.
Source: Banco Mundial

Bed load /
Sediment that moves by sliding, rolling, or skipping on or very near the stream bed; sediment that is moved by tractive or gravitational forces, or both, but at velocities less than that of adjacent flow.
Source: Banco Mundial
Belt screen /
A continuous band or belt of wire mesh, bars, plates, or other screening medium which passes around upper and lower rollers and from which the material caught on the screen is usually removed by gravity, brushes, or other means. Also called band screen.
Source:Banco Mundial
Synonymes:
- Band screen

Benefit / Beneficio
Advantage to or improvement in condition of an individual or a population.

Benthic /
Relating to the bottom or bottom environment of a body of water.
Source:Banco Mundial

Benthic fauna / Fauna béntica
The aggregate of organisms living on or at the bottom of a body of water.
Source:Banco Mundial
Synonymes:
- Benthos
- Macrobenthos
- Benthic organisms
Related terms:
- Aquatic fauna
- Seabottom
- Benthic flora

Bilge oil /
Waste oil which accumulates, usually in small quantities, in the lower spaces in a ship, just inside the shell plating, and usually mixed with larger quantities of water.
Source:Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Bimetal /
Typically refers to beverage containers with steel bodies and aluminum tops. Steel companies do recycle bimetal cans, but they are handled differently in the recycling stream from aluminum cans.
Source:EPA. The consumer’s handbook for reducing solid waste.

Bioaccumulation potential / Potencial de acumulación
The ability of living organisms to concentrate a chemical obtained either directly from the environment or indirectly through the food chain.
Related terms:
- Bioconcentration
- Biological accumulation
**Bioassays / Bioensayos**

Procedures for estimating the concentration or biological activity of a substance (vitamin, hormone, plant growth factor, antibiotic etc.) by measuring its effect on an organism compared to an appropriate standard preparation.


**Synonyms:**
- Tests
- Biosimulation

**Related terms:**
- Simulation
- Water analysis
- Water samples
- Daphnia

**Bioavailability / Biodisponibilidad**

Extent to which a chemical substance to which the body is exposed (by ingestion, inhalation, injection or skin contact) reaches the systemic circulation, and the rate at which this occurs.


**Synonyms:**
- Biological availability
- Physiological availability

**Biochemical mechanism / Mecanismo bioquímico**

This is the general term for any chemical reaction or series of reactions, usually enzyme catalysed, which produces a given physiological effect in a living organism.


**Related terms:**
- Chemical reaction
- Living organism

**Biochemical oxygen demand / Demanda bioquímica de oxígeno**

(1) A measure of the quantity of oxygen utilized in the biochemical oxidation of organic matter in a specified time, at a specific temperature, and under specified conditions. It is not related to the oxygen requirements in chemical combustion, being determined entirely by the availability of the material as a biological food and by the amount of oxygen utilized by the microorganisms during oxidation. (2) A standard test used in assessing wastewater strength.

Source: Banco Mundial

**Synonyms:**
- BOD
Bioconcentration factor / Factor de bioconcentración
Measure of the tendency for a chemical contaminant in water to accumulate in fish tissue or in tissues of other organisms. The equilibrium concentration of a contaminant in fish can be estimated by multiplying the concentration of the chemical in a surface water by the fish bioconcentration factor for that chemical. This parameter is an important determinant for human intakes via the aquatic food ingestion route.
Synonyms:
BCF
Related terms:
Chemical contamination
Chemical water contamination

Biodegradable /
Any substance that decomposes chemically and/or physically through the action of microorganisms.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
Biodegradation

Biodegradable material / Material biodegradable
A material that can be broken down by bacteria into less complex, sometimes less hazardous chemical compounds or basic elements.
Source: State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.
Related terms:
Biodegradation
Biodegradable

Biodegradation / Biodegradación
Breakdown of a substance to its constituents catalyzed by enzymes or whole organisms. This may be characterized as:

(i) Primary. Alteration of the chemical structure of a substance resulting in loss of a specific property of that substance.

(ii) Environmentally acceptable. Biodegradation to such an extent as to remove undesirable properties of the compound. This often corresponds to primary biodegradation but it depends on the circumstances under which the products are discharged into the environment.

(iii) Ultimate. Complete breakdown of a compound to either fully oxidized or reduced simple molecules (such as carbon dioxide, methane, water, nitrate and ammonium).


The destruction of organic materials by microorganisms, soils, natural bodies of water or wastewater treatment systems.

Source: Banco Mundial
Synonyms:
Biodeterioration
Non conservative contaminants
Putrefaction
Biodegradable contaminants
Biological degradation

Related terms:
- Biotransformation
- Biochemistry
- Biochemical oxygen demand
- Water self-purification
- Anaerobic decomposition
- Aerobic decomposition
- Activated sludge
- Metabolism
- Soil biology
- Biological process
- Biological treatment
- Organic load
- Conservative contaminants
- Organic wastes
- Bioaccumulation
- Inherent biodegradability

Bioelimination / Bioeliminación
Removal, usually from the aqueous phase, of a test substance in the presence of living organisms by biological processes supplemented by physico-chemical reactions.


Biogas / Biogás
Mixture of gases, mainly methane and carbon dioxide, generated by anaerobic decomposition of organic wastes.

Source: BID Inglés

Synonyms:
- Biological gas

Related terms:
- Non conventional energy
- Fermentation
- Biogas digesters
- Anaerobic digestion
- Methane
- Composting

Biogeography / Biogeografía
The science that deals with the causes, modifications and interactions of geographical distribution of living organisms on earth.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Biological adaptation / Adaptación biológica
Processes, including selection and adaptation, by which a population of micro-organisms develops the ability to degrade a substance or develops a tolerance to it.

In animal tests, allowing an animal to adjust to its environment prior to undertaking a study.


Synonyms:
- Adaptation
- Acclimatization
- Biological acclimatization

Related terms:
- Biocenology
Biological agents / Agentes biológicos
Living organisms that cause disease, sickness and mortality in humans. Anthrax and Ebola are examples of biological agents.

Biological effect monitoring / Monitoreo de los efectos biológicos
Measurement and assessment of early biological effects of exposure to a chemical compared to an appropriate reference.
Synonymes:
BEM
Related terms:
Chemical compounds exposure
Biological monitoring

Biological equilibrium / Equilibrio biológico
Condition in which the interactions between the different animal and vegetable species is such that the structure and function of an ecosystem remain fairly constant. Man is the main element in the modification of this equilibrium.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Biological filters / Filtros biológicos
A bed of sand, gravel, broken stone, or other medium through which wastewater flows or trickles that depends on biological action for its effectiveness.
Source: Banco Mundial
Synonymes:
Biofilters
Biological filtration
Percolating filters
Related terms:
Humus
Biofilm
Wastewater treatment
Biological process
Attached biomass reactors

Biological half-life (t1/2) / Vida media biológica (t1/2)
The term which is used for the time required for the amount of a particular substance in a biological system to be reduced to one half of its value by biological processes when the rate of removal is approximately exponential. Substances with a long biological half-life will tend to accumulate in the body and are, therefore, particularly to be avoided. Substances with a short biological half-life may accumulate if some becomes tightly bound, even if most is cleared from the body rapidly. There is also the possibility of cumulative effects of chemicals which have a short residence time in the body.
Synonymes:
t1/2
Related terms:
Half-life
**Biological monitoring / Monitoreo biológico**
Repeated measurement and assessment of workplace or other environmental agents or their metabolites in tissues, secreta, excreta, expired air, or any combination of these to evaluate exposure and health risk compared to an appropriate reference.

It is a procedure of periodic examination of biological specimens for the purposes of monitoring. It is usually applied to exposure monitoring but can also apply to effect monitoring. Analysis of the amounts of potentially toxic substances or their metabolites present in body tissues and fluids, as a means of assessing exposure to these substances and aiding timely action to prevent adverse effects. The term is also used to mean assessment of the biological status of populations and communities of organisms at risk, in order to protect them and to have early warning of possible hazards to human health.


**Related terms:**
- Biological effect monitoring
- Health risks

**Biological process / Procesos biológicos**
The process by which metabolic activities of bacteria and other microorganisms break down complex organic materials into simple, more stable substances. Self-purification of polluted streams, sludge digestion, and all the so-called secondary wastewater treatments depend on this process. Also called biochemical process.

Source: Banco Mundial

**Synonymes:**
- Biochemical process

**Related terms:**
- Biology
- Biological filters
- Biodegradation
- Biological reaction

**Biological waste /**
Waste derived from living organisms.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

**Related terms:**
- Organic wastes

**Biological wastewater treatment /**
Forms of wastewater treatment in which bacterial or biochemical action is intensified to stabilize, and oxidize the unstable organic matter present. Intermittent sand filters, trickling filters, and activated sludge processes and sludge digestion are examples.

Source: Banco Mundial

**Related terms:**
- Activated sludge process
- Sludge digestion
**Biomagnification / Biomagnificación**

This is a general term applied to the sequence of processes in an ecosystem by which higher concentrations are attained in organisms of higher trophic level, i.e., of higher levels in the food chain. The process by which xenobiotics increase in body concentration in organisms through a series of prey-predator relationships from primary producers to ultimate predators, often human beings.


**Related terms:**
- Bioaccumulation
- Bioconcentration
- Food chain

**Biomarker / Biomarcador**

(i) Parameter that can be used to identify a toxic effect in an individual organism and can be used in extrapolation between species.

(ii) Indicator signalling an event in a biological system or sample and giving a measure of exposure, effect, or susceptibility.


Any parameter that can be used to measure an interaction between a biological system and an environment agent, which may be chemical, physical or biological.


**Biomass / Biomasa**

The total mass of living organisms in a defined area or volume of habitat.


Organic substance of biotic origin: either living organisms or dead substances such as wood, crop residues, or animal dung.


The amount of living matter in a given unit of the environment.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

**Related terms:**
- Biota
- Biotic factors
- Abiotic factors
- Organic matter
- Plankton
- Ecosystem
Biomass smoke / Humo de la biomasa
Term used for convenience for the smoke generated by burning biomass.
Related terms:
Biomass

Biomedical waste /
Waste derived from hospital, laboratory and health care facility operation.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a
Synonymes:
Medical waste
Related terms:
Hospital waste

Biota / Biota
Fauna and flora, of a stream or other water body.
Source: Banco Mundial
Related terms:
Biomass
Ecology
Abiotic factors
Biotic factors

Biotic / Biótico
Of or relating to life.

Source:
Related terms:
Biomass
Biota

Blister agents / Agentes vesicantes
Substances that cause blistering of the skin. Exposure is through liquid or vapor contact with any exposed tissue (eyes, skin, lungs). Mustard (H), Distilled Mustard (HD), Nitrogen Mustard (HN) and Lewisite (L) are blister agents.
Symptoms: red eyes, skin irritation, burning of skin, blisters, upper respiratory damage, cough, hoarseness.
Synonymes:
Vesicants

Blood agents / Agentes sanguíneos
Substances that injure a person by interfering with cell respiration (the exchange of oxygen and carbon dioxide between blood and tissues). Hydrogen Cyanide (AC) and Cyanogen Chloride (CK) are blood agents.
Symptoms: respiratory distress, headache, unresponsiveness, seizures, coma.
Blowdown /
The minimum discharge of recirculating water for the purpose of discharging materials contained in the process, the further buildup of which would cause concentrations or amounts exceeding limits established by best engineering practice.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Blower /
A fan used to force air or gas under pressure.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Bond /
(1) A written promise to pay a specified sum of money (called the face value) at a fixed time in the future (called the date of maturity). A bond carries interest at a fixed rate, payable periodically. The difference between a note and a bond is that the latter usually runs for a longer period of time and requires greater formality. (2) A warranty by an underwriting organization, such as an insurance company, guaranteeing honesty, performance, or payment by a contractor.
Source: Banco Mundial
Related terms:
Bonded debt
Callable bond

Bonded debt /
That portion of the indebtedness of an enterprise represented by outstanding bonds.
Source: Banco Mundial
Related terms:
Bond

Bottom ash /
The solid material that remains on a hearth or falls off the grate after thermal processing is complete.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
Ash

Branch sewer /
A sewer that receives wastewater from a relatively small area and discharges into a main sewer serving more than one branch-sewer area.
Source: Banco Mundial

Breakpoint chlorination / Cloración a punto de quiebre
Addition of chlorine to water or wastewater until the chlorine demand has been satisfied and further additions result in a residual that is directly proportional to the amount added beyond the breakpoint.
Source: Banco Mundial

Breeching /
A passage that conducts the products of combustion to a stack or chimney.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Bridge wall /
A partition between chambers over which the products of combustion pass.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
British thermal unit /
The amount of heat required to raise the temperature of one pound of water one degree Fahrenheit.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
Heat

Broad irrigation /
The irrigation of crops with wastewater. It differs from wastewater irrigation in that wastewater disposal is the primary object of broad irrigation and the raising of crops is incidental.
Source: Banco Mundial

Brokers /
Agents or intermediary buyers who acquire scrap materials and bulk products from processors and recyclers and arrange delivery to the end users.
Source: State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.

Bronchi / Bronquios
The two main branches leading from the trachea to the lungs, providing a passageway for air.
Related terms:
Bronchial tube
Bronchitis

Bronchial tube / Bronquio terminal
One of the smaller subdivisions of the bronchi.
Related terms:
Bronchi
Bronchiole

Bronchiole / Bronquiolos
One of the smaller subdivisions of the bronchial tube.
Related terms:
Bronchi
Bronchial tube

Bronchiolitis / Bronquiolitis
Inflammation of the bronchioles.
Related terms:
Bronchiole
Bronchodilator

Bronchitis / Bronquitis
Inflammation of the mucous membrane of the bronchial airways.
Related terms:
Bronchi
Respiratory diseases
Bronchodilator / Broncodilatador
A drug that expands the bronchial tubes by relaxing bronchial muscle.
Related terms:
Bronchi
Bronchial tube

Building sewer /
In plumbing, the extension from the building drains to the public sewer or other place of disposal. Also called house connection.
Source:Banco Mundial
Related terms:
House connection
House drain

Buildings / Edificaciones
Constructions or houses built for residence or other analogue uses.
Source:Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Construction

Buildings damage classification / Clasificación de daños en edificaciones
Evaluation and recording of damage to structures, facilities, or objects according to three (or more) categories: 1. "severe damage" - which precludes further use of structure, facility, or object for its intended purpose; 2. "moderate damage" - or the degree of damage to principal members, which precludes effective use of the structure, facility, or object for its intended purpose, unless major repairs are made short of complete reconstruction; 3. "light damage" - such as broken windows, slight damage to roofing and siding, interior partitions blown down, and cracked walls; the damage is not severe enough to preclude use of the installation for the purpose for which was intended.
Source:Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Buildings reconstruction / Reparación de edificaciones
Process leading to the reconstruction of buildings that have been affected structurally by a disaster or emergency.
Source:Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Reconstruction

Bulky waste / Residuos voluminosos
Large items of solid waste such a household appliances, furniture, large auto parts, trees, branches, stumps, and other oversize wastes whose large size precludes or complicates their handling by normal solid waste collection, processing, or disposal methods.
Source:Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
Solid wastes

Bunker "C" oil /
A general term used to indicate a heavy viscous fuel oil.
Source:Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Burial ground /
A disposal site for unwanted radioactive materials that uses earth or water for a shield.
Source:Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
Radioactive wastes
Burn / Quemadura
Refers to either a chemical or thermal burn, the former may be caused by corrosive substances and the latter by liquefied cryogenic gases, hot molten substances, or flames.

Burning area /
The horizontal projection of a grate, hearth, or both.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
Hearth
Incineration

Burning hearth /
A solid surface to support the solid fuel or solid waste in a furnace and upon which materials are placed for combustion.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
Hearth

Burning rate /
The volume of solid waste incinerated or the amount of heat released during incineration. The burning rate is usually expressed in pounds of solid waste per square foot of burning area per area or in British thermal units per cubic foot of furnace volume per hour.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
Burning area
Incineration

Burnout /
A measure of ash quality; it is the percentage of the ash that is inorganic.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a
Related terms:
Ash

Butterfly damper /
A plate or blade installed in a duct, breeching, flue connection, or stack that rotates on an axis to regulate the flow of gases.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
Damper

Bypass /
An arrangement of pipes, conduits, gates, and valves by which the flow may be passed around a hydraulic structure appurtenance, or treatment process; a controlled diversion.
Source: Banco Mundial
Cage screen / A cage-shaped screen built of bars, rods, or mesh, arranged for lowering into water or wastewater and for raising when the cage is to be cleaned.
Source: Banco Mundial

Cake / The solids discharged from a dewatering apparatus.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Calcination / The process of heating a waste material to a high temperature without fusing in order to effect useful change (e.g., oxidation, pulverization).
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
Oxidation

Calcium hydroxyde / Hidróxido de calcio Any of a family of chemicals consisting essentially of calcium oxide or hydroxide made from limestone (calcite).
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Synonyms:
Lime
Slaked lime
Related terms:
Calcium

Calibration / Calibración
A set of operations that, under specific conditions, establishes the relation between the values indicated by a measuring instrument, a measuring system or the values represented by a unit of measurement and the known values for that same measurement. Calibration results allow for estimating errors in a measuring instrument, measuring system, unit of measurement or in the assigning of arbitrary values. It can also determine other metrological properties. The results of a calibration can be registered in a document called a calibration certificate or calibration report. The results of a calibration are expressed as a calibration factor or as a series of calibration factors in the form of a calibration curve.
Source: Korc M.E., Farías F., Cevala R. El proceso de fijación y revisión de normas de calidad del aire. Lima: CEPIS; 2000. (CEPIS)
Related terms:
Calibration laboratory
Calibration method

Calibration laboratory / Laboratorio de calibración
A laboratory that carries out calibrations.
Source: Korc M.E., Farías F., Cevala R. El proceso de fijación y revisión de normas de calidad del aire. Lima: CEPIS; 2000. (CEPIS)
Related terms:
Calibration

Calibration method / Método de calibración
A defined technical procedure for carrying out calibration.
Source: Korc M.E., Farías F., Cevala R. El proceso de fijación y revisión de normas de calidad del aire. Lima: CEPIS; 2000. (CEPIS)
Related terms:
Calibration
Calibration laboratory
Callable bond /
A type of bond which permits the payment of the obligation before the stated maturity date by giving notice of redemption in a manner specified in the bond contract.
Source: Banco Mundial
Related terms:
Bond

Capital expenditures /
Expenditures which result in the acquisition of, or the addition to, capital (or fixed) assets.
Source: Banco Mundial

Carbon / Carbono
(1) A chemical element essential for growth. (2) A solid material used for absorption of pollutants.
Source: Banco Mundial
Related terms:
Chemical elements
Graphite
Carbon 14
Organic compounds
Charcoal
Carbon cycle

Carbon dioxide / Dióxido de carbono
A colourless, odourless, non-combustible gas, formula CO₂. It is approximately 50% heavier than air, of which it is a normal constituent. It is formed by certain natural processes (see carbon cycle) and by the combustion of fuels containing carbon, and it has been estimated that the amount in the air is increasing by 0.27% annually. Only in the most exceptional circumstances do local concentrations of carbon dioxide in air rise to levels that are dangerous to health, but it plays a significant role in the decay of building stones and in corrosion.
Synonyms:
Carbon anhydride
Carbon dioxide
Related terms:
Carbon gaseous pollutants
Oxides
Photosynthesis
Carbon monoxide
Carbon cycle

Carbon monoxide / Monóxido de carbono
A colourless, almost odourless, tasteless, flammable gas, formula CO. It is produced, inter alia, by the incomplete combustion of organic materials (e.g. in automobile engines) and normally occurs in trace amounts in the atmosphere. At concentrations exceeding about 100 cm³/m³ (0.01%) it is highly toxic. Its affinity for hemoglobin (with which it forms carboxyhemoglobin) is between 200 and 300 times that of oxygen, and it has the effect of reducing the oxygen-transport capacity of hemoglobin and leading to death by asphyxiation. Concentrations of carbon monoxide in city streets (arising mainly from motor vehicle exhausts) can be sufficiently high to cause concern, as can those resulting from tobacco smoking in unventilated rooms.
Source: OMS. Guidelines for air quality
Related terms:
Charcoal
Carbon dioxide
Asphyxiating gases
**Carbon sorption**

The process in which a substance (the sorbate) is brought into contact with a solid (the sorbent), usually activated carbon, and held there by either chemical or physical means.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

**Carbonaceus matter / Materia carbonosa**

Pure carbon or carbon compounds present in the fuel or residue of a combustion process.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

**Carcinogenesis / Carcinogénesis**

Carcinogenesis is the process which leads to development of cancer. Carcinogenesis may be a matter of induction by chemical, physical, or biological agents, of neoplasms that are usually not observed, an earlier induction of neoplasms that are usually observed, and/or the induction of more neoplasms than are usually found.


**Carcinogenic / Carcinogénico**

This is the adjective applied to anything which can cause cancer.

Source: IPCS

**Carcinogenicity / Carcinogenicidad**

The production of cancer, equivalent to carcinogenesis.

Carcinogens / Carcinógenos
A carcinogen is any agent, chemical, physical or biological, that can act on living tissue in such a way as to cause a malignant neoplasm. More simply, a carcinogen is any substance which causes cancer.
Source: IPCS
A substance or agent producing or inciting cancer.
Source: Banco Mundial
Synonyms:
Carcinogen substances
Related terms:
Cancer
Carcinogenicity
Benzopyrenes
Hydrocarbons
Radioisotopes
Trihalomethanes

Carcinoma / Carcinoma
This is a general term applied to a malignant epithelial tumour.
Synonyms:
Cancer
Epithelial tumour
Neoplasms
Related terms:
Sarcoma
Tumour

Cardio-pulmonar resuscitation / Reanimación cardiopulmonar
The technique and manoeuvres applied to a severely injured patient in order to ensure the basic functions of the heart and lungs, and to maintain such vital support until the end of the critical period.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Cardiovascular / Cardiovascular
Pertaining to the heart and blood vessels.

Cartography / Cartografía
The science or art of making maps.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Topography

Catabolism / Catabolismo
(i) Reactions in involving the oxidation of organic substrates to provide chemically available energy (for example ATP) and to generate metabolic intermediates. (ii) Generally, process of breakdown of complex molecules into simpler ones.
Related terms:
Metabolism
**Catalase / Catalasa**
Catalase is a hemo-based enzyme which catalyses the breakdown of hydrogen peroxide into oxygen and water. It is found in all living cells, especially in the peroxisomes.

**Catalytic combustion system /**
A process in which a substance is introduced into an exhaust gas stream to burn or oxidize vaporized hydrocarbons or odorous contaminants; the substance itself remains intact.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

**Catch basin /**
A chamber or well, usually built at the curbline of a street, which admits surface water for discharge into a stormwater drain.
Source: Banco Mundial

**Catchment area /**
(1) The intake area of an aquifer, and all areas that contribute surface water to the intake area. (2) In tropical island zones, a hard-surfaced area on which rain is collected and then conducted to a reservoir. (3) The area tributary to a lake, stream, sewer, or drain. Also called catchment basin.
Source: Banco Mundial

**Ceiling value / Valor techo**
The ceiling value is the maximum permissible airborne concentration of a potentially toxic substance and is a concentration that should never be exceeded in the breathing zone.

**Cell line / Línea celular**
This is a general term applied to a defined population of cells which has been maintained in a culture for an extended period and which has usually undergone a spontaneous process of transformation conferring an unlimited culture lifespan on the cells.

**Celsius scale /**
The international name for the centigrade scale of temperature, on which the freezing point and boiling point are 0° C and 100° C, respectively, at a barometric pressure of 760 mm hg.
Source: Banco Mundial
Center of gravity /  
(1) The point in a body through which the resultant of the parallel forces of gravity, acting on all particles of the body, passes, no matter in what position the body is held. (2) The point in a plane surface through which the resultant of a force uniformly applied over such a surface might be considered to act.  
Source: Banco Mundial

Centigrade /  
A thermometer temperature scale in which 0 degrees marks the freezing point and 100 degrees the boiling point of water at 760 mm of mercury barometric pressure. Also called Celsius scale. To convert temperature on this scale to Fahrenheit, multiply by 9/5 and add 32.  
Source: Banco Mundial

Centrifugal collector /  
A mechanical system using centrifugal force to remove aerosols from a gas stream or to dewater sludge.  
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Centrifugal pumps / Bombas centrífugas  
A pump consisting of an impeller fixed on a rotating shaft and enclosed in a casing, and having an inlet and a discharge connection. The rotating impeller creates pressure in the liquid by the velocity derived from centrifugal force.  
Source: Banco Mundial

Certification /  
A program to substantiate the capabilities of personnel by documentation of experience and learning in a defined area of endeavor.  
Source: Banco Mundial

Certified reference material / Material de referencia certificado  
Reference material for which one or more of its values are certified by a technically valid procedure, accompanied by, or likely to become accompanied by, a certificate or other document issued by a certification body.  
Source: Korc M.E., Farias F., Cevala R. El proceso de fijación y revisión de normas de calidad del aire. Lima: CEPIS; 2000. (CEPIS)

Synonyms:  
CRM  
Related terms:  
Reference material

cfs /  
The rate of flow of a material in cubic feet per second. Used for measurement of water, wastewater, or gas. One cfs equals 4.719x10^-4 m^3/s.  
Source: Banco Mundial  
Synonyms:  
Cubic feet per second

cgs system /  
A metric system of physical measurements in which the fundamental units of length, mass, and time are the centimeter, the gram, and the mean solar second.  
Source: Banco Mundial

Chain grate stoker /  
A stoker with a moving chain as a grate surface. The grate consists of links mounted on rods to form a continuous surface that is generally driven by a shaft with sprockets.  
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996  
Related terms:  
Stoker
Chambers / Cámaras
Any space enclosed by walls, or a compartment; often prefixed by a descriptive word indicating its function, such as grit chamber, screen chamber, discharge chamber, flushing chamber.
Source: Banco Mundial

An enclosed space inside an incinerator.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Synonyms:
Boxes
Related terms:
Catchment works
Primary chamber

Charge /
The amount of solid waste introduced into a furnace at one time or, in the steel industry, the addition of iron and steel scrap or other materials into the top of an electric arc furnace.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Related terms:
Solid waste disposal

Charge rate /
Quantity of waste material loaded into a waste disposal system over a unit of time usually expressed in pounds or kilograms of waste per hour.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a

Related terms:
Charge
Solid waste disposal

Charging chute /
An overhead passage through which waste materials drop into an incinerator.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Charging gate /
A horizontal, movable cover that closes the opening on a top-charging furnace.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Charging hopper /
An enlarged opening at the top of a charging chute.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Related terms:
Charging chute

Checker work /
A pattern of multiple openings through which the products of combustion pass to accelerate the turbulent mixing of gases.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Chelation / Quelación
In chemistry, this describes the combination of a metallic ion with heterocyclic ring structures in such a way that the ion is held by bonds from each of the rings.

Related terms:
Combination
Metallic ion
Heterocyclic ring structures
Chemical oxygen demand / Demanda química de oxígeno
A quantitative measure of the amount of oxygen required for the chemical oxidation of carbonaceous (organic) material in wastewater using inorganic dichromate of permanganate salts as oxidants in a two-hour test. Commonly abbreviated COD.
Source:Banco Mundial
Synonyms:
COD
Related terms:
Aeration
Oxygen level
Dissolved oxygen
Oxygen consumption
Water chemical characteristics
Oxigenation
Water analysis
Water contamination
Biochemical oxygen demand
Biological oxygen demand

Chemical process / Procesos químicos
Any water or wastewater treatment process involving the addition of chemicals to obtain a desired result such as precipitation, coagulation, flocculation, sludge conditioning, disinfection, or odor control.
Source:Banco Mundial
Synonyms:
Chemical treatment
Related terms:
Chemical reaction
Chemistry

Chemosis / Quemosis
In medicine, this is the term given to any swelling around the eye caused by exposure to a chemical, the result of oedema of the conjunctiva.
Related terms:
Swelling around the eye
Oedema of the conjunctiva
Chemical compounds exposure

Chlorination / Cloración
The application of chlorine or chlorine compounds to water or wastewater, generally for the purpose of disinfection, but frequently for chemical oxidation and odor control.
Source:Banco Mundial
Synonyms:
Declorination
Related terms:
Chlorine
Chloramines
Chlorinators
Chlorine demand
Halogenation
Water odour
Water flavour
Swimming pool sanitation
Trihalomethanes
Chlorination chamber /
A detention basic provided primarily to secure the diffusion of chlorine through the liquid. Also called chlorine contact chamber.
Source:Banco Latino
Synonymes:
Chlorine contact chamber

Chlorinators / Cloradores
Any metering device which is used to add chlorine to water or wastewater.
Source:Banco Mundial
Related terms:
Dosing
Chlorination

Chlorine / Cloro
An element ordinarily existing as a greenish-yellow gas about 2.5 times as heavy as air. The chemical symbol of chlorine is C1, its atomic weight is 35.457, and its molecular weight is 70.914.
Source:Banco Mundial
Related terms:
Chlorine compounds
Water disinfectants
Chlorination
Irritating gases
Chlorine residual

Chlorine demand / Demanda de cloro
The quantity of chlorine that would be consumed in a specified period by reaction with substances present in water, if the chlorine supply were not limited. The demand for any given water varies with both time of contact and temperature.
Source:Banco Mundial
Related terms:
Chlorination

Chlorine residual /
The amount of chlorine in all forms remaining in water or wastewater after treatment to ensure disinfection for a period of time.
Source:Banco Mundial
Related terms:
Chlorine

Chlorine room /
A separate room or building for housing chlorine and chlorination equipment, with arrangements for protecting personnel and plant equipment.
Source:Banco Mundial
**Chlorofluorocarbons / Clorofluorocarbonos**
A group of chemical compounds used in industry and in the household, of which the excessive and universal use is believed to be one of the causes of ozone depletion, with resulting environmental damage.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Organic compound(s) derived from the complete substitution of the hydrogen atoms in methane and ethane with both fluorine and chlorine atoms. They are colourless, odourless gas(es) containing carbon, chlorine and fluorine, acronym CFC; extremely stable in the troposphere, but unstable in the stratosphere. Some of them are known to contribute to the depletion of ozone in the stratosphere.


**Incendios de vegetación**

**Synonymes:** Chlorofluorocarbon

**Related terms:** Chemical compounds, Air contamination, Ozone

**Choking agents / Agentes sofocantes**
Substances that cause physical injury to the lungs. Exposure is through inhalation. In extreme case, membranes swell and lungs become filled with liquid (pulmonary edema). Death results from lack of oxygen; hence, the victim is "choked". Phosgene (CG) is a choking agent.

Symptoms: irritation to eyes/nose/throat, respiratory distress, nausea and vomiting, burning of exposed skin.


**Cholinesterase and pseudocholinesterase inhibitors / Inhibidores de la colinesterasa y seudocolinesterasa**
These are substances which inhibit the enzyme cholinesterase and thus enhance and subsequently prevent transmission of nerve impulses from one nerve cell to another or to a muscle.


**Related terms:** Cholinesterase

**Chromosomal aberration / Aberración cromosómica**
Any abnormality of chromosome number or structure may be described as an aberration.

Chronic exposure / Exposición crónica
Continued exposures occurring over an extended period of time, or a significant fraction of the test species’ or the group of individuals’, or the population’s lifetime (usually >10%).
Synonyms:
Long term exposure

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease / Enfermedad pulmonar obstructiva crónica
A disease process that decreases the ability of the lungs to perform ventilation. Diagnostic criteria include a history of persistent dyspneic exertion, with or without chronic cough, and less than half of normal predicted maximum breathing capacity. Diseases that cause this condition are chronic bronchitis, pulmonary emphysema, chronic asthma, and chronic bronchiolitis.
Related terms:
Asthma
Bronchitis
Dyspnea
Emphysema

Chronic toxicity / Toxicidad crónica
Adverse effects occurring as a result of repeated dosing with a chemical on a daily basis, or exposure to the chemical, for a large part of an organism’s lifespan (usually more than 50%). With experimental animals, this usually means a period of exposure of more than 3 months. Chronic exposure studies over 2 years using rats or mice are used to assess the carcinogenic potential of chemicals.
Related terms:
Toxicity
Acute toxicity
Carcinogenicity

Chute-fed incinerator /
An incinerator that is charged through a chute that extends above it.
Source:Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
Incinerator

Civil protection / Protección civil
The organized actions of planning, training, preparedness and response to all emergencies at the local and national levels, with the view to protecting the civilian population in case of natural catastrophe, man-made disaster or war. As a wider, all-hazards approach, the term is now preferred to and covers civil defence.
Source:Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Civil protection program

Clamshell bucket /
A vessel used to hoist and convey materials; it has two jaws that clamp together when it is lifted by specially attached cables.
Source:Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Clarification / Any process or combination of processes, the primary purpose of which is to reduce the concentration of suspended matter in a liquid. Term formerly used as synonym of settling or sedimentation. In recent years latter terms preferable when describing settling process.
Source: Banco Mundial
Related terms: Sedimentation

Clarifier / Any large circular or rectangular sedimentation tank used to remove settleable solids in water or wastewater. A special type of clarifiers, called upflow clarifiers, use floatation rather than sedimentation to remove solids.
Source: Banco Mundial

Classification / The separation and rearrangement of waste materials according to composition (e.g., organic or inorganic), size, weight, color, shape, and the like, using specialized equipment.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms: Solid waste segregation

Clastogenesis / Clastogénesis This is any process resulting in chromosomal breaks and gain, loss, or rearrangement of pieces of chromosomes.
Synonyms: Mutagenesis
Related terms: Clastogens Clastogenic Mutagens Mutagenic Mutagenicity Mutations Genetics Pesticides Teratogenesis Teratogenicity Teratogenic Teratogens
Clastogenic / Clastogénico
This is the adjective applied to any substance or process causing chromosomal breaks.
Synonymes:
- Mutagenic
Related terms:
- Clastogens
- Clastogenesis
- Mutagens
- Mutagenicity
- Mutations
- Genetics
- Pesticides
- Teratogenesis
- Teratogenicity
- Teratogenic
- Teratogens

Clastogens / Clastógenos
Any substance which causes chromosomal breaks.
Synonymes:
- Mutagens
- Mutagenic substances
Related terms:
- Clastogenesis
- Clastogenic
- Mutations
- Genetics
- Pesticides
- Teratogenesis
- Teratogenicity
- Teratogenic
- Teratogens

Climate / Clima
Synthesis of weather conditions in a given area, characterised by long-term statistics (mean values, variances, probabilities of extreme values, etc.) of the meteorological elements in that area.
Related terms:
- Climatology
- Meteorologic statistics
- Climate effects
- Temperature
- Climatic zones
Climatic change / Cambio climático
Change observed in the climate on a global, regional or subregional scale caused by natural processes and/or human activity.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Climate
- Climatology

Climatic zone / Zona climática
Wide region of the earth sharing a generally similar climate, along the same latitudes, limited by mountains, plains, bodies of water and other atmospheric factors.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Continental climate
- Equatorial climate
- Maritime climate
- Monsoon climate
- Mountain climate

Climatography / Climatografía
Numerical presentation of the components of a region’s climate by the use of maps, charts, graphs, models, diagrams, texts, etc.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Climate
- Cartography
- Maps

Climatological forecast / Parte meteorológico
Forecast based on studies of the climate of a region and not on the dynamic consequences of the current weather (Not to be confused with weather forecast).
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Climatology

Climatology / Climatología
The study of climates, including the statistical average variations, distribution and frequencies of the meteorological elements.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Climate
- Hydrometeorology
- Meteorology
- Climatic zones

Clinkers /
Hard, sintered, or fused pieces of residue formed in a furnace by the agglomeration of ash, metals, glass, and ceramics.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Co-metabolism / Co-metabolismo
Process by which a normally non-biodegradable substance is biodegraded only in the presence of an additional carbon source.

CO₂ / CO₂
Carbon dioxide gas.

Coagulants (Water treatment) / Coagulantes (Tratamiento del agua)
A simple electrolyte, usually an inorganic salt containing a multivalent cation of iron, aluminum, or calcium, for example, FeC13, FeC12, A12(SO4)3, Ca0. Also, an inorganic acid or base which induces coagulation of suspended solids.
Source: Banco Mundial
Synonyms:
Flocculants
Flocculation agents

Coagulation (Water treatment) / Coagulación (Tratamiento del agua)
The conversion of colloidal
Source: Banco Mundial
Related terms:
Absorption
Chemical clarification
Velocity gradient
Colloids
Zeta potential
Chemical precipitation
Physicochemical treatment
Flocculation
Coagulation basin

Coagulation basin /
A basin used for the coagulation of suspended or colloidal matter, with or without the addition of a coagulant, in which the liquid is mixed gently to induce agglomeration with a consequent increase in settling velocity of particulates.
Source: Banco Mundial
Related terms:
Coagulation

Coal refuse /
Waste products of coal mining, cleaning, and coal preparation operations and containing coal, matrix material, clay, and other organic and inorganic material.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
Solid wastes

Coarse screen /
A relative term, applicable to mesh or bar screen in which the openings are greater than 2.5 cm in least dimension, except in the case of racks.
Source: Banco Mundial
Related terms:
Bar screen
Coasts / Costas
Shoreline of variable contours where the land, sea and atmosphere meet with consequent environmental, social and economic influences.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Synonyms:
- Litoral
- Coastal areas
- Coastal zones
- Coastal line
Related terms:
- Coastal water
- Bays
- Marine environment
- Coastal contamination
- Coastal streams

Codisposal / Codisposición
The technique in which sludge is combined with other combustible materials (e.g., refuse, refuse-derived fuel, coal), to form a furnace feed with a higher heating value than the original sludge.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
- Land application
- Subsurface mines
- Solid waste disposal
- Secure landfills
- Sanitary landfills

Coefficient of tide / Coeficiente de la marea
The relation, at a given place, between the tidal range and the mean tidal range during a defined period.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Coffin /
A thick-walled container (usually lead) used for transporting radioactive materials.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Cold drying hearth /
A surface upon which unheated waste materials are placed to dry or to burn. Hot combustion gases are then passed over the materials.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
- Drying hearth
- Hearth

Cold zones / Zonas frías
Areas where the command post and support functions that are necessary to control the incidents are located. These are also referred to as the clean zones, green zones or support zones in other documents.
Synonyms:
- Climatic zones
Related terms:
- Cold climate
- Glacial ecosystem
Collection center / A facility designed to accept reusable, recyclable or compostable materials from public or private sources.
Source: State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.

Collection efficiency / The ratio of the weight of pollutant collected to the total weight of pollutant entering the collector.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a

Collection systems / Sistemas de recogida In wastewater, a system of conduits, generally underground pipes, which receives and conveys sanitary wastewater and/or storm water. In water supply, a system of conduits or canals used to capture a water supply and convey it to a common point.
Source: Banco Mundial

Collector / Companies which pick up materials from various local sources and sell accumulated quantities to brokers, processors and scrap consumers.
Source: State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.
Related terms: Hauler

Combined sewerage / Alcantarillado combinado
A sewer intended to receive both wastewater and storm or surface water.
Source: Banco Mundial
Synonyms: Combined sewerage systems
Combined sewer
Related terms: Combined sewerage overflow
Runoff coefficient

Combined wastewater / A mixture of surface runoff and other wastewater such as domestic or industrial wastewater.
Source: Banco Mundial

Combustible liquid / Líquido combustible
Liquids which have a flash point greater than 60.5°C(141°F) and below 93°C(200°F). U.S. regulations permit a flammable liquid with a flash point between 38°C(100°F) and 60.5°C(141°F) to be reclassified as a combustible liquid.

Combustible solid waste / Residuo sólido combustible
Wastes that burn in presence of oxygen by action of a spark or any other source of ignition.
Source: BID Inglés

Combustibles / Materials that can be ignited at a specific temperature in the presence of air to release heat energy.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Combustion / Combustión
A chemical reaction in which a material combines with oxygen with the evolution of heat: "burning". The combustion of fuels containing carbon and hydrogen is said to be complete when these two elements are all oxidized to carbon dioxide and water. Incomplete combustion may lead to (1) appreciable amounts of carbon remaining in the ash; (2) emission of some of the carbon as carbon monoxide; and (3) reaction of the fuel molecules to give a range of products of greater complexity than that of the fuel molecules themselves (if these products escape combustion they are emitted as smoke).

Source: OMS. Guidelines for air quality

The controlled burning of municipal solid waste to reduce volume, and, commonly, to recover energy.

Source: EPA. The consumer's handbook for reducing solid waste.

The production of heat and light energy through a chemical process, usually oxidation.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Related terms:
- Fossil fuels
- Sludge combustion
- Oxidation
- Calorific power

Combustion air /
The air used for burning a fuel.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Related terms:
- Primary combustion air
- Secondary combustion air

Combustion gases /
The mixture of gases and vapors produced by burning.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Related terms:
- Gases
- Vapor

Commercial waste / Residuo comercial
Waste from shops, offices, businesses and places of entertainment.

Wastes, Controlled Household, industrial, and commercial waste or any such waste that is subject to legal controls.

Source: IPCS

All types of solid wastes generated by stores, offices, restaurants, warehouses, and other non-manufacturing activities, excluding residential and industrial wastes.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a

Wastes generated in commercial establishments, such as warehouses, deposits, hotels, restaurants, cafeterias, and market places.

Source: BID Inglés

Synonyms:
- Commercial solid waste

Related terms:
- Commercial waste
- Solid waste
Common law
That body of law developed in England prior to the establishment of the United States. It refers principally to rights and privileges and, while generally followed in the United States, has in some of its application been abrogated or modified, as in the case of riparian rights to water in some jurisdictions in the United States.
Source: Banco Mundial

Common sewer
A sewer in which all owners of abutting properties have equal rights.
Source: Banco Mundial

Communicable disease control / Control de enfermedades transmisibles
All policies, precautions and measures taken to prevent the outbreak or spread of communicable diseases.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Communicable diseases
- Epidemiology
- Quarantine

Communicable period / Periodo de transmisión
Period during which an infectious agent can be transmitted directly or indirectly from one person or animal to another person or animal.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Communication resources / Recursos en materia de comunicaciones
Inventory of all public and private communication facilities: police, fire, military, government, private radio, amateur (HAM) radio operators, newspapers, other new media, television, telephone and telex, satellite and other facilities that can be used in time of disaster.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Emergency communications center
- Amateur radio operators
- Satellite applications
- Remote sensors

Compaction / Compactación
Compaction or densification of waste or recoverable materials by baling, shredding and/or compaction.
Source: State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.
Synonyms:
- Volume reduction

Comparability / Comparabilidad
The degree of reliability with which one database or method can be compared with another.
Source: Korc M.E., Farias F., Cevala R. El proceso de fijación y revisión de normas de calidad del aire. Lima: CEPIS; 2000. (CEPIS)
**Competence examination / Examen de competencia**

Determination of a laboratory’s performance in calibration, assays or analysis by comparison among laboratories.


**Complete mineralization / Mineralización completa**

A theoretical concept involving complete breakdown of an organic compound into inorganic compounds. However, over the timescale of a biodegradability test, ultimate biodegradation rather than complete mineralization will be observed because a proportion of the compounds will be utilized for the synthesis of new cell material. In practice, these natural products will themselves eventually undergo biodegradation and the terms ‘ultimate biodegradation’ and ‘complete mineralization’ are often used interchangeably.


**Complete treatment**

In an imprecise and general sense, the processing of domestic and some industrial wastewaters by means of primary and secondary treatment. It may include other specialized types of treatment and disinfection. A high percentage removal of suspended, colloidal, and dissolved organic matter is implied.

Source: Banco Mundial

**Composite sample**

A combination of individual samples of water or wastewater taken at pre-selected intervals to minimize the effect of the variability of the individual sample. Individual sub-samples may be of equal volume or may be proportional to the flow at time of sampling.

Source: Banco Mundial

**Compost / Compostado**

Relatively stable, decomposed organic material.

Source: State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.

A relatively stable mixture of decomposed organic waste materials, generally used to fertilize and condition the soil.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

**Related terms:**

- Calibration laboratory
- Biodegradability test
- Ultimate biodegradation
- Treatment
- Automatic sampling
- Grab sample
- Manure
- Sludge conditioning
- Composting
- Faeces
Composting / Compostificación
The controlled microbial decomposition of organic matter (such as food scraps and yard trimmings) in the presence of oxygen into a humus- or soil-like material.
Source: EPA. The consumer's handbook for reducing solid waste.
The controlled microbial degradation of organic waste to yield a humus-like product.
Source: State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.
Related terms:
- Solid waste processing
- Compost
- Composting plants
- Biogas
- Worm breeding
- Organic wastes
- Waste reduction

Computer printout /
A paper grade: computer paper, white or with green bars.
Source: State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.

Concentration at ground level / Concentración al nivel del suelo
The degree of concentration of a pollutant in the air, measured from ground level up to an adult person's height.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Air pollutants

Concentration tank /
A settling tank of relatively short detention period in which sludge is concentrated by sedimentation or floatation before treatment, dewatering, or disposal.
Source: Banco Mundial

Concentration-effect curve / Curva de concentración-efecto
This is a graph produced to show the relationship between the exposure concentration of a drug or xenobiotic and the magnitude of graded effect that it produces.
Related terms:
- Concentration-response curve
- Dose-response curve

Concentration-response curve / Curva de concentración-respuesta
This is a graph produced to show the relation between the exposure concentration of a drug or xenobiotic and the degree of response it produces, as measured by the percentage of the exposed population showing a defined, often quantal, effect. If the effect determined is death, the curve may be used to estimate an LC50 value.
Related terms:
- Concentration-effect curve
- Dose-response curve
Concession / Concesión
Partial or total delivery of solid waste management services to individuals or private enterprises by the government or municipality.
Source: BID Inglés
Related terms:
Solid waste management

Condensation / Condensación
1. The transition from the gaseous to the liquid state. 2. The physical process by which water vapor is transformed into dew, fog or cloud droplets.
Source: OMS. Vegetation fire events
The physical process of converting a substance from the gaseous phase to the liquid phase via the removal of heat and/or the application of pressure.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a
Related terms:
Photochemical mist
Hydrologic cycle
Evaporation
Humidity
Distillation
Chemical precipitation
Rain

Condensation nucleus / Núcleo de condensación
Nucleus on which water vapor can condense.
Related terms:
Nucleus
Condensation

Conduction /
The transfer of heat by physical contact between substances.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Conical burner /
A hollow, cone-shaped combustion chamber with an exhaust vent at its point and a door at its base through which waste materials are normally charged; air is delivered to the burning waste inside the cone. Also called a teepee burner.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Synonyms:
Teepee burner
Related terms:
Combustion chamber

Coning / Expansión en forma de cono
Formation of a pollution plume which trails downwind of a source in the form of a cone. This normally occurs when the environment has near-neutral stability.
Conjugate / Conjugado
In chemistry, this is a water soluble derivative of a chemical formed by its combination with glucuronic acid, glutathione, sulphate, acetate, glycine, etc. Usually conjugation takes place in the liver and facilitates excretion of chemicals that would otherwise tend to accumulate in the body because of their solubility in body fat.


Conjunctiva / Conjuntiva
The term applied to the mucous membrane that covers the eyeball and the undersurface of the eyelids.


Related terms:
Conjunctivitis

Conservation /
The protection, improvement, and use of natural resources according to principles that will ensure their highest economic or social benefits.

Source:Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Related terms:
Water conservation
Environment conservation

Construction and demolition waste /
The waste building materials, packaging, and rubble resulting from construction, remodeling, and demolition operations on pavements, houses, commercial buildings, and other structures.

Source:Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Related terms:
Construction waste

Construction and demolition wastes /
The waste building materials, packaging, and rubble resulting from construction, remodeling, and demolition operations on pavements, houses, commercial buildings, and other structures.

Source:Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Related terms:
Construction waste

Construction grants /
Financial aid for the construction of publicly owned wastewater treatment facilities or interceptor sewers under national or state legislation.

Source:Banco Mundial

Consumer waste /
Materials used and discarded by the buyer, or consumer, as opposed to wastes created and discarded in-plant during the manufacturing process.

Source:Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Related terms:
Solid wastes
Contact bed /
(1) An artificial bed of coarse material providing extensive surface area for biological growth in a watertight basis. Wastewater exposure to the surface may be accomplished by cycling or by continuous flow through controlled inlet and outlet. (2) An early type of wastewater filter consisting of a bed of coarse broken stone or similar inert material placed in a watertight tank or basin which can be completely filled with wastewater and then emptied. Operation consists of fillings, allowing the contents to remain for a short time, draining, and then allowing the bed to rest. The cycle is then repeated. A precursor to the trickling filter.
Source: Banco Mundial
Related terms:
- Trickling filter

Contact chamber /
Any large tank in which water or wastewater can be mixed with and allowed to react with a disinfectant, or other chemical agent.
Source: Banco Mundial

Container / Contenedor
Variable-capacity receptacle used for solid waste storage.
Source: BID Inglés
Related terms:
- Solid waste storage
- Urban cleaning
- Solid waste recipients

Continental anticyclone / Anticiclón continental
Anticyclone situated over a continent during the cold season, caused mainly by prolonged cooling of the earth's surface and by low temperatures in the lower layers of the atmosphere.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Anticyclone
- Semipermanent anticyclone
- Subtropical anticyclone

Continental climate / Clima continental
The typical climate of the interior of continents characterized by the large annual or daily amplitude of the temperature.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Climate
- Climatic zone

Continental erosion / Erosión continental
Disintegration, in every form, of the soil through the effect of atmospheric agents: frost, dripping, wind, temperature variations, chemical reactions, streaming.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Eolic erosion
Continental shelf / Plataforma continental
The submarine continuation of the margins of the continent extending beneath the sea at a gentle slope.
Source:Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Continental slope

Continuous-feed incinerator /
An incinerator into which solid waste is charged almost continuously to maintain a steady rate of burning.
Source:Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
Incinerator

Control group / Grupo de control
Comparison group, identified as a rule before a study is done, which comprises humans, animals, or other species who do not have the disease, intervention, procedure or whatever is being studied, but in all other respects is as nearly identical to the test group as possible.
Synonyms:
Test group
Related terms:
Comparison group

Control limit / Límite de control
A regulatory value applied to the airborne concentration in the workplace of a potentially toxic substance which is judged to be "reasonably practicable" for the whole spectrum of work activities and which must not normally be exceeded.
Related terms:
Toxic substances

Controlled area incinerator /
An incinerator excess or starved air with two or more combustion chambers in which the amounts and distribution of air are controlled.
Source:Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
Incinerator

Controlled discharge /
Regulation of effluent flow rates to correspond with flow variations in receiving waters, to maintain established water quality.
Source:Banco Mundial
Controlled wastes / Residuo controlado
Household, industrial, and commercial waste or any such waste that is subject to legal controls.
Related terms:
Household waste
Industrial waste
Commercial waste
Legal control

Conurbation / Aglomeración urbana
The comprehensive system composed of a town and its extensions, with suburbs, shopping centre, station, green spaces, etc.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Convection / Convección
Organised internal motions within a layer or air, leading to vertical transport of heat, momentum, etc. In air, the convection most commonly occurs as the result of the buoyancy of a mass of air in contact with a hot surface, which leads to a vertical current of air above that surface. Convection may also occur by means of air currents and eddies that are set up mechanically, as when air passes over high ground.
Related terms:
Heat
Mixed layer

Convective storm / Tormenta convectiva
Storm with strong vertical air mass movements.
Related terms:
Storm

Convention refugee / Refugiado acogido al Convenio
Person who meets the definition of Article I of the 1951 UN Convention relative to the status of refugees.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
De jure refugee
Refugees

Conventional treatment /
Well-known or well-established wastewater treatment processes, excluding advanced or tertiary treatment; it generally consists of primary and secondary treatment.
Source: Banco Mundial
Related terms:
Wastewater treatment
Primary treatment
Secondary treatment
**Corrosion / Corrosión**

The gradual wearing away of a substance by chemical action.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

**Related terms:**
- Corrosive water
- Hydrochloric acid
- Anticorrosives
- Electrochemistry
- Electrolysis
- Corrosion inhibitors
- Oxidation

**Corrosion of tissue / Corrosión del tejido**

This is the destruction of tissue by a substance on direct contact.


**Related terms:**
- Corrosive of tissue

**Critical sludge retention time / Tiempo crítico de retención de lodo**

The critical sludge retention time is the SRT below which the competent microorganisms will be washed out of sewage treatment plants and biodegradation will cease.


**Synonymes:**
- SRTc

**Related terms:**
- Sludge retention time
- SRT

**Crop moisture ratio / Razón cosecha-humedad**

The ratio of precipitation to the potential evapotranspiration. An index for assessment of agricultural drought.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

**Related terms:**
- Precipitation
- Evapotranspiration
- Droughts

**Crop rotation / Rotación de cultivos**

Cultivation of successive different crops on the same land, over a number of seasons, in order to maintain the fertility of the soil.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Cross connection /
(1) A physical connection through which a supply of potable water could be contaminated or polluted. (2) A connection between a supervised potable water supply and an unsupervised supply of unknown potability.
Source: Banco Mundial

Cryogenic liquid / Líquido criogénico
A refrigerated, liquefied gas that has a boiling point colder than -90°C (-130°F) at atmospheric pressure.
Synonyms:
Refrigerated liquid

Cullet /
Clean, color-sorted, crushed glass. Cullet is added to raw materials during glassmaking since it can increase the rate of heat gain, thus reducing melting time and fuel costs.
Source: State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.

Curbside collection / Recogida en acera
A method of collecting recyclable materials at individual homes or places of business by municipal or private parties for transfer to a designated collection site or recycling facility.
Source: EPA. The consumer’s handbook for reducing solid waste.
Related terms:
Solid waste collection

Curie / Curie
A measure of radioactivity.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
Radioactivity

Current water meter / Molinete
Instrument for measuring the velocity of water.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Hydraulic measurement
Velocity measurement

Curtain wall /
A refractory construction or baffle that deflects combustion gases downward.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Cyclone / Ciclón
A large-scale closed circulation system in the atmosphere with low barometric pressure and strong winds that rotate counter clockwise in the northern hemisphere and clockwise in the southern hemisphere. The system is referred to as a cyclone in the Indian Ocean and South Pacific, hurricane in the western Atlantic and eastern Pacific and typhoon in the western Pacific.
Source: CRID

A device in which the velocity of an inlet gas stream is transformed into a confined vortex from which inertial forces tend to drive particles to the wall.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Synonyms:
Hurricane
Typhoon

Related terms:
Gales
Meteorological disasters

Cyclone separator /
A separator that uses a swirling airflow to sort mixed materials according to the size, weight, and density of the pieces.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Cyclone warning / Aviso de ciclón
Meteorological message intended to warn the population concerned of the existence or approach of a cyclone. It may be accompanied by advice on the protective measures to take.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Related terms:
Cyclones
Meteorological disasters
Warning

Cytogenetics / Citogenética
Cytogenetics is that part of the science of genetics which correlates the structure and number of chromosomes with heredity and genetic variability.

Cytoplasm / Citoplasm
In cell biology, this term is applied to the ground substance of the cell in which are situated the cell organelles such as the nucleus, mitochondria, endoplasmic reticulum, ribosomes, etc.

Cytotoxic / Citotóxico
The adjective applied to anything that is harmful to cell structure and function and ultimately causing cell death.
Dairy waste /  
The waste generated by dairy plants in their processing of milk to produce cream, butter, cheese, ice cream, and other dairy products.  
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996  
Related terms:  
Dairy products industry

Damage evaluation / Evaluación de daños  
Detailed evaluation and determination of the actual damages caused by a disaster.  
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)  
Synonymes:  
Damage estimate  
Damage assessment  
Related terms:  
Civil defense  
Evaluation  
Disaster planning  
Sanitation in disasters  
Environmental impact

Damage prediction / Pronóstico de daños  
Survey of a real or potential disaster to estimate the actual or expected damages and to make recommendations for prevention, preparedness and response.  
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)  
Related terms:  
Consequence analysis  
Prevention

Damper /  
An adjustable plate installed in a duct to regulate gas flow.  
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a  
Related terms:  
Barometric damper

Damping / Amortiguar  
Limitation of movement or dissipation of energy.  
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Dams / Represas  
Barrier across a stream provided with a series of gates or other control mechanisms to control the water-surface level upstream, to regulate the flow or to divert water supplies into a canal.  
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)  
Synonymes:  
Barrages  
Related terms:  
Hydroelectric energy  
Impoundings
Dangerous water reactive material / Productos reactivos con el agua
Produces significant toxic gas when it comes in contact with water.
Related terms:
Toxic gas

Data capture / Captura de datos
The measure of a quantity of valid data obtained by a system of measurement in comparison with what is expected under correct and normal operating conditions.
Source: Korc M.E., Farias F., Cevala R. El proceso de fijación y revisión de normas de calidad del aire. Lima: CEPIS; 2000. (CEPIS)

De facto refugee / Refugiado de hecho
A term used for two categories of persons: a) persons who fulfil the requirements of a refugee definition but who, for various reasons, such as procedural delay in submitting the application within a specified time, have not been registered as refugees; or b) persons who cannot prove a justified fear of persecution within the meaning of the refugee definition, but who are considered, on similar grounds, to have valid reasons for not wishing to return to their country of origin.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Refugees

De jure refugee / Refugiado a derecho
Person recognized as a refugee according to the international accords prior to the 1951 Convention on the status of refugees, as defined by Article I.A of that Convention.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Convention refugee
Refugees

De minimis risk / Riesgo de minimis
Risk which is negligible and too small to be of societal concern (usually assumed to be a probability below 10^-5 or 10^-6); can also mean "virtually safe". In the USA, this is a legal term used to mean "negligible risk to the individual".
Related terms:
Negligible risk

Debt service /
The amount of money necessary annually; (a) to pay the interest on outstanding debt; (b) to pay the principal of maturing bonded debt not payable from a sinking fund; or (c) to provide a fund for the redemption of bonds payable from a sinking fund.
Source: Banco Mundial
Decibel / Decibelio

Decibel, one-tenth of a bel.

Unit of level when the base of the logarithm is the tenth root of ten, and the quantities concerned are proportional to power; unit symbol dB.

Source:OMS. Community noise

A unit of sound measurement.

Source:Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Synonyms:
- dB

Related terms:
- Bel
- Sound

Declaration of emergency / Declaración de emergencia

Official issuance of a state of emergency upon the occurrence of a large-scale calamity, in order to activate measures aimed at the reduction of the disaster’s impact.

Source:Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Related terms:
- Security measures
- Disaster planning

Decomposition of wastewater /

(1) The breakdown of organic matter in wastewater by bacterial action, either aerobic or anaerobic. (2) Chemical or biological transformation of organic or inorganic materials contained in wastewater.

Source:Banco Mundial

Related terms:
- Aerobic decomposition
- Anaerobic decomposition

Decomposition products / Productos de descomposición

Products of a chemical or thermal break-down of a substance.


Related terms:
- Pyrolysis
Decontamination / Descontaminación

The removal of dangerous goods from personnel and equipment to the extent necessary to prevent potential adverse health effects. Always avoid direct or indirect contact with dangerous goods; however, if contact occurs, personnel should be decontaminated as soon as possible. Since the methods used to decontaminate personnel and equipment differ from one chemical to another, contact the chemical manufacturer to determine the appropriate procedure. Contaminated clothing and equipment should be removed after use and stored in a controlled area (warm/contamination reduction/limited access zone) until cleanup procedures can be initiated. In some cases, protective clothing and equipment cannot be decontaminated and must be disposed of in a proper manner.

Source: CANUTEC

Processes which will convert pesticides into nontoxic compounds or the selective removal of radioactive material from a surface or from within another material.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Synonyms:
Detoxification

Related terms:
Contamination
Contaminants removal
Toxic substances

Deep-well injection /

Discharge of wastewater through a properly designed well, either by gravity or pumping, into a previous geological stratum. Well depth may range from a few hundred to several thousand feet.

Source: Banco Mundial

Disposal of raw or treated hazardous wastes by pumping them into deep wells for filtration through porous or permeable subsurface rock and then containment within surrounded layers of impermeable rock or clay.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Related terms:
Land application
Liquid disposal
Hazardous waste disposal

Deferred charges /

Expenditures not chargeable to the period in which made, but carried on the asset side of the balance sheet, pending amortization or other disposition. They include such items as discount on bond issues. Deferred charges usually involve expenses which are not to be spread over a relatively long period of time and which do not recur regularly in the operation of the enterprise. They are to be distinguished from other prepaid expenses which are usually spread over a short period of time and which recur more or less regularly in the operation of the enterprise.

Source: Banco Mundial

Deferred credits /

Credit balances or items spread over subsequent accounting periods either as an addition to income or as a reduction of certain expenses. Payments made in advance represent an example of the latter.

Source: Banco Mundial
**Deflation / Deflación**
The removal and erosion of soil by the wind.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. *(CRID)*

*Related terms:*
- Soil erosion
- Wind

**Degradation / Degradación**
The reduction of the complexity of a chemical substance to form simpler molecules by physical, chemical and/or biological processes.

*Related terms:*
- Biodegradation

**Degree of treatment /**
A measure of the removal effected by treatment processes with reference to solids, organic matter, BOD, bacteria, or any other specified parameter.
Source: Banco Mundial

**Delta / Delta**
Triangular configuration of a section of coast open to the sea, created by the alluvial deposits at the mouth of a river, often, but not always, traversed by its branches. Example: the Nile delta.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. *(CRID)*

*Related terms:*
- River

**Demister /**
A mechanical device used to remove entrained water droplets from a scrubbed gas stream.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a

**Demography / Demografía**
The quantitative study of human populations and their variations.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. *(CRID)*

*Related terms:*
- Population growth
- Demographic statistics
- Vital statistics
- Mortality
- Morbidity
- Population projection
- Population
Denitrification / Denitrificación
Reduction of nitrates to nitrites, nitrous oxides or dinitrogen (N₂) catalyzed by facultative aerobic soil bacteria under anaerobic conditions.

Related terms:
- Nitrogen cycle
- Nitrification
- Activated sludge
- Biological treatment
- Chemical reaction

Density factor / Grado de concentración
The ratio of the concentration of a radionuclide in an organism (organ or tissue) to the concentration of that radionuclide in the environment.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Related terms:
- Radionuclide

Denudation / Denudación
1. Geology: Stripping or laying bare of rocks by removal of the topping soil or other ground cover; 2. Medicine: Exposing a vein for intravenous infusion, e.g. for severe diarrhoea.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Deoxyribonucleic acid / Ácido desoxirribonucleico
DNA is the constituent of chromosomes which stores the hereditary information in the form of a sequence of nitrogenous bases. Much of this information relates to the synthesis of proteins.

Synonymes:
- DNA

Related terms:
- Ribonucleic acid (RNA)

Depreciation /
As applied to depreciable utility plant, the loss in service value not restored by current maintenance, due to all the factors causing the ultimate retirement of the property. The causes of depreciation may be classified as follows: sudden physical damage, physical decrepitude, obsolescence, inadequacy, and supersession before elapse of useful life; for instance, removal necessitated by street improvements.
Source: Banco Mundial

Related terms:
- Depreciation rate
- Obsolescence

Depreciation rate /
The rate of percentage at which value or usefulness of a property is exhausted.
Related terms:
- Depreciation
**Depth total of run-off / Altura de escorrentia**

Run-off volume from a drainage basin, divided by its area.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

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**Dermal irritation / Irritación dérmica**

This is a localized skin reaction resulting from either single or multiple exposure to a physical or chemical agent at the same site. It is characterized by redness and swelling and may be accompanied by local cell death.


*Related terms:*
- Chemical compounds exposure

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**Design criteria /**

(1) Engineering guidelines specifying construction details and materials. (2) Objectives, results, or limits which must be met by a facility, structure, or process in performance of its intended functions. See also design loadings.

Source: Banco Mundial

*Related terms:*
- Design loadings

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**Design loadings /**

Flow rates and constituent concentrations which determine the design of a process unit or facility necessary for proper operation.

Source: Banco Mundial

*Related terms:*
- Design criteria

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**Detection limit / Límite de detección**

Measure of the capacity of an analytical method to distinguish between samples that do not have a given component and samples that do contain that same given component. The lowest concentration above zero of the given component that can be determined by only one measurement within a specified level of probability.

Source: Korc M.E., Farias F., Cevala R. El proceso de fijación y revisión de normas de calidad del aire. Lima: CEPIS; 2000. (CEPIS)

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**Detention reservoir / Embalse de detención**

Flood storage reservoir with uncontrolled outlets.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

*Related terms:*
- Flood control
- Reservoirs
**Detergents / Detergentes**

A detergent is a cleaning or wetting agent, classed as anionic if it has a negative charge and cationic if it has a positive charge.


**Synonyms:**
- Foam

**Related terms:**
- Tensioactive agents
- Industrial effluents
- Eutrophication
- Detergent industry

**Detoxify / Destoxicar**

Reduce the toxicity of a substance either (1) by making it less harmful or (2) by treating patients suffering from poisoning in such a way as to reduce the probability and/or severity of harmful effects.


**Related terms:**
- Disintoxication

**Developmental toxicity / Toxicidad del desarrollo**

Adverse effects on the developing organism (including structural abnormality, altered growth, or functional deficiency or death) resulting from exposure prior to conception (in either parent), during prenatal development, or postnatally up to the time of sexual maturation.


**Related terms:**
- Adverse effects
- Structural abnormality
- Altered growth
- Functional Deficiency
- Death

**Dewatered sludge /**

The solid residue remaining after removal of water from a wet sludge by draining or filtering. Dewatering is distinguished from thickening in that dewatered sludge may be transported by solids handling procedures.

Source: Banco Mundial

**Related terms:**
- Dewatering

**Dewatering /**

A physical process which removes sufficient water from sludge so that its physical form is changed from that of a fluid to that of slurry or damp solid.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

**Related terms:**
- Dewatered sludge
**Diameter, equivalent / Diámetro equivalente**
The diameter of a spherical particle of the same density that, relative to a given phenomenon or property (e.g., free-falling velocity; surface area; volume; and aerodynamic properties) would behave as the particle under investigation.


**Diffusers / Difusores**
A porous plate, tube, or other device through which air is forced and divided into minute bubbles for diffusion in liquids. Commonly made of carborundum, alundum, metal, or plastic materials.

Source: Banco Mundial

Related terms:
- Diffusion
- Aeration
- Activated sludge

**Diffusion / Difusión**
The movement of a chemical from regions of high concentration to regions of low concentration by molecular motion.


Synonyms:
- Dispersion

Related terms:
- Diffusers
- Dilution
- Energy diffusion
- Contaminant dispersion

**Digested sludge /**
Sludge digested under either aerobic or anaerobic conditions until the volatile content has been reduced to the point at which the solids are relatively nonputrescible and inoffensive.

Source: Banco Mundial

Related terms:
- Sludge

**Digesters / Digestores**
A tank or other vessel for the storage and anaerobic or aerobic decomposition of organic matter present in sludge.

Source: Banco Mundial

Related terms:
- Activated sludge
- Anaerobic digestion
- Septic tanks
- Aerobic digestion
- Imhoff tanks

**Digestion /**
(1) The biological decomposition of organic matter in sludge, resulting in partial liquefaction, mineralization, and volume reduction. (2) The process carried out in a digester. See also sludge digestion.

Source: Banco Mundial

Related terms:
- Sludge digestion
- Activated sludge process
**Dilution / Dilución**
Disposal of wastewater or treated effluent by discharge to and dispersion in a receiving water with resulting reduction in concentrations of constituents, while accounting for background levels and natural assimilation processes.
Source: Banco Mundial

*Related terms:*
- Diffusion
- Discharge dilution

**Diplomatic missions / Misiones diplomáticas**
Temporary commission given by a government to a diplomat or a special agent for a specific service.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

**Disaster act / Leyes**
National legislation that provides the government or its appointed executive with special powers to mobilize the efforts and resources of the nation in face of a disaster or major emergency.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

*Related terms:*
- Disasters
- Disaster legislation

**Disaster area survey team / Equipo de inspección del área de desastre**
A group that is deployed in an area after a disaster to ascertain the extent of damage to population and property and to recommend appropriate responses.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

*Related terms:*
- Disasters
- Damage evaluation

**Disaster effects on the buildings / Efectos de desastres en las edificaciones**
Damages inflicted by a natural disaster or by a man-made disaster over a building.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

*Related terms:*
- Natural disasters
- Man made disasters
- Elements at risk

**Disaster epidemiology / Epidemiología de los desastres**
The medical discipline that studies the influence of such factors as the life style, biological constitution and other personal or social determinants on the incidence and distribution of diseases as it concerns disasters.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

*Related terms:*
- Disasters
- Transmissible diseases
- Epidemiology
**Disaster evaluation / Evaluación de desastres**
Post disaster appraisal of all aspects of the disaster and its effects.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
*Related terms:*
  - Disaster evaluation characteristics
  - Disaster effects on the buildings

**Disaster insurances / Seguros contra desastres**
Government sponsored or private insurance policies for protection against economic losses resulting from disaster.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
*Related terms:*
  - Disasters

**Disaster legislation / Legislación sobre desastres**
The body of laws and regulations that govern and designate responsibility for disaster management concerning the various phases of disaster.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
*Related terms:*
  - Disasters
  - Disaster management

**Disaster management / Administración de desastres**
The body of laws and regulations that govern and designate responsibility for disaster management concerning the various phases of disaster.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
*Related terms:*
  - Disaster planning

**Disaster medicine / Medicina de desastres**
The study and collaborative application of various health disciplines to the prevention, preparedness, immediate response and rehabilitation of the health problems arising from disaster, in co-operation with other disciplines involved in comprehensive disaster management.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
*Related terms:*
  - Emergency medicine
  - Disaster epidemiology
  - Disaster management

**Disaster phases / Fases de desastre**
Pre- and post-disaster periods subdivided into particular actions.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
*Related terms:*
  - Disasters
  - Disaster stages
Disaster planning / Planificación en desastres
An anticipatory emergency plan to be followed in an expected or eventual disaster, based on risk assessment, availability of human and material resources, community preparedness, local and international response capability, etc.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Synonyms:
- Emergency measures
- Emergency plans
Related terms:
- Damage evaluation
- Emergencies
- Civil defense

Disaster team / Equipo humanos
Multidisciplinary, multisectorial group of persons qualified to evaluate a disaster and to bring the necessary relief.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Disaster evaluation
- Disaster area survey team

Disasters / Desastres
A serious disruption of the functioning of a society, causing widespread human, material, or environmental losses which exceed the ability of affected society to cope using only its own resources. Disasters are often classified according to their speed of onset (sudden or slow), or according to their cause (natural or man-made).
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Synonyms:
- Catastrophes
Related terms:
- Vulnerability analysis
- Civil defense
- Emergencies in disasters
- Safety measures
- Disaster planning
- Sanitation in disasters
- Risk zones

Discharge (effluent, emission) standard / Estándar de descargas (efluentes, emisiones)
Maximum amount of a pollutant released from a given source to a specified medium which is acceptable under specified circumstances.
Synonyms:
- Release limit
Related terms:
- Pollutants

Disease / Enfermedad
A pathological condition of the body that presents a group of clinical signs, symptoms, and laboratory findings peculiar to it and setting the condition apart as an abnormal entity differing from other normal or pathological condition.
Disinfection /
(1) The killing of waterborne fecal and pathogenic bacteria and viruses in potable water supplies or wastewater effluents with a disinfectant; an operational term that must be defined within limits, such as achieving an effluent with no more than 200 colonies fecal coliform per 100 ml. (2) The killing of the larger portion of microorganisms, excluding bacterial spores, in or on a substance with the probability that all pathogenic forms are killed, inactivated, or otherwise rendered non-virulent.
Source: Banco Mundial

Dispersion / Dispersión
The movement of a chemical from regions of high concentration to regions of low concentration by turbulence.
Synonyms:
Diffusion
Related terms:
Contaminant dispersion

Dispersion parameters / Parámetros de dispersión
Parameters associated with stability classes in air.
Related terms:
Parameters

Dispersion technique /
The use of dilution to attain ambient air quality levels including any intermittent or supplemental control of air pollutants varying with atmospheric conditions.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
Air pollutants

Displaced persons / Personas desplazadas
Persons who, for different reasons or circumstances, have been compelled to leave their homes. They may or may not reside in their country of origin, but are not legally regarded as refugees.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Post disaster resettlement

Disposable product /
Any product with an essential part which cannot be recycled, refilled or renewed.
Source: State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.
Dissolved oxygen / Oxígeno disuelto
(1) The killing of waterborne fecal and pathogenic bacteria and viruses in potable water supplies or wastewater effluents with a disinfectant; an operational term that must be defined within limits, such as achieving an effluent with no more than 200 colonies fecal coliform per 100 ml. (2) The killing of the larger portation of microorganisms, excluding bacterial spores, in or on a substance with the probability that all pathogenic forms are killed, inactivated, or otherwise rendered non-virulent.
Source: Banco Mundial
Related terms:
- Water analysis
- Stabilization ponds
- Water chemical characteristics
- Biochemical oxygen demand
- Chemical oxygen demand

Distribution / Distribución
This is a general term for the dispersal of a xenobiotic and its derivatives throughout an organism or environmental system.

Diversion credits /
Fees paid by a municipal or other government to a recycler as compensation for avoided costs of waste collection and disposal.
Source: State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.

Dome / Domo
Lava which is too viscous to flow laterally and therefore forms a dome above the erupting vent.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Protusive dome
- Volcanic eruptions

Domestic wastes / Residuos domésticos
Consisting of waste from a private dwelling or residential home or from premises forming part of a university or school or other educational establishment or forming part of a hospital or nursing home.
Source: IPCS
Wastes that due to its nature, composition, quantity, and volume are generated in houses or similar dwelling place.
Source: BID Inglés
Solid waste, comprised of garbage and rubbish, which normally originates in the residential private household or apartment house.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a
Synonyms:
- Household solid waste
- Household waste
Related terms:
- Household incinerators
- Domestic effluents
- Compaction
- Solid wastes
**Dose-effect curve / Curva de dosis-efecto**
This is a graph drawn to show the relationship between the dose of a drug or xenobiotic and the magnitude of the graded effect that it produces.


**Related terms:**
- Dose-response curve

**Dose-effect relationship / Relación de dosis-efecto**
Association between dose and the magnitude of a continuously graded effect, either in an individual or in a population or in experimental animals.


**Related terms:**
- Concentration-effect relationship
- Exposure-effect relationship

**Dose-response curve / Curva de dosis-respuesta**
This is a graph to show the relation between the dose of a drug or xenobiotic and the degree of response it produces, as measured by the percentage of the exposed population showing a defined, often quantal, effect. If the effect determined is death, such a curve may be used to estimate an LD$_{50}$ value.


**Related terms:**
- Dose-effect curve

**Dose-response relationship / Relación de dosis-respuesta**
Association between dose and the incidence of a defined biological effect in an exposed population.


**Related terms:**
- Concentration-response relationship
- Response

**Douglas scale / Escala de Douglas**
Numerical scale from 0 to 9, indicating the state of the sea.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

**Related terms:**
- Sea

**Downpass /**
A chamber or gas passage placed between two combustion chambers to carry the products of combustion downward.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

**Related terms:**
- Chamber
**Downwash / Lavado descendente**
The downward mixing of an air-borne plume in the lee of the stack by vortex motions which are generated by the wind flow around the stack.


**Draft /**
The difference between the pressure within an incinerator and that in the atmosphere.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996.

**Drag conveyer /**
A conveyer that uses vertical steel plates fastened between two continuous chains to drag material across a smooth surface.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

**Drainage basin /**
(1) An area from which surface runoff is carried away by a single drainage system. Also called catchment area, watershed, drainage area. (2) The largest natural drainage area subdivision of a continent.

Source: Banco Mundial

**Synonyms:**
- Drainage area

**Related terms:**
- Catchment area
- River basin

**Drainage district /**
(1) An organization created and operating under statutory enactment for the purpose of financing, constructing and operating a drainage system. (2) The land or area within the boundaries of a drainage district, as delimited in the organizing statute.

Source: Banco Mundial

**Dried full-cream milk / Leche entera en polvo**
Powdered food product processed by industrial drying and pulverization of full cream milk. Such milk may lack some nutritional elements.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

**Related terms:**
- Food drying
- Dried skimmed milk

**Dried skimmed milk / Leche desnatada en polvo**
Powdered food product processed by industrial drying and pulverization of skimmed milk. Such milk may lack some nutritional elements such as vitamin A.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

**Related terms:**
- Food drying
- Dried full-cream milk

**Drop arch /**
A form of construction that supports a vertical refractory furnace wall and serves to deflect gases downward.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Drop-off / A method of collecting recyclable materials where individuals transport the materials to a designated collection site. Source: EPA. The consumer's handbook for reducing solid waste.

Droughts / Sequías Period of deficiency of moisture in the soil such that there is inadequate water required for plants, animals and human beings. Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Dry adiabatic lapse rate / Gradiente adiabático seco Adiabatic lapse rate of dry air, and also, very closely, of moist unsaturated air. Its value is about 10°C/km. Source: Schwela DH, Goldammer JA, Morawska LH, Simpson O. Health guidelines for vegetation fire events. Geneva: WHO; 1999. También disponible en español. Traducido por el CEPI (Guías de salud para incendios de vegetación). (OMS. Incendios de vegetación)


Dry season / Estación seca A tropical climate, period of the year characterized by very low or absence of rainfall. Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Drying beds / Lechos de secado Confined, underdrained shallow layers of sand or gravel on which wet sludge is distributed for draining and air drying. Also applied to underdrained, shallow, dyked, earthen structures used for drying sludge. Source: Banco Mundial

Related terms:
- Adiabatic lapse rate
- Air pollutants
- Contaminants removal
- Seasonal variations
- Sludge dehydration
Drying hearth
A solid surface in an incinerator upon which wet waste materials, liquids, or waste matter that may turn to liquid before burning is placed to dry or to burn with the help of hot combustion gases.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
Cold drying hearth
Hearth

Duct
A conduit, usually metal or fiberglass, round or rectangular in cross section, used for conveyance of air.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Dune/Duna
A ridge or mound of sand or fine loose earth. Eolian dunes are built up by the wind, hydraulic dunes by water currents.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Sand

Dunnage
Battens used to protect cargo and products during shipping.
Source: State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.

Dust/Polvo
Small solid particles, conventionally taken as those particles below 75 μm diameter, which settle out under their own weight but which may remain suspended for some time. National standards may be more specific and include particle diameters or a definition in terms of a sieve of specified aperture. Dust occurs in the atmosphere both naturally and as a result of the activities of man.
Source: OMS. Guidelines for air quality
Fine grain particles light enough to be suspended in air.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
Aerosols
Smoke
Particles

Dust storm/Tormenta de polvo
Dust (sand) energetically lifted to great heights by strong and turbulent winds.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Winds

Dust whirl/Torbellino de polvo
Aggregate of particles of dust or sand, sometimes accompanied by small litter raised from the ground, in the form of a whirling column of varying height with a small diameter and almost vertical axis.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Dykes / Diques
A construction along the coast for the protection of port facilities or of water reservoirs.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Catchment works

Dynamic models / Modelos dinámicos
The load or discharge (and often other parameters that affect the fate and behaviour of the chemical) can be varied in time and space, resulting in estimated concentrations of the chemical that may vary spatially and temporally.
Related terms:
- Pollutants transport
- Environmental risks

Dyspnea / Disnea
Air hunger resulting in laboured or difficult breathing, sometimes accompanied by pain.
Related terms:
- Respiration
Earth station / Estación terrena
Communications station situated either on land (or ship) or on an airplane with the purpose of communicating with one or several space stations and linked with other earth stations through space network.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Mobile land station

Earthquakes (Environmental health)/ Terremotos (Salud ambiental)
A sudden break within the upper layers of the earth, sometimes breaking the surface, resulting in the vibration of the ground, which where strong enough will cause the collapse of buildings and destruction of life and property.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Synonymes:
Seisms
Related terms:
Vulnerability analysis
Geological disasters

Ebb tide / Bajamar
Lowest level of a falling tide.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Tide
Falling tide

ECₙ/ ECₙ
This is the commonly used abbreviation for the exposure concentration of a toxicant causing a defined effect on n% of a test population.
Related terms:
Toxicants

Ecokinetic models / Modelos ecocinéticos
Models to estimate the rate of transport or reaction of chemicals in different parts of the environment, for example, dispersion or phototransformation.
Related terms:
Environmental risks
Reaction of chemicals
Dispersion
Phototransformation

Ecological disorder / Desequilibrio ecológico
Variation of the normal flow of energy and material that affects the natural dynamics of the interrelation between plants, animals, man and his environment.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Synonymes:
Altered environment
Related terms:
Environmental contamination
Ecology
Environmental impact
Ecological equilibrium
Ecology / Ecologia
Branch of biology which studies the interactions between living organisms and all factors (including other organisms) in their environment; such interactions encompass environmental factors which determine the distributions of living organisms.

The branch of biology dealing with the relationships between organisms and their environment.
Source: Banco Mundial
Related terms:
- Environmental sciences
- Human ecology
- Biocenology
- Biosphere
- Biota
- Green belt
- Environmental statistics
- Sustainable development
- Ecological disorder
- Ecosystem
- Ecological equilibrium
- Abiotic factors
- Biotic factors
- Habitat
- Environmental impact
- Environmental research
- Environment

Economic depreciation /
The loss in value resulting from external economic conditions affecting the character or degree of utilization.
Source: Banco Mundial

Ecosystem / Ecosistema
Grouping of organisms (microorganisms, plants, animals) interacting together, with and through their physical and chemical environments, to form a functional entity.

Basic ecological unit formed by the living environment of the animal and vegetable organisms interacting as a single functional entity.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

The composite balance of all living organisms; plants, and their ambient environment (air, water, and solid phases) in a defined area.
Source: Banco Mundial
Related terms:
- Amazonic ecosystem
- Andean ecosystem
- Glacial ecosystem
- Tropical ecosystem
- Environment
- Biomass
- Biosphere
- Ecology
- Abiotic factors
- Biotic factors
- Habitat
Ecotoxicology / Ecotoxicología

Ecotoxicology is the science devoted to the study of the production of harmful effects by substances entering the natural environment, especially effects on populations, communities, and ecosystems; an essential part of ecotoxicology is the assessment of movement of potentially toxic substances through environmental compartments and through food webs.


Related terms:
- Chemical agents
- Ecosystems
- Environmental pollutants

Edema / Edema

The accumulation of an excessive amount of watery fluid in cells and tissues. Pulmonary edema is an excessive buildup of water in the lungs, for instance, after inhalation of a gas that is corrosive to lung tissue.


EDₙ / EDₙ

This is the commonly used abbreviation for the dose of a toxicant causing a defined effect on n% of a test population.


Related terms:
- Toxicants

Effect / Efecto

Change in morphology, physiology, growth, development of life span of an organism exposed to air pollution. It might be either an adverse effect or an alteration, which is not distinguishable from the range of a target variable observed in not exposed organisms of the same species.


Related terms:
- Air pollution effects

Effective concentration / Concentración efectiva

Concentration of a substance that causes a defined magnitude of response in a given system: ECₜₐₜₜ is the median concentration which causes 50% of maximal response.


Synonyms:
- EC

Related terms:
- Lethal concentration
Effective dose / Dosis efectiva
Dose of a substance that causes a defined magnitude of response in a given system: $ED_{50}$ is the median concentration which causes 50% of maximal response.
Synonyms:
ED
Related terms:
Median effective dose
Toxic substances
Toxicity

Effective life / Vida efectiva
The time needed for the quantity of a given radionuclide in the body to be reduced by half, either through loss of radioactivity or by biological elimination.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Radionuclide

Effluent quality /
The physical, biological, and chemical characteristics of wastewater or other liquid flowing out of a basin, reservoir, pipe, or treatment plant.
Source: Banco Mundial

Effluent standard /
Specification of the allowable concentration or mass of a constituent which may be discharged.
Source: Banco Mundial

Ejecta / Material de expulsión
Material ejected from a volcano, including large fragments (bombs), cindery material (scoria), pebbles (lapilli) and fine particles (ash).
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Lava
Pyroclastic flow
Ash flow
Volcanic eruptions

El Niño phenomenon / Fenómeno El Niño
An anomalous warming of ocean water resulting from the oscillation of a current in the South Pacific, usually accompanied by heavy rainfall in the coastal region of Peru and Chile, and reduction of rainfall in equatorial Africa and Australia.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Warm currents
Marine currents

Electrostatic precipitators / Precipitadores electrostáticos
An air pollution control device that imparts an electric charge to particles in a gas stream, causing them to collect on an electrode.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Synonyms:
ESP
Related terms:
Electrostatic rain
Elements at risk / Elementos que corren riesgo
The population, buildings and civil engineering works, economic activities, public services and infrastructure, etc. at risk in a given area.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Disaster effects on buildings

Elimination / Eliminación
The process whereby a substance or other material is expelled from the body (or a defined part thereof), usually by a process of extrusion or exclusion but sometimes through metabolic transformation. The combination of chemical degradation of a xenobiotic in the body and excretion by the intestine, kidneys, lungs, skin, in sweat, expired air, milk, semen, menstrual fluid or secreted fluids.
Related terms:
Excretion
Extrusion

Elutriation /
The reduction of the concentration of an impurity on a solid by repeated washings.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Embryo / Embrión
This term is applied to the earliest stages of development of a plant or animal. The embryo is generally contained in another structure, the seed, egg, or uterus.
Related terms:
Fetus

Embryotoxic / Embriotóxico
This adjective is applied to any substance which is harmful, in any sense, to an embryo.

Emergency feeding / Alimentación de emergencia
Distribution of food to communities, families and individuals who are cut off from their normal food supplies or are unable to prepare their own food as a result of natural or man-made disaster such as famine, flood, earthquake, war.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Provision of foodstuff
Food resources
Food relief

Emergency health kit / Botiquín médico
Basic drugs and medical equipment calculated for the emergency needs of a population of 10,000 persons over three months. One prepackaged kit contains 10 identical smaller kits, each for 1,000 persons.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Emergency medicine
Emergency care
Emergency medicine / Medicina de emergencia
The specialized institutional system and resources required to meet immediate and unexpected medical needs.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Disaster medicine
- Equipment supplies

Emergency medical system / Servicios médicos de emergencia
The aggregate of resources and personnel required to deliver medical care to those with an unpredicted, immediate health need outside established medical facilities.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Emergency medical services

Emergency operations center / Centro de operaciones de emergencia
Officially designated facility for the direction and coordination of all activities during the response phase to a disaster.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Emergency care

Emergency relief / Socorro de urgencia
1. Urgent aid given to relieve suffering and hardship arising from a sudden or unexpected event; 2. Immediate assistance given to persons who are deprived of the essential needs of life following a natural or man-induced disaster.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Relief work
- Food relief
- Civil protection

Emission / Emisión
Release of a chemical from a source, including discharges of material or physical entities to the wider environment.
(of sounds). Sounds generated from all types of sources.
Source: OMS. Community noise
Synonyms:
- Discharge

Related terms:
- Effluents
- Sound

Emission rate / 
The amount of pollutant emitted per unit of time.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
**Emission standard / Estándar de emisión**
This regulatory value is a quantitative limit on the emission or discharge of a potentially toxic substance from a source. The simplest form for regulatory purposes is a uniform emission standard (UES) where the same limit is placed on all emissions of a particular contaminant. See


**Synonyms:**
UES
Uniform emission standard

**Related terms:**
Limit values
Pollutants

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**Emphysema / Enfisema**
A chronic pulmonary disease marked by an abnormal increase in the size of air spaces distal (farthest from the centre) to the terminal bronchioles production.


A chronic pulmonary disease marked by an abnormal increase in the size of air spaces distal (farthest from the centre) to the terminal bronchioles with destructive changes in their walls.


**Related terms:**
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

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**Encapsulation / Encapsulación**
The complete enclosure of a waste in another material in such a way as to isolate it from external effects such as those of water or of air.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

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**Enclosed trickling filter / Filtración colgante con cubierta**
A trickling filter covered by a roof, sometimes domed.

Source: Banco Mundial

**Related terms:**
Trickling filter

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**Endoplasmic reticulum / Reticulo endoplásmico**
In cell biology, this is a complex pipe-like system of membranes that occupies much of the cytoplasm in cells and which contains many of the enzymes which mediate biodegradation of xenobiotics.


**Related terms:**
Biotransformation
Cytochrome
Microsome

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**Enforcement / Enjuiciamiento legal**
Administrative or legal procedures and actions to require compliance with legislation or associated rules, regulations, or limitations.

Source: Banco Mundial
Environment / Ambiente
Surrounding (applied to environmental media such as air, water, sediment, or soil).

The aggregate at a given moment of all external conditions and influences to which a system under study is subjected.


Generally refers to the prevailing dynamic environmental conditions in a given area.

A general description of the air, water, and land which support the life of an organism and receive its waste products.

Source: Banco Mundial

Water, air, land, and all plants and human and other animals living therein, and the interrelationships which exist among them.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Synonymes:
- Ambient
- Natural environment
- Man made environment

Related terms:
- Environmental administration
- Water
- Environmental statistics
- Environmental sciences
- Environmental ecology
- Ecosystem
- Habitat
- Environmental impact
- Air
- Environmental quality
- Environmental protection
- Environmental policy
- Ecology
- Soils

Environmental change / Alteración ambiental
Modification, favourable or unfavourable, of the ecological state and environment.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Related terms:
- Environment
- Environmental impact
Environmental contamination / Contaminación ambiental

Introduction of pollutants into a solid, liquid, or gaseous environmental medium, the presence of pollutants in the composition of a solid, liquid or gaseous environmental medium. In the context of air pollution, an undesirable modification is one which has injurious or deleterious effects.


Synonyms:
- Contamination
- Pollution
- Environmental damages
- Environmental degradation
- Environmental depredation
- Environmental disasters
- Environmental vandalism

Related terms:
- Environmental quality
- Life quality
- Environmental contamination control
- Environmental contaminants
- Man-made disasters
- Ecological disorder
- Environmental impact

Environmental chemistry / Química ambiental

Chemistry dealing with the origins, transport, reactions, effects, and fate of chemical species in the water, air, terrestrial, and living environments.


Related terms:
- Chemistry
- Chemical species
- Origins
- Transport
- Reactions
- Effects
- Fate

Environmental impact / Impactos ambientales

Estimate of the possible environmental consequences of industrial discharges.

Source: IPCS

In the field of solid wastes, management tool aimed at reducing waste generation and ensuring that its impact on human health and the environment be minimized.

Source: BID Inglés

Changes in the environment that result from specific actions or materials.

Source: Banco Mundial

Synonyms:
- Environmental impact assessment
- EIA
- Ecological impact

Related terms:
- Environment
- Effects
- Ecological disorder
- Environmental health
- Ecology
- Thermal contamination effects
- Climate effects
- Ecological equilibrium
- Environmental contamination
**Environmental monitoring / Monitoreo ambiental**
Measurement and assessment of agents in the environment and evaluation of environmental exposure and health risk compared to an appropriate reference.


**Synonyms:**
- Environmental surveillance

**Related terms:**
- Water monitoring
- Air monitoring
- Soil monitoring
- Environmental quality
- Environmental contamination control
- Telemetry
- Monitoring networks
- Biological control

**Environmental protection agency /**
A national, state, or local unit of government established to consolidate programs dealing with air, water, solid waste, and other environmental concerns within one agency. The authority and scope of activity are determined by the legislation establishing the agency.

Source: Banco Mundial

**Related terms:**
- Environmental protection

**Environmental protection / Protección ambiental**
(i) Actions taken to prevent or minimize adverse effects to the natural environment.

(ii) Complex of measures including monitoring of environmental pollution, development and practice of environmental protection principles (legal, technical, and hygienic), including risk assessment, risk management and risk communication.

Source: IPCS

**Synonyms:**
- Environment conservation

**Related terms:**
- Environment
- Environmental quality
- Environmental contamination control
- Environmental policy
- Environmental protection agency
- Natural resources
- Natural reservations

**Environmental quality / Calidad ambiental**
Characteristics of the environment that generally indicate its desirability for human activity.

Source: Banco Mundial

**Related terms:**
- Life quality
- Environmental contamination
- Environmental models
- Environmental quality standards
- Environmental protection
- Environmental health
- Sanitation
- Environment
- Environmental monitoring
Environmental quality standard / Estándar de calidad ambiental

This regulatory value defines the maximum concentration of a potentially toxic substance which can be allowed in an environmental compartment, usually air (air quality standard - AQS) or water, over a defined period.


Synonyms:
- EQS
- AQS
- Air quality standard
- Ambient standard

Related terms:
- Toxic substances
- Limit values

Environmental quality standards / Normas de calidad ambiental

This regulatory value defines the maximum concentration of a potentially toxic substance which can be allowed in an environmental compartment, usually air (air quality standard - AQS) or water, over a defined period.

Source: IPCS

Synonyms:
- Environmental standard

Related terms:
- Environmental legislation
- Environmental quality
- Environmental contamination control
- Food quality standards

Environmental quality objective / Objetivo de calidad ambiental

This is a regulatory value defining the quality to be aimed for in a particular aspect of the environment, for example "the quality of water in a river such that coarse fish can maintain healthy populations". Unlike an environmental quality standard, an EQO is not usually expressed in quantitative terms and it is not legally enforceable.


Synonyms:
- EQO

Related terms:
- Environment
- Environmental quality

Environmental transformation / Transformación ambiental

Chemical transformation of substances resulting from interactions in the environment.


Related terms:
- Chemical transformation

Environmentally persistent waste / 

Any waste which, if exposed to a natural environment, remains hazardous for an extended time.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Related terms:
- Hazardous waste
Enzyme / Enzima
An organic catalyst produced by living cells but capable of acting outside cells. Enzymes are proteins that change the rate of chemical reactions without needing an external energy source of being changed themselves.


Related terms:
Catalyst
Chemical reactions

Enzymic process / Proceso enzimático
Any chemical reaction or series of reactions catalysed by an enzyme or enzymes is described as an enzymic or enzymatic process. An enzyme is a protein which acts as a highly selective catalyst permitting reactions to take place rapidly in living cells under physiological conditions.


Synonyms:
Enzymatic process

Related terms:
Enzymes
Chemical reaction

Epigenetic changes / Cambios epigenéticos
Any changes in an organism brought about by alterations in the action of genes are called epigenetic changes. Epigenetic transformation refers to those processes which cause normal cells to become tumour cells without any mutations having occurred.


Related terms:
Mutation
Transformation
Tumour

Epithelioma / Epitelioma
A malignant tumour consisting primarily of epithelial cells (epidermis of the skin or a mucous membrane).


Related terms:
Cancer
Tumour

Epithelium / Epitelio
The layer of cells forming the epidermis of the skin and the surface layer of mucous and serous membranes.


Equalization /
In wastewater systems, the storage and controlled release of wastewaters to treatment processes at a controlled rate determined by the capacity of the processes, or at a rate proportional to the flow in the receiving stream; used to smooth out variations in temperature and composition as well as flow.

Source: Banco Mundial
Equatorial climate / Clima ecuatorial
Climate characterized by a twin season of rains during May-June and October-November, with a short dry season towards the month of August (in the northern hemisphere).
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Related terms:
- Climate
- Climatic zone

Equipment supplies / Equipos y suministros en desastres
Medical instrumental and accessories aimed to give support for the diagnosis and the therapy for persons affected by a disaster.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Related terms:
- Disasters
- Assistance

Erosion / Erosión
Loosing or dissolving and removal of rock or soil as a result of water, ice or wind action.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Synonymes:
- Erosion control

Related terms:
- Beach erosion
- Soil erosion
- Eolic erosion
- Hydric erosion
- Desertification
- Topography

Erythema / Eritema
In medicine, this term is applied to redness of the skin due to blood vessel distension.

Eschar / Escara
In medicine, this term describes a slough or dry scab that forms, for example, on an area of skin that has been burnt or exposed to corrosive agents.

Synonymes:
- Scab

ESP /
Electrostatic precipitator.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a

Synonymes:
- Electrostatic precipitator

ET50 / ET50
This abbreviation is used for the exposure time required to produce a defined effect when a test population is exposed to a fixed concentration or specified dose of a toxicant.
**Ethnic group / Grupo étnico**
An organic group of individuals sharing common traits, customs and culture. The term sometimes refers to such groups as a minority in a larger population.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

**Eukaryote / Eucariota**
A eukaryote is an organism (micro-organism, plant or animal) whose cells contain a membrane-bound nucleus and other membrane-bound organelles. Compare prokaryote.

**Eutrophic / Eutrófico**
Describes a body of water with a high concentration of nutrient salts and a high rate of biological productivity.

**Eutrophication / Eutroficación**
Eutrophication refers to the accumulation of nutrients in a lake or landlocked body of water. This occurs naturally over many years but has recently been accelerated by fertilizer runoff from farms and sewage input. Algal blooms result and their decay removes dissolved oxygen, eliminating aerobic organisms such as fish, and may cause accumulation of sulfide in the water, and also production of toxins, e.g., by microcystis aeruginosa.

**Evacuation / Evacuación**
An operation to clear a region of its inhabitants, generally under threat or following disaster.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

**Evaporation / Evaporación**
The physical transformation of a liquid to a gas at any temperature below its boiling point.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Related terms:
- Condensation
- Hydrologic cycle
- Evapotranspiration
- Water balance
- Evaporation control
Evapotranspiration / Evapotranspiración
The combined loss of water from a given area, by evaporation from the soil and by transpiration from plants.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. *(CRID)*

Synonymes:
- Evapotranspiration coefficient
- Evapotranspiration measurements

Related terms:
- Water balance
- Humidity
- Evaporation
- Hydrologic cycle
- Crop moisture ratio

Evase stack /
An expanding connection on the outlet of a fan or in an airflow passage to convert kinetic energy to static pressure.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Exceedance probability / Probabilidad de excedencia
Probability that a given magnitude of an event will be equalled or exceeded.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. *(CRID)*

Related terms:
- Probability

Excess air /
Burning with combustion air supply greater than stoichiometric air requirements.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a

Excretion / Excreción
This is a general term for removal of substances from the body.

Exhaust system /
The system comprised of a combination of components which provides for enclosed flow of exhaust gas from the furnace exhaust port to the atmosphere.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Expiration / Espiración
Expulsion of air from the lungs in breathing. Normally the duration of expiration is shorter than that of inspiration. In general, if expiration lasts longer than inspiration, a pathological condition such as emphysema or asthma is present.

Related terms:
- Forced expiratory volume
Explosive wastes / Residuos explosivos
Wastes that generate great pressures when undergoing instantaneous ignition.
Source: BID Inglés

Wastes which are unstable and may readily undergo violent chemical change or explode.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Synonyms:
- Explosive solid waste

Related terms:
- Hazardous waste characteristics
- Explosive industry
- Inflammable wastes
- Hazardous wastes

Explosivity index / Índice de explosión
Percentage of pyroclastic ejecta among the total product of a volcanic eruption.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Related terms:
- Volcanic eruption
- Pyroclastic flow

Exponential growth / Crecimiento exponencial
Growth that is a simple function of the size of the growing subject, such that the larger the population, the faster its growth.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Related terms:
- Population

Exposure / Exposición
(i) Concentration, amount or intensity of a particular physical or chemical agent or environmental agent which reaches the target population, organism, organ, tissue or cell, usually expressed in numerical terms of substance concentration, duration, and frequency (for chemical agents and microorganisms) or intensity (for physical agents such as radiation).


Exposure to a chemical is the contact of that chemical with the outer boundary of the human body. The outer boundary of the human body is the skin and the openings into the body such as the mouth, the nostrils, and punctures and lesions in the skin.


Related terms:
- Environmental risk exposure
- Chemical compounds exposure
- Radiation exposure
Exposure assessment / Evaluación de la exposición
Quantitative or qualitative evaluation of the contact of a chemical with the outer boundary of the human body, which includes consideration of the intensity, frequency and duration of contact, the route of exposure (e.g. dermal, oral or respiratory), rates (chemical intake or uptake rates), the resulting amount that actually crosses the boundary (a dose), and the amount absorbed (internal dose).

Related terms:
Exposure

Exposure time / Tiempo de exposición
The time period of interest for seismic risk calculations, seismic hazard calculations, or design of structures. For structures, the exposure time is often chosen to be equal to the design lifetime of the structure.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Extraction test procedure /
A series of laboratory operations and analyses designed to determine whether, under severe conditions, a solid waste, stabilized waste, or landfill material can yield a hazardous leachate.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Eye of the storm / Ojo de la tormenta
The calm centre of a tropical cyclone.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Related terms:
Tropical cyclone
Facultative anaerobes / Anaerobios facultativos
Microorganisms able to grow both in presence and absence of oxygen.
Source:OMS. Programa Internacional de Seguridad de Sustancias Químicas.
Seguridad química; principios básicos de toxicología aplicada. La naturaleza de los peligros químicos.2. ed. (revisada). Lima: CEPIS; 1997. Módulo de capacitación, 1. También en inglés. (IPCS)

Faeces / Heces
Particulate organic matter formed as a result of conversion of biological material.
Source:OMS. Programa Internacional de Seguridad de Sustancias Químicas.
Seguridad química; principios básicos de toxicología aplicada. La naturaleza de los peligros químicos.2. ed. (revisada). Lima: CEPIS; 1997. Módulo de capacitación, 1. También en inglés. (IPCS)
Synonyms:
Detritus
Excreta
Related terms:
Compost
Groundwater contamination
Manure
Dysentery
Excreta disposal
Communicable diseases

Fahrenheit /
A temperature scale in which 32°F marks the freezing point and 212°F the boiling point of water at a 760 mm barometric pressure. To convert to a Fahrenheit temperature centigrade (Celsius), subtract 32 and multiply by 5/9.
Source:Banco Mundial

Falling tide / Reflujo de la marea
Receding movement of the sea water or reflux of the tide.
Source:Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Ebb tide
Tide

Fanning / Expansión en abanico
Formation of a pollution plume that expands sideways much more than in the vertical. The sideways spread is often caused by a change of wind direction with height while the vertical spread is inhibited by thermal stability.

Fate and exposure models / Modelos de destino y exposición
Models to estimate the concentration of chemicals in (parts of)the environment and therewith the potential exposure of environmental species to that chemical. QSARs and ecokinetic models are often used as building blocks for these models.
Source:OMS. Programa Internacional de Seguridad de Sustancias Químicas.
Seguridad química; principios básicos de toxicología aplicada. La naturaleza de los peligros químicos.2. ed. (revisada). Lima: CEPIS; 1997. Módulo de capacitación, 1. También en inglés. (IPCS)
Related terms:
Environmental risk exposure
Chemical products
QSARs
Ecokinetic models
Fecundity / Fecundidad
(i) Ability to produce off-spring frequently and in large numbers. (ii) In demography, the physiological ability to reproduce.
Synonyms:
Fertility
Related terms:
Fecund
Reproduction

Federal register /
Daily publication that is the official method of notice of executive branch actions, including proposed and final regulations.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Feedlot /
A confined area where large numbers of cattle or other animals are grown or fattened for market.
Source: Banco Mundial
Related terms:
Feedlot wastes

Feedlot waste /
High concentrations of animal excrement that result from raising large numbers of animals on a relatively small, confined area of land.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Feedlot wastes /
Solid and liquid wastes from concentrated animal-feeding operations.
Source: Banco Mundial
Related terms:
Feedlot

Fermentative / Fermentativo
Water containing < 1% total dissolved salts.

Fetus / Feto
In medicine, this term is applied to the young of mammals when fully developed in the womb. In human beings, this stage is reached after about 3 months of pregnancy. Prior to this, the developing mammal is at the embryo stage.
Synonyms:
Foetus
Related terms:
Fetal stage
Pregnancy
File stock /
A grade of paper waste, essentially consisting of mixed office papers. This grade is frequently recycled into tissue products.
Source: State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.

Filter media /
(1) Material through which water, wastewater, or other liquid is passed for the purpose of purification, treatment, or conditioning. (2) A cloth or metal material of some appropriate design used to intercept sludge solids in sludge filtration. (3) Particulate (sand, gravel, diatomaceous earth) or fibrous (cloth) material placed within a filter to collect suspended particles.
Source: Banco Mundial
Related terms:
Filtered wastewater

Filter plant /
In wastewater treatment units, the devices and structures required to provide trickling filtration.
Source: Banco Mundial

Filter rate /
The rate of application of material to some process involving filtration; for example, application of wastewater sludge to a vacuum filter, wastewater flow to a trickling filter, water flow to a rapid sand filter.
Source: Banco Mundial
Related terms:
Filtration

Filtered wastewater /
Wastewater that has passed through a mechanical filtering process but not through a trickling filter bed.
Source: Banco Mundial
Related terms:
Filter media

Filters / Filtros
A porous device through which a gas or liquid is passed to remove suspended particles or dust.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
Filtration
Filter washing
Filtration media
Prefilters

Final effluent /
The effluent from the final treatment unit of a wastewater treatment plant.
Source: Banco Mundial

Final sedimentation /
The separation of solids from wastewater in the last settling tank of a treatment plant.
Source: Banco Mundial

Final settling tank /
A tank through which the effluent from a trickling filter or an aeration or contact aeration tank is passed to remove the settleable solids. Also called final settling basin. See also sedimentation basin.
Source: Banco Mundial
Synonymes:
Final settling basin

Related terms:
Sedimentation basin

Fine particles / Partículas finas
Particles with aerodynamic diameters below 2.5 micrometer.

Related terms:
Particles
Ultra-fine particles

Fire point /
The lowest temperature at which an oil vaporizes readily enough to burn at least 5 s after ignition.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Firebrick /
Refractory brick made from fireclay.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Related terms:
Fireclay

Fireclay /
A sedimentary clay containing only small amounts of fluxing impurities, high in hydrous aluminum silicate and capable of withstanding high temperatures.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Related terms:
Firebrick

Fireproof material / Material resistente al fuego
The property of a material or assemblage to withstand fire (fire resistance) and give protection during a lapse of time (fire endurance).
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. *(CRID)*

Firewall / Muro cortafuego
Walls which are intended to be fire barriers.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. *(CRID)*

Related terms:
Fire

First aid / Primeros auxilios
The immediate but temporary care given on site to the victims of an accident or sudden illness in order to avert complications, lessen suffering, and sustain life until competent services or a physician can be obtained.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. *(CRID)*

Related terms:
Emergency medical services
Search and rescue
Rescue
First-order process / Proceso de primer orden
A first order process is a chemical process where the rate is directly proportional to the amount of chemical present. Any process changing at a constant fractional rate.
Source: OMS. Programa Internacional de Seguridad de Sustancias Químicas. 
Seguridad química; principios básicos de toxicología aplicada. La naturaleza de los peligros químicos. 2. ed. (revisada). Lima: CEPIS; 1997. Módulo de capacitación, 1. También en inglés. (IPCS)
Related terms:
Chemical process

First-pass effect / Efecto de primer paso
This is the chemical alteration resulting from biotransformation of a xenobiotic before it reaches the systemic circulation. Such biotransformation by the liver is referred to as a hepatic first-pass effect.
Source: OMS. Programa Internacional de Seguridad de Sustancias Químicas. 
Seguridad química; principios básicos de toxicología aplicada. La naturaleza de los peligros químicos. 2. ed. (revisada). Lima: CEPIS; 1997. Módulo de capacitación, 1. También en inglés. (IPCS)
Synonymes:
Hepatic first-pass effect
Related terms:
Biotransformation
Xenobiotics

Five-day BOD /
That part of oxygen demand usually associated with biochemical oxidation of carbonaceous material within 5 days at 20°C. First stage biochemical oxygen demand.
Source: Banco Mundial
Synonymes:
Five-day biochemical oxygen demand
Related terms:
Biochemical oxygen demand

Fixed capital /
The investment represented by fixed assets.
Source: Banco Mundial

Fixed carbon /
The ash-free carbonaceous material that remains after volatile matter is driven off a dry solid waste sample.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Fixed charge /
(1) The carrying and operating cost of any business or project which continues to occur whether or not the business operates or produces anything. (2) A charge that cannot be escaped, shifted, or altered, such as interest, rent, taxes, and amortization.
Source: Banco Mundial

Fixed grate /
A grate without moving parts, also called a stationary grate.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Fixed liabilities /
Liabilities which are to be paid one year or more after the date of a balance sheet.
Source: Banco Mundial
Flammable liquid / Líquido inflamable
A liquid that has a flash point of 60.5°C (141°F) or lower.

Flash drying /
The process of drying a wet organic material by passing through a high-temperature zone at such a rate that the water is rapidly evaporated but the organic material, protected by the boiling point of water, is not overheated.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Flash flood / Crecida repentina
Flood of short duration with a relatively high peak discharge. Causes inundation, and because of its nature is difficult to forecast.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Inundations
- Flood control

Flash point / Punto de inflamación
Lowest temperature at which a liquid or solid gives off vapor in such a concentration that, when the vapor combines with air near the surface of the liquid or solid, a flammable mixture is formed. Hence, the lower the flash point, the more flammable the material.
Source: CANUTEC

The minimum temperature at which a liquid or solid gives off sufficient vapor to form an ignitable vapor-air mixture near the surface of the liquid or solid.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Flight sewer /
A series of steps in a sewer to break up the velocity on a steep grade.
Source: Banco Mundial

Flocculation / Floculación
In water and wastewater treatment, the agglomeration of a colloidal and finely divided suspended matter after coagulation by gentle stirring by either mechanical or hydraulic means. In biological wastewater treatment where coagulation is not used, agglomeration may be accomplished biologically.
Source: Banco Mundial
Related terms:
- Chemical clarification
- Floc
- Velocity gradient
- Flocculators
- Zeta potential
- Chemical precipitation
- Physicochemical treatment
- Rapid mix
- Colloids

Flood alarm level / Nivel de alarma de crecida
Water level which is considered to be dangerous and at which warnings should commence.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Floods
**Flood control / Control de crecidas**
The management of water resources through construction of dams, reservoirs, embankments, etc. to avoid floods.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Related terms:
- Dykes
- Dams
- Flood-hypass channel

**Flood forecasting / Predicción de inundaciones**
Procedure for estimation of stage, its discharge values, time of occurrence, and duration of a flood, especially of its peak discharge.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Related terms:
- Floods
- Prediction

**Flood proofing / Protección de elementos situados en zona inundable**
Techniques for prevent flood damage to the structure and contents of buildings in a flood-hazard area.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Related terms:
- Floods
- Disaster effects on the buildings
- Structures strengthening

**Flood routing / Propagación de la onda de inundación**
Procedure for determining flood hydrograph changes by the flood movement through river channels, reservoirs or other storage.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Related terms:
- Flood control
- Detention reservoir

**Flood wave / Ola de crecida**
Rise in streamflow to a crest to such a magnitude that it causes flooding, and its subsequent recession.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Related terms:
- Flow
- Flash flow

**Flood-hypass channel / Canal de evacuación de crecidas**
Channel built to divert flood flows from a point upstream of a region to a point downstream.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Related terms:
- Overflows
- Floods
Flood-tide / Pleamar
The maximum level reached by a tide.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Rising tide

Floodplain zoning / Zonificación de las llanuras de inundación
A plan that defines the main zones of a potential flood area, usually accompanied by housing restrictions or other recommendations to prevent flood damages.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Floods
- Flood control
- Non-structural flood mitigation

Floods (Environmental health)/ Inundaciones (Salud ambiental)
Significant rise of water level in a stream, lake, reservoir or a coastal region.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Synonymes:
- Overflows
- Alluviums
Related terms:
- Flood control
- Runoff
- Hydrometeorology
- Flow augmentation

Flue /
Any passage designed to carry combustion gases and entrained particulates.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Flue gas / combustible líquido
The products of combustion, including pollutants, emitted to the air after a production process or combustion takes place.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
- Combustion

Flue-fed incinerator /
An incinerator that is charged through a shaft that functions as a chute for charging waste and as a flue for carrying products of combustion.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Fluidized bed combustion /
Oxidation of combustible material within a bed of solid, inert (noncombustible) particles which under the action of vertical hot airflow will act as a fluid.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
- Oxidation

Fly ash / Cenizas volantes
The airborne combustion residue from burning fuel.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
- Ash
**Foci / Foco**

The medical term applied to a small group of cells occurring in an organ and distinguishable, either in appearance or histochemically, from the surrounding tissue.


**Fog / Niebla**

As international standard fog is a general term applied to a suspension of droplets in a gas. In meteorology, it refers to a suspension of water droplets resulting in a visibility of less than 1 km. WMO defines fog as a suspension of very small, usually microscopic water droplets in the air, generally reducing the horizontal visibility at the earth's surface too less than 1 km.


**Related terms:**
- Mist
- Smog

**Food mixtures / Mezclas alimentarias**

Processed ready to use nutritional food mixture(s) for use in nutritional emergencies.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

**Related terms:**
- Emergency feeding

**Food relief / Socorro alimentario**

The provision of foodstuffs on a national or local scale to relief sudden food shortage and combat malnutrition in a disaster.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

**Related terms:**
- Emergency feeding
- Food resources
- Relief work
- Emergency relief

**Food resources / Recursos alimentarios**

The inventory and stock of foodstuffs available and, in particular, required in an emergency, including the system of storage, warehouse facilities, markets, distribution centres, emergency sources and other food facilities that can be used by the stricken population.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

**Related terms:**
- Emergency feeding
- Provision of foodstuffs
- Food relief

**Food wastes / Residuos de comida**

The organic residues generated by the handling, storage, sale, preparation, cooking, and serving of foods, commonly called garbage.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

**Related terms:**
- Waste
- Organic waste
Haemosiderin / Hemosiderina
This is the name given to the iron-protein molecule which is a source of iron for haemoglobin synthesis and other processes requiring iron.
Related terms:
Haemoglobin

Halophilic / Halofílico
Organisms with an obligate requirement for saline conditions.

Halotolerant / Halotolerantes
Freshwater organisms that will tolerate and grow in saline conditions.

Haploid / Haploide
This adjective is applied to a cell containing only one set of chromosomes.
Related terms:
Gamete
Meiosis

Hardness /
A characteristic of water, imparted by salts of calcium, magnesium, and iron, that causes curdling of soap, deposition of scale in boilers, damage in some industrial processes, and sometimes objectionable taste.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
Water hardness

Hauler /
A garbage collection company which offers complete refuse removal services. Many haulers now offer to serve as collectors of recyclables.
Source: State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.
Related terms:
Collector

Hazard / Peligro
"Hazard" is the general term for anything which has the ability to cause injury or for the potential to cause injury. The hazard associated with a potentially toxic substance is a function of its toxicity and the potential for exposure to the substance. The probability of exposure to the substance is a risk factor.
Related terms:
Risk
Hazard assessment / Evaluación de peligros
Determination of factors controlling the likely effects of a hazard such as the dose-effect and dose-response relationships, variations in target susceptibility, and mechanism of toxicity.

Hazard identification / Identificación de peligros
Determination of substances of concern, their adverse effects, target populations, and conditions of exposure, taking into account toxicity data and knowledge of effects on human health, other organisms and their environment.
Related terms:
- Toxic substances
- Toxicity
- Human health

Hazardous substances and wastes stockpiling / Almacenamiento de materiales y residuos peligrosos
Action of preserving, keeping, depositing and assembling in a warehouse or other place, a considerable quantity of inflammable, toxic, corrosive, irritant, comburent or radioactive chemical products. The warehouses for hazardous materials must fulfil the characteristics that allow to reduce the effects in the case of accident and fulfil the international rules on security by providing the necessary segregation and separation accordingly to the chemical compatibility of the materials.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Hazardous waste storage
- Hazardous waste containers
- Hazardous waste disposal

Hazardous waste minimization / Minimización de residuos peligrosos
The design, manufacture, purchase, or use of materials to reduce the amount or toxicity of waste. Because it is intended to reduce pollution and conserve resources, source reduction should not increase the net amount or toxicity of wastes generated throughout the life of the product. Source reduction techniques include reusing items, minimizing the use of products that contain hazardous compounds, using only what is needed, extending the useful life of a product, and reducing unneeded packaging.
Source: EPA. The consumer’s handbook for reducing solid waste.
The philosophy or practice of not creating or generating waste materials by increasing efficiency, substituting materials or changing processes so that fewer waste materials are produced.
Source: State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.
Any activity that reduces or eliminates the generation of a hazardous waste within a process.
Source: Banco Mundial
Sinonimos:
- Source reduction
- Hazardous waste abatement
- Clean technology
- Clean production
- Hazardous waste recycling
- Hazardous waste treatment
- Hazardous waste processing
- Waste prevention
Related terms:
- Hazardous waste treatment plants
- Toxic substances
- Industrial effluent treatment
Hazardous waste use
Waste reduction

**Hazardous wastes / Residuos peligrosos**
A waste that, by virtue of its composition, carries the risk of death, injury, or impairment of health to humans or animals, the pollution of waters, or could have an unacceptable environmental impact if improperly handled, treated or disposed of. The term should not be used for waste that merely contains a hazardous material or materials. It should be used only to describe wastes that contain sufficient of these materials to render the waste as a whole hazardous within the definition given above.

Source: IPCS

Solid or semisolid wastes that due to its toxic, reactive, corrosive, radioactive, inflammable, explosive, or pathogenic characteristics, represent a substantial or potential risk to human health or the environment when managed with municipal solid waste in an authorized or clandestine way.

Wastes that due to its physical or chemical characteristics, depending on its concentration and exposure time, may cause injury and even death of living beings, as well as environmental pollution.

Source: BID Inglés

A waste, or combination of wastes, that may cause or significantly contribute to an increase in mortality or an increase in serious irreversible, or incapacitating reversible illness or that pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, disposed of, or otherwise managed. A legal definition of hazardous waste is included in the provisions of RCRA.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a

**Sinonimos:**
- Hazardous materials
- Hazardous products
- Hazardous chemicals
- Toxic wastes
- Poisonous wastes

**Related terms:**
- Hospital wastes
- Radiactive wastes
- Inflammable wastes
- Chemical contaminants
- Solid wastes
- Harmful substances
- Hazardous substances
- Toxic substances
- Hazardous waste use
- Household hazardous waste
- Explosive solid waste

**HBV /**
Hepatitis B virus.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a

**Sinonimos:**
- Hepatitis B virus

**Health center / Establecimiento de salud**
Place, site, or facility where activities related to human or animal health care are carried out.
Source: BID Inglés

**Related terms:**
- Health services
- Hospitals
- Public health
**Hearth**
The bottom of a furnace on which waste materials are exposed to the flame.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

**Related terms:**
- Drying hearth
- Incineration

**Heat / Calor**
Means both thermal energy and thermal energy transfer.

**Related terms:**
- Central heating
- Calorimetry
- Thermal contamination
- Solar energy
- Calorific power
- Temperature

**Heat balance**
An accounting of the distribution of the heat input and output of an incinerator or boiler, usually on an hourly basis.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

**Related terms:**
- Heat
- Incinerator

**Heat input**
Total energy released from burning.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a

**Related terms:**
- Energy

**Heating value**
The amount of heat that is released when a material is combusted usually expressed as Btu/lb or kJ/kg.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a

**Related terms:**
- Heat

**Heatwave / Ola de calor**
A long lasting period with extremely high surface temperature.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

**Related terms:**
- Wave

**Hemoglobin / Hemoglobina**
The iron-containing pigment of the red blood cells which carries oxygen from the lungs to the tissues.

**Related terms:**
- Heme
- Protoporphyrin

**Hemostasis / Hemostasis**
Normal, internal stability in an organism maintained by coordinated responses of the organ systems which automatically compensate for environmental changes.
HEPA filter / High efficiency particulate air filter.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a

Hepatocyte / Hepatocrito
In histology, this name is given to a parenchymal liver cell.

Related terms:
Cell

Hepatotoxic / Hepatotóxico
The adjective applied to anything which is harmful to the liver.

Related terms:

Herbicides / Herbicidas
The descriptor applied to a chemical used to kill plants.

Related terms:
Weed control
Pesticides

Heterotrophic / Heterotrófico
The process of the formation of organic matter on the basis of organic carbon and inorganic nutrients.

Related terms:
Organic matter

High-grade paper /
Relatively valuable types of office papers, such as computer paper, laser printout, white ledger and tab cards. White ledger includes most copier paper, letterhead and non-glossy non-newsprint.
Source: State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.

Related terms:
White ledger

Hijacking / Piratería aérea
Any illegal violent action committed mainly in an airplane, sometimes on the highway, for private or political ends.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Related terms:
Piracy
Histochemistry / Histoquímica
This is the science concerned with the chemistry of microscopically visible structures. Chemical processes used to make cell structure microscopically visible.
Related terms:
Chemical processes

Histology / Histología
This is the science concerned with the study of the microanatomy of tissues and their cellular structure.

Histopathology / Histopatología
This is the science concerned with the study of microscopic changes in diseased tissues.

HIV / VIH
Human Immunodeficiency Virus, which causes AIDS.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a
Sinonimos:
Human Immunodeficiency Virus
Related terms:
AIDS
Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome

Homeostasis / Homeostasis
In medicine and biology, this term is applied to the inherent tendency in an organism toward maintenance of physiological and psychological stability.

Hot drying hearth /
A surface upon which waste materials are placed to dry or to burn. Hot combustion gases first pass over the materials and then under the hearth.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
Hearth
Drying hearth

Hot zone / Zona caliente
Area immediately surrounding a dangerous goods incident which extends far enough to prevent adverse effects from released dangerous goods to personnel outside the zone. This zone is also referred to as exclusion zone, red zone or restricted zone in other documents.
Related terms:
Hazard zones
House connection /
The pipe carrying the wastewater from the building to a common sewer. Also called building sewer, house sewer.
Source: Banco Mundial
Related terms:
Building sewer

House drain /
That part of the lowest horizontal piping of a drainage system which receives the discharge from soil, waste and other drainage pipes inside the walls of the building and conveys it to the building sewer (house sewer), the pipe that begins five feet outside the inner face of the building wall. Also called building drain.
Source: Banco Mundial
Sinonimos:
Building drain
Related terms:
Building sewer

Household hazardous waste /
Products containing hazardous substances that are used and disposed of by individual rather than industrial consumers. These products include some paints, solvents, and pesticides.
Source: EPA. The consumer’s handbook for reducing solid waste.
Related terms:
Hazardous substances
Hazardous waste

Household wastes / Residuos domiciliarios
Consisting of waste from a private dwelling or residential home or from premises forming part of a university or school or other educational establishment or forming part of a hospital or nursing home.
Related terms:
Residential home wastes
University premises wastes
School premises wastes
Hospital premises wastes

Human resources in disasters / Recursos humanos en desastres
Workers that act in an emergency or a disaster: firemen, Red Cross staff, physicians, etc.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Disaster team
Firemen
Emergency medical system
Rescue team

Hurricane warning / Aviso de huracán
Meteorological message intended to warn those concerned of the existence or expected occurrence of a wind of Beaufort force 12 over a specified area.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Warning
Meteorological disasters
Hurricanes
Hydrocarbon / Hidrocarburos
An organic compound containing only the elements carbon and hydrogen. The carbon atoms may be arranged either in open-ended chains, which may or may not be branched or in closed rings. There are two types of ring hydrocarbons: alicyclic compounds, consisting of three or more carbon atoms arranged in a closed ring (and whose properties are similar to those of the open-chain compounds of the same molecular mass), and aromatic compounds. The molecular structure of aromatic compounds is based on that of benzene, the simplest member of the class, which contains six carbon atoms joined by three single and three double carbon-carbon bonds. Such compounds are described as polycyclic if they contain two or more rings; the term "polynuclear" (as in "polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbon", frequently abbreviated as PAH) is also used. The major constituents of gasoline and other petroleum fuels are hydrocarbons of the open-chain type. These compounds are not considered to be a hazard to health even at the concentrations at which they are encountered in city air. Many aromatic hydrocarbons, on the other hand, are highly toxic. Well known examples of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons are anthracene, naphthalene, and benz[a]pyrene.

Any of a vast family of compounds containing carbon and hydrogen in various combinations, found especially in fossil fuels.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Related terms:
- Fossil fuels
- Industrial effluents
- Carcinogens
- Organic contaminants

Hydrogen / Hidrógeno
A colourless, odourless, inflammable gas, which combines chemically with oxygen to form water; formed also in combustion plumes.

Related terms:
- Tritium

Hydrogen-ion concentration /
The concentration of hydrogen-ions in moles per liter of solution. Commonly expressed as the pH value, which is the logarithm of the reciprocal of the hydrogen-ion concentration.
Source: Banco Mundial

Hydrogeological map / Mapa hidrogeológico
The synthetic map of a given territory showing the extent of its hydrological structure and characteristics, the distribution and dynamics of its underground water, and useful indications regarding the evaluation and harnessing of its subterranean water resources.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Related terms:
- Map
- Hydrogeology
- Underground water

Hydrographs / Hidrogramas
Graph showing the variation in time of some hydrological data such as water stage, discharge, sediment load, etc. Hydrograph is mostly used for stage or discharge.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Related terms:
- Hydrography
- Hydrologic statistics
**Hydrological forecast / Predicción hidrológica**

Statement of expected hydrological conditions for a specified period.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

**Related terms:**
- Hydrological data
- Hydrological statistics

**Hydrological warning / Alerta hidrológica**

Emergency information on an expected hydrological phenomenon which is considered to be dangerous.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

**Related terms:**
- Warning
- Hydrological disasters

**Hydrosphere / Hidrosfera**

This is the broad name for the water above, on or in the earth's crust, including oceans, seas, lakes, ground water, and atmospheric moisture.


**Related terms:**
- Ground water
- Lakes
- Sea

**Hydroxyl radical / Radical hidroxil**

Univalent radical containing hydrogen and oxygen, OH, extremely effective oxidant in the atmosphere.


**Related terms:**
- Oxidant

**Hypersensitivity / Hipersensibilidad**

A broad term applied to disease symptoms following exposure to a previously encountered substance (allergen), often one which would otherwise be classified as harmless; essentially a malfunction of the immune system.


**Sinonimos:**
- Allergies
- Sensitization

**Related terms:**
- Occupational diseases

**Hypotriglyceridaemia / Hipotrigliceridemia**

In medicine, this defines the situation characterized by a decreased blood triglyceride content.

Gale warning / Aviso de viento fuerte
Meteorological message intended to warn those concerned of the existence or expected occurrence of a wind of Beaufort force 8 or 9 over a specified area.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Warning
- Meteorological disasters
- Winds

Garbage / Deshechos
Synonym of municipal solid waste and solid waste.
Source: BID Inglés
Solid waste resulting from animal, grain, fruit, or vegetable matter used or intended for use as food.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Synonyms:
- Municipal solid waste
- Solid waste
Related terms:
- Domestic waste
- Commercial waste
- Industrial waste

Gate chamber /
A structure erected to house a valve or regulating device and provide access to the valve for maintenance and repair. If the chamber has a superstructure, it is termed a gate house.
Source: Banco Mundial

Gene / Gen
This is the part of the DNA molecule which carries the information defining the sequence of amino-acids in a specific polypeptide chain.
Synonyms:
- Cistron
Related terms:
- DNA
- Genoma

Generator /
The producer of any types of waste or recoverable material.
Source: State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.

Genetic toxicology / Toxicología genética
This is the study of chemicals which can cause harmful heritable changes in the genetic information carried by living organisms in the form of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA).
Synonyms:
- Genotoxicology
Related terms:
- Heritable changes
- Genetic information
- Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA)
**Genetics / Genética**
The field of biological science that deals with the phenomena and mechanisms of heredity. Genetic problems may occur following toxic and radioactive disasters.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

*Related terms:*
- Biology
- Mutations

**Geneva Convention / Convención de Ginebra**
The body of international agreements consisting of four Conventions (1949) and two Additional Protocols (1977), concerning humanitarian treatment of victims of armed conflict, and put under the responsibility of the International Committee of the Red Cross. The first Protocol regulates the care of the wounded and sick soldiers on the battlefield; the second is about the care of the wounded, sick and shipwrecked in naval warfare; the third on the treatment of prisoners of war; the fourth on the protection of civilians in time of war. Additional Protocols I and II ensure more humane consideration not only in international conflicts but also in national strife, such as the treatment of guerilla fighters.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

*Related terms:*
- International agreements
- International humanitarian law
- Armed conflicts

**Genome / Genoma**
The general term for all the genes carried by a cell.


*Related terms:*
- Genes

**Genotoxic / Genotóxico**
This is the adjective applied to any substance that is able to cause harmful changes to DNA. Such changes may lead to a transformed cell which can form a malignant tumour.


Toxic to the genetic material in cells.


*Related terms:*
- DNA
- Tumour

**Geodetics / Geodesia**
A geographical and mathematical science that seeks to define the shape of the earth and that determines the areas and different points on the earth’s topographic surface in relation to a reference system.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

*Related terms:*
- Maps
Geographic longitude / Longitud geográfica
Angular distance of any point on the earth's surface, longitudinal lines east or west of a standard meridian (0) situated at Greenwich.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Geography

Geological fault / Falla geológica
A planar or gently curved fracture in the earth's upper layers across which displacement occurs.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Geological disasters

Geomorphology / Geomorfología
The science concerned with the earth's surface and the evolution of the globe's relief features.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Morphology

Geothermal / Geotermia
The heat found deep inside the earth and which is used to generate energy.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Energy
- Geothermal resources

Glowing avalanche / Corriente incandescente
A form of ash flow, resulting from incandescent tephra streaming along the slopes of the volcano.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Volcanos
- Volcanic eruptions

gpcd /
The rate of water, wastewater, or other flow measured in U.S. gallons per capita of served population per day.
Source: Banco Mundial

gpm /
The rate of water, wastewater, or other flow measured in U.S. gallons per minute.
Source: Banco Mundial
Synonyms:
- Gallons per minute

Grab sample /
A sample taken at a given place and time. It may be representative of the flow. See also composite sample.
Source: Banco Mundial
Related terms:
- Composite sample
Grade /  
A classification of recyclable material based on its use, appearance, quality, manufacturing history, raw material or performance.  
Source: State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.

Graded effect / Efecto gradual 
This is an effect that can usually be measured on a continuous scale of intensity or severity and its magnitude related directly to dose. An effect increasing in severity with increasing dose or exposure concentration.  

Related terms:  
Dose

Grain loading /  
The rate at which particles are emitted from a pollution source, in grains per cubic foot of gas emitted, where 7000 grains weigh one pound, equivalent in metric units to milligrams (or micrograms) per cubic meter.  
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a

Grate /  
A piece of furnace equipment used to support solid waste or solid fuel during the drying, igniting and burning process.  
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Grease /  
A group of substances including fats, waxes, free fatty acids, calcium and magnesium soaps, mineral oils, and certain other nonfatty materials.  
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Related terms:  
Fats

Greenhouse effect / Efecto de invernadero  
In addition to natural heat release from the earth into the atmosphere, there is increasing industrial, man-made heat production (combustion of coal, petroleum and natural gas) releasing the gas carbon dioxide (CO2) into the atmosphere. While CO2 is essentially transparent to incoming solar energy, it is not transparent to re-radiated energy emitted by the earth itself. Thus a heating process referred to as the "glasshouse" or "hothouse" effect is produced, with widescale environmental consequences.  
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Synonymes:  
Glasshouse effect  
Greenhouse, effect of  
Global warming

Related terms:  
Climate effects

Grinders / Trituradores  
A device used to reduce the particle size of wastewater solids so that they may be returned to the wastewater flow or processed for later treatment.  
Source: Banco Mundial

Related terms:  
Shredders  
Grinding  
Screening grinders
Grit /
The heavy suspended mineral matter present in water or wastewater, such as sand, gravel, cinders. It is removed in a pre-treatment unit called a grit chamber to avoid abrasion and wearing of subsequent treatment devices.
Source: Banco Mundial
Related terms:
Grit removal

Groundwater / Aguas subterráneas
Water associated with soil or rocks below the ground surface but is usually taken to mean water in the saturated zone.
Synonyms:
Phreatic water
Subsoil water
Confined water
Related terms:
Water
Water resources
Aquifers
Artesian water
Groundwater catchment
Groundwater contamination
Hydrogeology
Wells
Percolation
Groundwater flow
Aquifers recharge

Groundwater level / Nivel de agua subterránea
The level at which soil and porous rock begins to be saturated with water.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Groundwater

Guidelines / Guías
Any kind of recommendation or guidance on the protection of human beings or receptors in the environment from the adverse effects of air pollutants. As such, it is not restricted to a numerical value but might also be expressed in a different way, for example as exposure-response information or as a unit risk estimate.
Synonyms:
Guides
Related terms:
Guideline value

Guillotine damper /
An adjustable plate, used to regulate the flow of gases, installed vertically in a breeching.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
Damper
Guinea pig maximization test / Prueba de maximización con conejillos de Indias
This is a skin test for screening possible contact allergens. It is considered to be a useful model for predicting likely moderate and strong sensitizers in humans.
Related terms:
Skin test
Guinea pigs

Gust of wind / Ráfaga
Sudden, brief increase of the wind speed over its mean value.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Wind
Wind speed
**Food web / Red alimentaria**
Network of food chains.
*Related terms:*
Food chain

**Forced draft /**
The positive pressure created by the action of a fan or blower which supplies the primary or secondary combustion air in an incinerator.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996  
*Related terms:*
Combustion air

**Forced expiratory volume / Volumen de espiración forzada**
The volume of air that can be expired after a full inspiration. The expiration is done as quickly as possible and the volume measured at precise times; at 1, 2 and 3 seconds. This provides valuable information concerning the ability to expel air from the lungs.
*Synonymes:*
FEV  
*Related terms:*
Expiration

**Forecasting / Predicción**
A statement of the expected time, place and magnitude of a future event (for earthquakes and volcanic eruptions).
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)  
*Synonymes:*
Predictive models  
*Related terms:*
Evaluation  
Projections

**Forel scale / Escala de Forel**
Numerical scale indicating the colour of the sea, extending from 0 (deep blue) to 10 (potassium chromate yellow).
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)  
*Related terms:*
Sea

**Fossil fuels / Combustibles fósiles**
Natural gas, petroleum, coal, and any form of solid, liquid, or gaseous fuel derived from such materials for the purpose of creating useful heat.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996  
*Related terms:*
Charcoal  
Hydrocarbons  
Combustion

**Fouling /**
The impedance to the flow of fluids or heat that results when material accumulates in flow passages or on heat-absorbing surfaces in an incinerator or other combustion chamber.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Fracture zone / Zona de fractura
Abrupt and massive submarine dislocation over a long narrow band, where the continuity of the solid structures is interrupted by a transform fault.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Frame-shift mutation / Mutación por cambio estructural
Such a mutation is a change in the structure of DNA causing the transcription of genetic information into RNA to be completely altered because the start point for reading has been changed. In other words, the reading frame for transcription has been altered.

Frequency / Frecuencia
For a function periodic in time, the reciprocal of the period.
Source: OMS. Community noise
Related terms:
Frequency-weighting

Fresh sludge / Sludge in which decomposition is little advanced.
Source: Banco Mundial
Related terms:
Sludge

Frost / Helada
A fall in the temperature of the air to 0 grade C or below, causing freezing on the ground or in the air.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Hydrometeorology

Fuel / Combustible
All combustible organic material in forests and other vegetation types, including agricultural systems.
Source: OMS. Vegetation fire events
Any material which is capable of releasing energy or power by combustion or other chemical or physical means.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
Fossil fuels

Fugacity / Fugacidad
Broadly speaking, this word is applied to the tendency for a substance to move from one environmental compartment to another. Originally the term was applied to the tendency of a gas to expand or escape and related to its pressure in the system being studied.
Fugitive emissions /
Emissions other than those from stacks or vents.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
Emission

Fujita-Pearson scale / Escala de Fujita-Pearson
A 3-digit scale for tornadoes devised by Fujita (F scale) and Pearson (PP scale) to indicate tornado intensity (0-5), path length (0-5) and path width (0-7).
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Tornados

Fume / Vapor
Aerosol of solid particles, usually from metallurgical processes, generated by condensation from the gaseous state, generally after volatilisation from melted substances and often accompanied by chemical reactions such as oxidation. By extension, also the gases charged by particles resulting from a chemical process or a metallurgical operation. Often used in the plural, fumes for visible clouds of gases, vapours, or aerosols that have an unpleasant and malodorous smell.
Solid particles under 1 -m in diameter, formed as vapors condense or as chemical reactions take place.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
Condensation
Chemical reaction
Oxidation

Function / Función
The act of carrying on or performing a special activity. Normal function is the normal action of an organ. Abnormal activity or the failure of an organ to perform its activity is the basis of disease or disease processes.

Furnace arch /
A nearly horizontal structure that extends into a furnace and serves to deflect gases.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Furnaces / Hornos
A combustion chamber; an enclosed structure in which heat is produced.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
Incinerators

Fusion point /
The temperature at which a particular complex mixture of minerals (ash) can flow under the weight of its own mass.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Gale warning / Aviso de viento fuerte
Meteorological message intended to warn those concerned of the existence or expected occurrence of a wind of Beaufort force 8 or 9 over a specified area.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Related terms:
Warning
Meteorological disasters
Winds

Garbage / Deshechos
Synonym of municipal solid waste and solid waste.
Source: BID Inglés

Solid waste resulting from animal, grain, fruit, or vegetable matter used or intended for use as food.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Synonyms:
Municipal solid waste
Solid waste

Related terms:
Domestic waste
Commercial waste
Industrial waste

Gate chamber /
A structure erected to house a valve or regulating device and provide access to the valve for maintenance and repair. If the chamber has a superstructure, it is termed a gate house.
Source: Banco Mundial

Gene / Gen
This is the part of the DNA molecule which carries the information defining the sequence of amino-acids in a specific polypeptide chain.

Synonyms:
Cistron

Related terms:
DNA
Genoma

Generator /
The producer of any types of waste or recoverable material.
Source: State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.

Genetic toxicology / Toxicología genética
This is the study of chemicals which can cause harmful heritable changes in the genetic information carried by living organisms in the form of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA).

Synonyms:
Genotoxicology

Related terms:
Heritable changes
Genetic information
Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA)
Genetics / Genética
The field of biological science that deals with the phenomena and mechanisms of heredity. Genetic problems may occur following toxic and radioactive disasters.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Biology
- Mutations

Geneva Convention / Convención de Ginebra
The body of international agreements consisting of four Conventions (1949) and two Additional Protocols (1977), concerning humanitarian treatment of victims of armed conflict, and put under the responsibility of the International Committee of the Red Cross. The first Protocol regulates the care of the wounded and sick soldiers on the battlefield; the second is about the care of the wounded, sick and shipwrecked in naval warfare; the third on the treatment of prisoners of war; the fourth on the protection of civilians in time of war. Additional Protocols I and II ensure more humane consideration not only in international conflicts but also in national strife, such as the treatment of guerilla fighters.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- International agreements
- International humanitarian law
- Armed conflicts

Genome / Genoma
The general term for all the genes carried by a cell.
Related terms:
- Genes

Genotoxic / Genotóxico
This is the adjective applied to any substance that is able to cause harmful changes to DNA. Such changes may lead to a transformed cell which can form a malignant tumour.
Toxic to the genetic material in cells.
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Related terms:
Geography

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Volcanos
Volcanic eruptions

\[ \text{gpcd} / \]
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Source: Banco Mundial
Synonymes:
Gallons per minute

Grab sample /
A sample taken at a given place and time. It may be representative of the flow. See also composite sample.
Source: Banco Mundial
Related terms:
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A classification of recyclable material based on its use, appearance, quality, manufacturing history, raw material or performance.
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Related terms:
Climate effects

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Related terms:
Shredders
Grinding
Screening grinders
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Grit removal

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Phreatic water
Subsoil water
Confined water
Related terms:
Water
Water resources
Aquifers
Artesian water
Groundwater catchment
Groundwater contamination
Hydrogeology
Wells
Percolation
Groundwater flow
Aquifers recharge

Groundwater level / Nivel de agua subterránea
The level at which soil and porous rock begins to be saturated with water.
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Related terms:
Groundwater

Guidelines / Guías
Any kind of recommendation or guidance on the protection of human beings or receptors in the environment from the adverse effects of air pollutants. As such, it is not restricted to a numerical value but might also be expressed in a different way, for example as exposure-response information or as a unit risk estimate.
Synonyms:
Guides
Related terms:
Guideline value

Guillotine damper /
An adjustable plate, used to regulate the flow of gases, installed vertically in a breeching.
Source:Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
Damper
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This is a skin test for screening possible contact allergens. It is considered to be a useful model for predicting likely moderate and strong sensitizers in humans.
Related terms:
Skin test
Guinea pigs

Gust of wind / Ráfaga
Sudden, brief increase of the wind speed over its mean value.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Wind
Wind speed
Haemosiderin / Hemosiderina
This is the name given to the iron-protein molecule which is a source of iron for haemoglobin synthesis and other processes requiring iron.
Related terms:
Haemoglobin

Halophilic / Halofílico
Organisms with an obligate requirement for saline conditions.

Halotolerant / Halotolerantes
Freshwater organisms that will tolerate and grow in saline conditions.

Haploid / Haploide
This adjective is applied to a cell containing only one set of chromosomes.
Related terms:
Gamete
Melosis

Hardness /
A characteristic of water, imparted by salts of calcium, magnesium, and iron, that causes curdling of soap, deposition of scale in boilers, damage in some industrial processes, and sometimes objectionable taste.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
Water hardness

Hauler /
A garbage collection company which offers complete refuse removal services. Many haulers now offer to serve as collectors of recyclables.
Source: State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.
Related terms:
Collector

Hazard / Peligro
"Hazard" is the general term for anything which has the ability to cause injury or for the potential to cause injury. The hazard associated with a potentially toxic substance is a function of its toxicity and the potential for exposure to the substance. The probability of exposure to the substance is a risk factor.
Related terms:
Risk
Hazard assessment / Evaluación de peligros
Determination of factors controlling the likely effects of a hazard such as the dose-effect and dose-response relationships, variations in target susceptibility, and mechanism of toxicity.

Hazard identification / Identificación de peligros
Determination of substances of concern, their adverse effects, target populations, and conditions of exposure, taking into account toxicity data and knowledge of effects on human health, other organisms and their environment.
Related terms:
Toxic substances
Toxicity
Human health

Hazardous substances and wastes stockpiling / Almacenamiento de materiales y residuos peligrosos
Action of preserving, keeping, depositing and assembling in a warehouse or other place, a considerable quantity of inflammable, toxic, corrosive, irritant, comburent or radioactive chemical products. The warehouses for hazardous materials must fulfill the characteristics that allow to reduce the effects in the case of accident and fulfill the international rules on security by providing the necessary segregation and separation accordingly to the chemical compatibility of the materials.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Hazardous waste storage
Hazardous waste containers
Hazardous waste disposal

Hazardous waste minimization / Minimización de residuos peligrosos
The design, manufacture, purchase, or use of materials to reduce the amount or toxicity of waste. Because it is intended to reduce pollution and conserve resources, source reduction should not increase the net amount or toxicity of wastes generated throughout the life of the product. Source reduction techniques include reusing items, minimizing the use of products that contain hazardous compounds, using only what is needed, extending the useful life of a product, and reducing unneeded packaging.
Source: EPA. The consumer's handbook for reducing solid waste.

The philosophy or practice of not creating or generating waste materials by increasing efficiency, substituting materials or changing processes so that fewer waste materials are produced.
Source: State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.

Any activity that reduces or eliminates the generation of a hazardous waste within a process.
Source: Banco Mundial
Sinonimos:
Source reduction
Hazardous waste abatement
Clean technology
Clean production
Hazardous waste recycling
Hazardous waste treatment
Hazardous waste processing
Waste prevention
Related terms:
Hazardous waste treatment plants
Toxic substances
Industrial effluent treatment
Hazardous waste use
Waste reduction

Hazardous wastes / Residuos peligrosos
A waste that, by virtue of its composition, carries the risk of death, injury, or impairment of health to humans or animals, the pollution of waters, or could have an unacceptable environmental impact if improperly handled, treated or disposed of. The term should not be used for waste that merely contains a hazardous material or materials. It should be used only to describe wastes that contain sufficient of these materials to render the waste as a whole hazardous within the definition given above.
Source: IPCS

Solid or semisolid wastes that due to its toxic, reactive, corrosive, radioactive, inflammable, explosive, or pathogenic characteristics, represent a substantial or potential risk to human health or the environment when managed with municipal solid waste in an authorized or clandestine way.

Wastes that due to its physical or chemical characteristics, depending on its concentration and exposure time, may cause injury and even death of living beings, as well as environmental pollution.
Source: BID Inglés

A waste, or combination of wastes, that may cause or significantly contribute to an increase in mortality or an increase in serious irreversible, or incapacitating reversible illness or that pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, disposed of, or otherwise managed. A legal definition of hazardous waste is included in the provisions of RCRA.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a

Sinonimos:
Hazardous materials
Hazardous products
Hazardous chemicals
Toxic wastes
Poisonous wastes

Related terms:
Hospital wastes
Radiactive wastes
Inflammable wastes
Chemical contaminants
Solid wastes
Harmful substances
Hazardous substances
Toxic substances
Hazardous waste use
Household hazardous waste
Explosive solid waste

HBV /
Hepatitis B virus.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a

Sinonimos:
Hepatitis B virus

Health center / Establecimiento de salud
Place, site, or facility where activities related to human or animal health care are carried out.
Source: BID Inglés
Related terms:
Health services
Hospitals
Public health
Hearth /
The bottom of a furnace on which waste materials are exposed to the flame.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
  Drying hearth
  Incineration

Heat / Calor
Means both thermal energy and thermal energy transfer.
Related terms:
  Central heating
  Calorimetry
  Thermal contamination
  Solar energy
  Calorific power
  Temperature

Heat balance /
An accounting of the distribution of the heat input and output of an incinerator or boiler,
usually on an hourly basis.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
  Heat
  Incinerator

Heat input /
Total energy released from burning.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a
Related terms:
  Energy

Heating value /
The amount of heat that is released when a material is combusted usually expressed as
Btu/lb or kJ/kg.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a
Related terms:
  Heat

Heatwave / Ola de calor
A long lasting period with extremely high surface temperature.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
  Wave

Hemoglobin / Hemoglobina
The iron-containing pigment of the red blood cells which carries oxygen from the lungs to the tissues.
Related terms:
  Heme
  Protoporphyrin

Hemostasis / Hemostasis
Normal, internal stability in an organism maintained by coordinated responses of the organ systems which automatically compensate for environmental changes.
HEPA filter /
High efficiency particulate air filter.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a

Hepatocyte / Hepatocrito
In histology, this name is given to a parenchymal liver cell.
Source: OMS. Programa Internacional de Seguridad de Sustancias Químicas.
Seguridad química; principios básicos de toxicología aplicada. La naturaleza de los peligros químicos. 2. ed. (revisada). Lima: CEPIS; 1997. Módulo de capacitación, 1. También en inglés. (IPCS)
Related terms:
Cell

Hepatotoxic / Hepatotóxico
The adjective applied to anything which is harmful to the liver.
Source: OMS. Programa Internacional de Seguridad de Sustancias Químicas.
Seguridad química; principios básicos de toxicología aplicada. La naturaleza de los peligros químicos. 2. ed. (revisada). Lima: CEPIS; 1997. Módulo de capacitación, 1. También en inglés. (IPCS)

Herbicides / Herbicidas
The descriptor applied to a chemical used to kill plants.
Source: OMS. Programa Internacional de Seguridad de Sustancias Químicas.
Seguridad química; principios básicos de toxicología aplicada. La naturaleza de los peligros químicos. 2. ed. (revisada). Lima: CEPIS; 1997. Módulo de capacitación, 1. También en inglés. (IPCS)
Related terms:
Weed control
Pesticides

Heterotrophic / Heterotrófico
The process of the formation of organic matter on the basis of organic carbon and inorganic nutrients.
Source: OMS. Programa Internacional de Seguridad de Sustancias Químicas.
Seguridad química; principios básicos de toxicología aplicada. La naturaleza de los peligros químicos. 2. ed. (revisada). Lima: CEPIS; 1997. Módulo de capacitación, 1. También en inglés. (IPCS)
Related terms:
Organic matter

High-grade paper /
Relatively valuable types of office papers, such as computer paper, laser printout, white ledger and tab cards. White ledger includes most copier paper, letterhead and non-glossy non-newsprint.
Source: State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.
Related terms:
White ledger

Hijacking / Piratería aérea
Any illegal violent action committed mainly in an airplane, sometimes on the highway, for private or political ends.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Piracy
**Histochemistry / Histoquímica**

This is the science concerned with the chemistry of microscopically visible structures. Chemical processes used to make cell structure microscopically visible.


Related terms:
- Chemical processes

**Histology / Histología**

This is the science concerned with the study of the microanatomy of tissues and their cellular structure.


**Histopathology / Histopatología**

This is the science concerned with the study of microscopic changes in diseased tissues.


**HIV / VIH**

Human Immunodeficiency Virus, which causes AIDS.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a

Sinonimos:
- Human Immunodeficiency Virus

Related terms:
- AIDS
- Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome

**Homeostasis / Homeostasis**

In medicine and biology, this term is applied to the inherent tendency in an organism toward maintenance of physiological and psychological stability.


**Hot drying hearth /**

A surface upon which waste materials are placed to dry or to burn. Hot combustion gases first pass over the materials and then under the hearth.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Related terms:
- Hearth
- Drying hearth

**Hot zone / Zona caliente**

Area immediately surrounding a dangerous goods incident which extends far enough to prevent adverse effects from released dangerous goods to personnel outside the zone. This zone is also referred to as exclusion zone, red zone or restricted zone in other documents.


Related terms:
- Hazard zones
House connection /
The pipe carrying the wastewater from the building to a common sewer. Also called building sewer, house sewer.
Source: Banco Mundial
Related terms:
Building sewer

House drain /
That part of the lowest horizontal piping of a drainage system which receives the discharge from soil, waste and other drainage pipes inside the walls of the building and conveys it to the building sewer (house sewer), the pipe that begins five feet outside the inner face of the building wall. Also called building drain.
Source: Banco Mundial
Sinonimos:
Building drain
Related terms:
Building sewer

Household hazardous waste /
Products containing hazardous substances that are used and disposed of by individual rather than industrial consumers. These products include some paints, solvents, and pesticides.
Source: EPA. The consumer's handbook for reducing solid waste.
Related terms:
Hazardous substances
Hazardous waste

Household wastes / Residuos domiciliarios
Consisting of waste from a private dwelling or residential home or from premises forming part of a university or school or other educational establishment or forming part of a hospital or nursing home.
Related terms:
Residential home wastes
University premises wastes
School premises wastes
Hospital premises wastes

Human resources in disasters / Recursos humanos en desastres
Workers that act in an emergency or a disaster: firemen, Red Cross staff, physicians, etc.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Disaster team
Firemen
Emergency medical system
Rescue team

Hurricane warning / Aviso de huracán
Meteorological message intended to warn those concerned of the existence or expected occurrence of a wind of Beaufort force 12 over a specified area.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Warning
Meteorological disasters
Hurricanes
**Hydrocarbon / Hidrocarburos**

An organic compound containing only the elements carbon and hydrogen. The carbon atoms may be arranged either in open-ended chains, which may or may not be branched or in closed rings. There are two types of ring hydrocarbons: alicyclic compounds, consisting of three or more carbon atoms arranged in a closed ring (and whose properties are similar to those of the open-chain compounds of the same molecular mass), and aromatic compounds. The molecular structure of aromatic compounds is based on that of benzene, the simplest member of the class, which contains six carbon atoms joined by three single and three double carbon-carbon bonds. Such compounds are described as polycyclic if they contain two or more rings; the term "polynuclear" (as in "polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbon", frequently abbreviated as PAH) is also used. The major constituents of gasoline and other petroleum fuels are hydrocarbons of the open-chain type. These compounds are not considered to be a hazard to health even at the concentrations at which they are encountered in city air. Many aromatic hydrocarbons, on the other hand, are highly toxic. Well known examples of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons are anthracene, naphthalene, and benzo[a]pyrene.


Any of a vast family of compounds containing carbon and hydrogen in various combinations, found especially in fossil fuels.

*Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996*

**Related terms:**
- Fossil fuels
- Industrial effluents
- Carcinogens
- Organic contaminants

**Hydrogen / Hidrógeno**

A colourless, odourless, inflammable gas, which combines chemically with oxygen to form water; formed also in combustion plumes.


**Related terms:**
- Tritium

**Hydrogen-ion concentration /**

The concentration of hydrogen-ions in moles per liter of solution. Commonly expressed as the pH value, which is the logarithm of the reciprocal of the hydrogen-ion concentration.

*Source: Banco Mundial*

**Hydrogeological map / Mapa hidrogeológico**

The synthetic map of a given territory showing the extent of its hydrological structure and characteristics, the distribution and dynamics of its underground water, and useful indications regarding the evaluation and harnessing of its subterranean water resources.

*Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)*

**Related terms:**
- Map
- Hydrogeology
- Underground water

**Hydrographs / Hidrogramas**

Graph showing the variation in time of some hydrological data such as water stage, discharge, sediment load, etc. Hydrograph is mostly used for stage or discharge.

*Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)*

**Related terms:**
- Hydrography
- Hydrologic statistics
Hydrological forecast / Predicción hidrológica
Statement of expected hydrological conditions for a specified period.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Hydrological data
- Hydrological statistics

Hydrological warning / Alerta hidrológica
Emergency information on an expected hydrological phenomenon which is considered to be dangerous.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Warning
- Hydrological disasters

Hydrosphere / Hidrosfera
This is the broad name for the water above, on or in the earth’s crust, including oceans, seas, lakes, ground water, and atmospheric moisture.
Related terms:
- Ground water
- Lakes
- Sea

Hydroxyl radical / Radical hidroxil
Univalent radical containing hydrogen and oxygen, OH, extremely effective oxidant in the atmosphere.
Related terms:
- Oxidant

Hypersensitivity / Hipersensibilidad
A broad term applied to disease symptoms following exposure to a previously encountered substance (allergen), often one which would otherwise be classified as harmless; essentially a malfunction of the immune system.
Sinonimos:
- Allergies
- Sensitization
Related terms:
- Occupational diseases

Hypotriglyceridaemia / Hipotrigliceridemia
In medicine, this defines the situation characterized by a decreased blood triglyceride content.
i.v. / i.v.  
This is the abbreviation for intravenous (used in relation to administration of drugs or other substances).  
Source: OMS. Programa Internacional de Seguridad de Sustancias Químicas.  
Seguridad química; principios básicos de toxicología aplicada. La naturaleza de los peligros químicos. 2. ed. (revisada). Lima: CEPIS; 1997. Módulo de capacitação, 1. También en inglés. (IPCS)  
Synonymes:  
Intravenous

Ice storm / Cencellada  
Intense formation of ice on objects by the freezing, on impact, of rain or drizzle.  
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Ignitability /  
The characteristic property of liquids having a flash point of less than 140°F; nonliquids liable to cause fires through friction, absorption of moisture, spontaneous chemical change, or retained heat from manufacturing, or are liable, when ignited, to burn so vigorously and persistently as to create a hazard; ignitable compressed gas; oxidizers.  
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Ignition arch /  
A refractory furnace arch or surface located over a fuel bed to radiate heat and to accelerate ignition.  
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Ignition temperature /  
The lowest temperature of a fuel at which combustion becomes self-sustaining.  
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Immediately dangerous to life or health concentration / Concentración inmediatamente peligrosa para la vida o la salud  
This is a regulatory value defined as the maximum exposure concentration in the workplace from which one could escape within 30 minutes without any escape-impairing symptoms or any irreversible health effects. This value should be referred to in respirator selection.  
Source: OMS. Programa Internacional de Seguridad de Sustancias Químicas.  
Seguridad química; principios básicos de toxicología aplicada. La naturaleza de los peligros químicos. 2. ed. (revisada). Lima: CEPIS; 1997. Módulo de capacitación, 1. También en inglés. (IPCS)  
Synonymes:  
IDLH

Immiscible / No miscible  
A material which does not mix readily with water.  
Synonymes:  
Non-polar

Immission / Inmisión  
Environmental concentration of a pollutant resulting from a combination of emissions and dispersals (often synonymous with exposure).  
Source: OMS. Programa Internacional de Seguridad de Sustancias Químicas.  
Seguridad química; principios básicos de toxicología aplicada. La naturaleza de los peligros químicos. 2. ed. (revisada). Lima: CEPIS; 1997. Módulo de capacitación, 1. También en inglés. (IPCS)  
Sounds impacting on the human ear.  
Source: OMS. Community noise  
Related terms:  
Environmental exposure
**Immune response / Respuesta inmune**
The immune response is the general reaction of the body to substances that are foreign or treated as foreign. It may take various forms e.g. antibody production, cell-mediated immunity, immunological tolerance, or hypersensitivity (allergy).


**Related terms:**
- Antibody production
- Cell-mediated immunity
- Immunological tolerance
- Hypersensitivity

**Immunochemistry / Inmunoquímica**
This is the science concerned with the chemistry of antigens, antibodies, and their relationship to each other.


**Related terms:**
- Antigen
- Antibody

**Immunoglobulin / Inmunoglobulinas**
One of a family of closely related though not identical proteins capable of acting as antibodies, abbreviation Ig.


**Synonymes:**
- Ig

**Related terms:**
- Immunoglobulin A
- Immunoglobulin E
- Immunoglobulin G
- Antibody

**Immunosuppression / Inmunosupresión**
In medicine, this term is applied to inhibition of the normal response of the immune system to an antigen.


**Related terms:**
- Antigen

**Immunotoxic / Inmunotóxico**
This adjective is applied to any substance harmful to the immune system.


**Related terms:**
- Immune system

**Impervious /**
Not allowing, or allowing only with great difficulty, the movement of water; impermeable.

*Source: Banco Mundial*

**Related terms:**
- Impervious bed
- Impervious soils
Impervious bed /
A bed or stratum through which water will not move.
Source:Banco Mundial
Related terms:
Impervious

Impoundment /
A pond, lake, tank, basin or other space, either natural or created in whole or part by the
building of engineering structure, which is used for storage, regulation, and control of water.
Source:Banco Mundial

In vitro / In vitro
A term applied to any study carried out in isolation from the living organism in an
experimental system (applied to studies of biological functions or processes to contrast with
in vivo studies).
Source:OMS. Programa Internacional de Seguridad de Sustancias Químicas.
Seguridad química; principios básicos de toxicología aplicada. La naturaleza de
capacitación, 1. También en inglés. (IPCS)
Related terms:
In vivo

In vivo / In vivo
The term used to contrast with "in vitro" describing any study carried out within the living
organism.
Source:OMS. Programa Internacional de Seguridad de Sustancias Químicas.
Seguridad química; principios básicos de toxicología aplicada. La naturaleza de
capacitación, 1. También en inglés. (IPCS)
Related terms:
In vitro

Incineration / Incineración
Combustion or controlled burning of volatile organic matter in sludge and solid waste which
reduces the volume of the material while producing heat, dry inorganic ash, and gaseous
emissions.
Source:Banco Mundial
An engineering process using controlled flame combustion to thermally degrade waste
materials.
Source:Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
Ash
Incinerators
Combustion
Solid waste processing
Solid waste incinerator plants
Pyrolysis
Waste-to-energy conversion
Incinerator stoker

Incinerator stoker /
A mechanically operable moving-grate arrangement for supporting, burning, or transporting
solid waste in a furnace and discharging the residue.
Source:Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
Incineration
Incinerators / Incineradores
A thermal device which combusts organic compounds using heat and oxygen.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a
Synonyms:
Combustion chambers
Related terms:
Smoke
Furnaces
Incineration
Conical burner

Indirect charges /
Charges which are a part of a total charge, but not directly related to it; for example, overhead.
Source: Banco Mundial
Related terms:
Overhead

Indirect exposure / Exposición indirecta
Exposure of the public via the environment, i.e. air, water, soil and food. The transfer of contaminants from environmental compartment to living biota can be estimated by transfer factors which are estimated from physico-chemical properties and/or biological processes.
Source: OMS. Programa Internacional de Seguridad de Sustancias Químicas.
Seguridad química; principios básicos de toxicología aplicada. La naturaleza de los peligros químicos. 2. ed. (revisada). Lima: CEPIS; 1997. Módulo de capacitación, 1. También en inglés. (IPCS)
Related terms:
Passive exposure
Passive smoker

Individual risk / Riesgo individual
Probability that an individual person will experience an adverse effect.
Source: OMS. Programa Internacional de Seguridad de Sustancias Químicas.
Seguridad química; principios básicos de toxicología aplicada. La naturaleza de los peligros químicos. 2. ed. (revisada). Lima: CEPIS; 1997. Módulo de capacitación, 1. También en inglés. (IPCS)

Individual sewage disposal /
A sewage disposal system located on a single premises and serving only that premises.
Source: Banco Mundial

Induced draft /
The negative pressure created by the action of a fan, blower, or other gas-moving device located between an incinerator and a stack.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Induced draft fan /
A fan used to move a gas stream by creating a negative pressure.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a
Related terms:
Induced draft

Induced seismicity / Sismicidad inducida
Earthquake activity resulting from made-man activities such as mining, large explosions, or forcing large quantities of liquid deep into the ground, e.g. oil-fields, waste disposal or reservoir filling.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Seisms
Industrial fungicides / Fungicidas industriales
Descriptor for a chemical used to kill fungi.
Synonyms:
- Fungicide
Related terms:
- Fungi
- Pesticide

Industrial reuse /
The direct use or recycling of treated or untreated wastewater by industry.
Source:Banco Mundial
Related terms:
- Reuse

Industrial wastes / Residuos industriales
Waste from any industrial undertaking or organization.
Source:IPCS
Wastes generated in industrial activities as a result of production processes, equipment and facility maintenance, and pollution treatment and control.
Source:BID Inglés
Generally liquid, solid or gaseous wastes originating from the manufacture of specific products. Such wastes are usually more concentrated, more variable in content and rate, and require more extensive or different treatment than municipal waste.
Source:Banco Mundial
Synonyms:
- Solid industrial waste
- Sugar industry effluents
Related terms:
- Industrial pollutants
- Solid wastes
- Municipal wastes
- Industrial effluents
- Commercial wastes
- Industries

Infectious waste /
Waste capable of producing an infectious disease in humans.
Source:Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a
Related terms:
- Red bag waste
- Hazardous waste

Infiltration /
1. The flow or movement of water through the interstices or pores of a soil or other porous medium. 2. The quantity of groundwater that leaks into a pipe through joints, porous walls, or breaks. 3. The entrance of water from the ground into a gallery. 4. The absorption of liquid by the soil, either as it falls as precipitation or from a stream flowing over the surface.
Source:Banco Mundial
Related terms:
- Inflow

Infiltration air /
Air that leaks into the chambers of ducts of an incinerator.
Source:Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
**Inflammable wastes / Residuos inflamables**
Wastes that can burn spontaneously under normal conditions.
Source:BID Inglés

A waste capable of igniting easily and burning rapidly.
Source:Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

*Synonyms:*
Inflammable solid waste
Flammable waste

*Related terms:*
Explosive wastes
Hazardous waste

**Inflow /**
In relation to sanitary sewers, the extraneous flow which enters a sanitary sewer from sources other than infiltration, such as roof leaders, basement drains, land drains, and manholes covers. See also infiltration.
Source:Banco Mundial

*Related terms:*
Infiltration

**Influent /**
Water, wastewater, or other liquid flowing into a reservoir, basin, or treatment plant, or treatment process. See also effluent.
Source:Banco Mundial

*Related terms:*
Effluent

**Infrared light / Luz infrarroja**
Invisible rays of the spectrum lying outside the red end of the visible spectrum, radiated by heat.

**Inherently biodegradable / Inherentemente biodegradable**
Class of compounds for which there is unequivocal evidence of biodegradation (primary or ultimate)in any test of biodegradability.

*Related terms:*
Biodegradation

**Initiator / Iniciador**
Any agent which starts the process of tumour formation, usually by action on the genetic material, is called an initiator.

*Related terms:*
Promoter (carcinogenicity)

**Inorganic matter /**
Chemical substances of mineral origin, not containing carbon-to-carbon bonding.
Source:Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

*Related terms:*
Inorganic compounds
Inorganic refuse /
Solid waste composed of matter other than plant, animal, and certain carbon compounds, e.g., metals and glass.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms: Solid waste

Insecticides / Insecticidas
This descriptor is applied to any chemical used to kill insects.
Related terms: Insects Pesticides

Institutional solid waste / Residuo sólido institucional
Wastes generated in educational, governmental, military and religious establishments; offices; prisons; and air, terrestrial, fluvial or marine terminals, among others.
Source: BID Inglés
Solid wastes generated by educational, health care, correctional, and similar institutional facilities.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Insulated wall /
A furnace wall on which refractory material is installed over insulation.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Integrated waste management /
The complementary use of a variety of practices to handle municipal solid waste safely and effectively. Integrated waste management techniques include source reduction, recycling, composting, combustion, and landfilling.
Source: EPA. The consumer’s handbook for reducing solid waste.
Related terms: Municipal solid waste

Intensity macroseismic / Intensidad macrosísmica
A number by which the consequences of an earthquake at a particular place are scaled by its effects on persons, structures, and earth materials. Intensity scales in most common use are the modified Mercalli (MM) and Medvedev, Sponheuer and Karknik (MSK), both having twelve degrees.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms: Mercalli scale

Intercepting sewer /
A sewer that receives dry-weather flow from a number of transverse sewers or outlets and frequently additional predetermined quantities of storm water (if from a combined system) and conducts such waters to a point for treatment or disposal.
Source: Banco Mundial

Intermediate treatment /
(1) The removal of a high percentage of suspended solids and a substantial percentage of colloidal matter, but little dissolved matter. (2) Wastewater treatment similar to secondary treatment but generally not as complete, resulting in BOD removals of about 60 percent to 75 percent.
Source: Banco Mundial
Related terms: Secondary treatment
International assistance in disaster / Asistencia internacional en desastres
Assistance given by international organisms or other countries. It is important that this assistance be convenient, correctly requested and defined accordingly to the affected country needs.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Voluntary agencies
Request for disaster assistance

International humanitarian law / Derecho humanitario internacional
Humanitarian legislation comprised mainly of the four Geneva Conventions (1949) and the two Additional Protocols (1977), intimately associated with the responsibilities of the International Committee of the Red Cross and of the National Red Cross or Red Crescent Societies. Its main purpose is to provide protection and assistance to victims of armed conflict. Also referred to as the Law of War, the Law of Geneva.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Geneva convention
Armed conflicts

Interstitial water / Agua intersticial
Water filling the free spaces between bottom sediment particles (pore water).

Intertidal / Intermareas
The coastal strip between the highest and the lowest levels of the tide.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Tideland
Tides

Inversion layer / Capa de inversión
Generally used in meteorology indicating a stable layer created by differences in temperature or density which limits the transfer of chemicals.
Atmospheric layer in which the temperature increases or remains constant with height.
Related terms:
Meteorology
Ionized radiation / Radiación ionizante
Any electromagnetic radiation that, when passing through matter can produce ions. Includes X-rays, alpha-, beta-, gamma-rays, neutrons, protons.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Synonyms:
- Ionized radiations
- Radiation, ionizing

Related terms:
- Alpha particles
- Radiological protection
- Radiation effects
- Mutations
- Beta rays

Ionosphere / Ionosfera
The zone of the atmosphere, from about 70 km to 500 km, in which charged particles, ions and electrons are formed by photo-ionization under the effect of the sun's radiation.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Related terms:
- Atmosphere
- Ionization
- Solar radiation

Ionospheric sounding / Telesondeo ionosférico
Determination of the vertical profile of the electronic density of the ionosphere, by measuring the echo of multiple frequency radioelectric signals.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Related terms:
- Remote sounding
- Ionosphere

Irritant / Irritante
This descriptor is applied to any substance causing inflammation following immediate, prolonged, or repeated contact with skin or mucous membrane.

Related terms:
- Dermal irritation

Ischemia / Isquemia
In medicine, this term is applied to deficiency of blood supply to any part of the body, relative to its local requirements.

Isobar / Isobara
A line represented on a map or chart, connecting points on the surface that have equal barometric pressure over a given time or period.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Isohyet / Isoyeta
A line drawn on a map or chart connecting points with equal amounts of precipitation, for equal periods of time.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Isokinetic sampling /
Sampling in which the linear velocity of the gas entering the sample nozzle is equal to that of the undisturbed gas stream at the sample point.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Isoseismal / Isosísmico
A line surrounding geographic points at which the observed macroseismic intensity is the same.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Related terms:
Macroseismic intensity

Isotherm / Isoterma
Line drawn on a map or chart connecting points with equal temperature.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
**JCAHO /**

Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

*Source:Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a*

*Sinonimos:*

Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations

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**Joint treatment /**

The combined treatment of municipal and industrial wastewaters.

*Source:Banco Mundial*

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**Junk /**

Unprocessed, discarded materials that are usually not suitable for reuse or recycling, e.g., rags, paper, toys, metal, furniture.

*Source:Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996*
Kaolin / Kaolin
A special type of clay, usually high in aluminum content, sometimes used in water treatment.
Source: Banco Mundial

Kerma / Kerma
Acronymic term for Kinetic Energy Released in Matter, the measure of intensity of ionizing radiation at a given place. The dose is expressed in grays.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Ionizing radiation

Kidnap / Secuestro
To take someone away illegally and usually by force, in order to demand especially money for their safe return.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Kiloton / Kilotonelada
A measure of the explosive power of nuclear arms, equivalent to one thousand tons of TNT. The bomb on Hiroshima was of 12.5 kt, on Nagasaki, 22 kt.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Kraft paper / Kraft paper
A comparatively coarse paper noted for its strength and used primarily as a wrapper or packaging material.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Laboratories / Laboratorios
An entity that calibrates or carries out tests and assays.

Related terms:
- Biological analysis
- Food analysis
- Water analysis
- Air analysis
- Soil analysis
- Physical analysis
- Physicochemical analysis
- Chemical analysis
- Laboratory equipment

LAER /
Lowest achievable emission rate.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a
Synonyms:
- Lowest achievable emission rate

Related terms:
- Emission rate

Lagoons / Lagunas
Any large holding or detention pond, usually with earthen dikes, used to contain wastewater while sedimentation and biological oxidation occur. See also anaerobic lagoon.
Source: Banco Mundial

Related terms:
- Limnology
- Lakes

Land application / Aplicación en el terreno
The recycling treatment or disposal of wastewater or wastewater solids to the land under controlled conditions.
Source: Banco Mundial

Related terms:
- Manure
- Seepage
- Wastewater subsurface injection
- Percolation
- Wastewater use
- Codisposal
- Hazardous waste disposal
- Deep-well injection
- Subsurface mines
- Excreta disposal
- Liquid disposal

Land disposal /
Application of raw or treated wastewater sludges, or solid waste to soils and/or substrata without production of usable agricultural products. See also land treatment.
Source: Banco Mundial

Related terms:
- Land treatment

Land treatment /
Irrigation with partially treated wastewater on land; additional treatment is provided by soil, microorganisms, and crops which are grown to utilize nutrients. See also land application, land disposal.
Source: Banco Mundial

Related terms:
- Land application
- Land disposal
Landfill / Relleno
The deposit of waste onto and into land in such a way that pollution or harm to the environment is prevented and, through restoration, to provide land which may be used for another purpose. (i)"Controlled landfill" is a disposal practice where wastes are deposited in an orderly planned manner at a licensed site. (ii)"Monofill" #8212; a landfill site at which only one type of waste is deposited. (iii)"Multifill" #8212; a landfill site which can accept several types of wastes. (iv)"Codisposal" #8212; the landfilling of both industrial and household wastes together in such a way that benefit is derived from biodegradation processes to produce relatively non-polluting products. (v)"Direct landfill" #8212; where domestic or other wastes are deposited without pretreatment. (vi)"Onion skin" landfill #8212; in this method waste is deposited in front of the tip face and then spread upwards over the working face in thin layers by steel wheeled compactors to break up and compact the waste.

Related terms:
Controlled landfill
Monofill
Multifill
Codisposal
"Onion skin" landfill
Direct landfill

Landslides / Deslizamientos de tierra
In general, all varieties of slope movement, under the influence of gravity. More strictly refers to downslope movement of rock and/or earth masses along one or several slide surfaces.
Source:Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Synonymes:
Landslides
Avalanches
Collapses

Related terms:
Sanitation in disasters

Lantz process /
A destructive distillation technique in which the combustible components of solid waste are converted to combustible gases, charcoal, and a variety of distillates.
Source:Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Lapse rate / Gradiente vertical
The rate of change of any meteorological element with height.

Related terms:
Dry adiabatic lapse rate

Lateral sewer / A sewer that discharges into a branch or other sewer and has no other common sewer tributary to it.
Source:Banco Mundial
Latitude / Latitud
In the geographical system of spherical coordinates, the angular distance of a point from a fundamental plane, computed from this plane 0 to 90 degree towards the (positive) North Pole and 0 to -90 degree towards the South. The Equator marks 0 degree.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Geographical latitude

Lauric acid hydroxylase / Hidroxilasa de ácido láurico
Lauric acid 11- (ω-1) or 12 (ω) hydroxylating enzyme which is used as a marker for the measurement of an isoenzyme of cytochrome P-450. This microsomal enzyme is induced in rodent liver by several peroxisomal proliferators.
Related terms:
Cytochrome P-450
Microsome
Peroxisome

Lava flow / Flujo de lava
Molten rock which flows down-slope from a volcanic vent, typically moving between a few metres to several tens of kilometres per hour.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Volcanic eruptions
Lava

LCn / CLn
This abbreviation is used for the exposure concentration of a toxicant lethal to n% of a test population.
Synonymes:
Median lethal concentration

LDn / DLn
This abbreviation is used for the dose of a toxicant lethal to n% of a test population.
Synonymes:
Lethal dose
Median lethal dose
Related terms:
Lethal toxicants

Leachate recirculation / Recirculación de lixiviado
The practice of returning leachate to the upper layers of a landfill, from which it has been abstracted, usually by direct spraying onto its surface.
Related terms:
Leaching
Lead time / Tiempo de reacción
Period of particular hazard between its announcement and arrival, also used for the mobilization of resources needed in relief operations.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Least-cost design /
Facility design which complies with the intent of the specifications at the lowest possible cost.
Source: Banco Mundial

Lethal dose 50 / Dosificación letal mediana
Statistically derived single dose of a chemical that can be expected to cause death in 50% of a given population of organisms under a defined set of experimental conditions. This figure has often been used to classify and compare toxicity among chemicals but its value for this purpose is doubtful. A commonly used classification of this kind is as follows:

Category LD50 Orally to Rat (mg/kg body weight)

Very toxic < 25

Toxic > 25 a 200

Harmful >200 a 2.000

Dose of a substance which causes death when taken into the body by a single absorption.

The quantity of a substance which is fatal to 50 percent of the population on which it is tested.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Synonymes: Median lethal dose LD50 Lethal dose LD
Related terms: Permissible limits Toxic substances Toxicity

Leukemia / Leucemia
A malignancy of the blood-forming cells in the bone marrow.
Related terms: Cancer

Lift pump /
A pump used to elevate wastewater flow in a sewer to facilitate gravity flow in a portion of a collection system, before treatment, or afterwards, before effluent discharge.
Source: Banco Mundial
**Limnic environment / Ambiente límneo**
Freshwater environments such as rivers and lakes.

**Line manhole /**
A manhole on a sewer at a point where no other sewers connect. It is often located at a point where the sewer changes direction, either in line or grade.
Source: Banco Mundial

**Liner /**
The material used on the inside of a furnace wall to ensure that a chamber is impervious to escaping gases; the material used on the inside of a sanitary landfill to ensure that the basin is impervious to fluids.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

**Lipophilicity / Lipofilicidad**
Affinity for fat and high lipid solubility.

**Liquefaction / Licuefacción**
Loss of resistance to share stress of a water-saturated sandy oil.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

**Liquid disposal /**
Generally, any process for ultimate disposal of liquid wastes, as for example by discharge to ocean or other receiving water, land application, deepwell injection.
Source: Banco Mundial

**Liquor /**
A solution of dissolved substance in a liquid (as opposed to a slurry, in which the materials are insoluble).
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a

**Liver nodule / Nódulo hepático**
This medical term is applied to any small node or aggregation of cells within the liver.

**Lofting / Expansión en ascenso**
A pollution plume with a flat base but appreciable vertical spread indicative of an atmosphere which is statically stable up to the base of the plume and unstable above.
**Log P<sub>ow</sub>/ Log P<sub>ow</sub>**

Logarithm of the partition coefficient of a substance between n-octanol and water: empirically useful for calculating bioaccumulation, fish toxicity, membrane adsorption and penetration, etc.


**Related terms:**
Partition coefficient

**Logistics / Logística**

The range of operational activities concerned with supply, handling, transportation, and distribution of materials. Also applicable to the transportation of people.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. *(CRID)*

**Looping / Expansión en espiral**

Formation of a pollution plume which is distorted by large vertical eddies in an unstable atmosphere.


**Low birth weight / Peso bajo al nacer**

Abnormally low weight of a newborn, usually below 2000 g.


**Lower respiratory symptom / Síntoma respiratorio inferior**

Symptom in the lower respiratory tract (i.e. the respiratory tract from trachea to bronchioles).


**Related terms:**
Respiratory tract diseases
Bronchiole
Trachea

**Lung cancer / Cáncer al pulmón**

Cancer that may appear in the trachea, air sacs and other lung tubes. It may appear as an ulcer in the windpipe, as a nodule or small flattened lump, or on the surface blocking air tubes. It may extend into the lymphatic and blood vessels.


**Related terms:**
Cancer

**Lysimeter / Lisímetro**

Laboratory column of selected representative soil or a protected monolith of undisturbed field soil with facilities for sampling and monitoring the movement of water and chemicals.

Macroencapsulation /  
The isolation of a waste by embedding it in, or surrounding it with, a material which acts as a barrier to water or air.  
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996  
Related terms:  
Encapsulation

Macrophages / Macrófagos  
Large phagocytic cells found in connective tissue, especially in areas of inflammation.  
Source: OMS. Programa Internacional de Seguridad de Sustancias Químicas.  
Seguridad química; principios básicos de toxicología aplicada. La naturaleza de los peligros químicos. 2. ed. (revisada). Lima: CEPIS; 1997. Módulo de capacitación, 1. También en inglés. (IPCS)  
Related terms:  
Phagocytic cells  
Phagocytosis

Macroscopic pathology / Patología macroscópica  
Study in diseased tissues of changes which are visible to the naked eye.  
Source: OMS. Programa Internacional de Seguridad de Sustancias Químicas.  
Seguridad química; principios básicos de toxicología aplicada. La naturaleza de los peligros químicos. 2. ed. (revisada). Lima: CEPIS; 1997. Módulo de capacitación, 1. También en inglés. (IPCS)  
Synonymes:  
Gross pathology  
Related terms:  
Pathology  
Microscopic pathology

Magma / Magma  
The molten matter including liquid rock and gas under pressure which may emerge from a volcanic vent.  
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)  
Related terms:  
Lava  
Volcanic eruptions

Magnetic separation /  
The process by which a permanent magnet or electromagnet is used to attract magnetic materials away from mixed waste.  
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Main sewer /  
(1) In larger systems, the principal sewer to which branch sewers and sub mains are tributary; also called trunk sewer. In small systems, a sewer to which one or more branch sewers are tributary. (2) In plumbing, the public sewer to which the house or building sewer is connected.  
Source: Banco Mundial  
Related terms:  
Trunk sewer

Make-up water /  
Water added to compensate for water losses resulting from evaporation and water disposal.  
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a
**Malignancy / Malignidad**

Cancerous growth, a mass of cells showing uncontrolled growth, a tendency to invade and damage surrounding tissues and an ability to seed daughter growths to sites remote from the primary growth.


*Related terms:*
- Cancerous growth
- Tumour
- Metastasis

**Malignant / Maligno**

Adjective describing cells in a cancerous growth.


*Related terms:*
- Tumour
- Cancer
- Metastasis

**Management / Gestión**

Source: BID Inglés

Synonyms:
- Administration

*Related terms:*
- Organization and administration

**Management / Manejo**

Set of operations to dispose wastes in the most adequate way according to its characteristics. Its objective is to prevent damages or risks to human health or the environment. It includes waste storage, sweeping, collection, transfer, transportation, treatment, final disposal, or any other necessary operation.

Source: BID Inglés

Synonyms:
- Administration

*Related terms:*
- Municipal management

**Management of natural resources / Administración de recursos naturales**

Administration of the natural resources in a manner that promotes judicious utilization, conservation and renewal, with minimum waste, pollution or depletion, for the improvement of the environment and prevention of disasters.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

*Related terms:*
- Natural resources
- Exploitation of natural resources

**Mandate refugee / Refugiado acogido al mandato**

Person who is considered to be a refugee according to the criteria of the statutes of UNHCR.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

*Related terms:*
- Refugees
**Maritime climate / Clima marítimo**

The climate of regions adjacent to the sea, characterized by small diurnal or annual (or both) amplitudes of temperature, and by high relative humidity.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

*Related terms:*
- Climate
- Climatic zone

**Maritime rights / Derecho marítimo**

The system of international laws and regulations governing the marine areas and their utilization, and the persons associated with such activity.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

*Synonyms:*
- Sea rights

*Related terms:*
- Water rights

**Masking /**

Blocking out one sight, sound, or smell with another.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

**Mass explosion / Explosión masiva**

Explosion which affects almost the entire load virtually instantaneously.


**Materials and supplies stockpiling / Almacenamiento de materiales y suministros**

Action of preserving, keeping, depositing and assembling in warehouse or other places, the necessary supplies for the development of the services and commercial productive activities; the process of prior identification, availability and storage of supplies likely to be needed for disaster response.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

**Materials recovery facility / Instalación de recuperación de materiales**

A plant which processes or prepares recoverable materials for shipment to end-users. Incoming material can be co-mingled or source separated as recyclable, reusable and compostable materials. At some MRFs, materials are extracted from mixed waste.

Source: State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.

*Synonyms:*
- MRF

*Related terms:*
- Materials recovery/transfer facilities
- Recoverable materials

**Maximum acceptable dose / Dosis máxima admisible**

The maximum quantity of a substance or energy which, in the present state of scientific knowledge, does not seem to provoke appreciable disturbances in the receiving person or his descendants.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

**Maximum allowable concentration / Concentración máxima permisible**

Exposure concentration not to be exceeded under any circumstances.


*Synonyms:*
- MAC
Maximum probable flood / Crecida máxima probable
Greatest flood that may be expected, taking into account all pertinent factors of location, meteorology, hydrology and terrain.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Related terms:
- Hydrological disasters
- Floods
- Flood control

Maximum Residue Limit / Límite residual máximo
MRLs are estimated for individual pesticides or veterinary drug residues in various food commodities. They are based on good agricultural practice (pesticides) or good practice in the use of veterinary drugs in which the product has been used in an efficacious manner and appropriate withdrawal periods have been followed. They are expressed as either the parent compound or a metabolite that is, or is representative of, the residue of toxicological concern in the food commodity. MRLs are not based upon toxicological data, but crude estimates of their toxicological significance are usually made by comparing the acceptable daily intake (ADI) with a calculation of the total intake of the residue based on the MRLs and food intake data of these commodities for which MRLs have been established.

Synonymes:
- MRL

Related terms:
- GAP

Maximum tolerable concentration / Concentración máxima tolerable
Highest concentration of a substance in an environmental medium which does not cause death of test organisms or species.

Synonymes:
- LC₅₀
- MTC

Mechanical aeration /
(1) The mixing, by mechanical means, of wastewater and activated sludge in the aeration tank of the activated sludge process to bring fresh surfaces of liquid into contact with the atmosphere. (2) The introduction of atmospheric oxygen into a liquid by a mechanical action of paddle, paddle wheel, spray, or turbine mechanisms.
Source: Banco Mundial

Related terms:
- Aeration

Median effective concentration / Concentración efectiva media
Statistically derived concentration of a toxicant that can be expected to cause a defined non-lethal effect in 50% of a given population of organisms under defined conditions. The defined effect must be quantal.

Synonymes:
- EC₅₀

Related terms:
- Quantal effect
**Median effective dose / Dosis efectiva mediana**

Statistically derived single dose of a substance that can be expected to cause a non-lethal effect of a defined size in 50% of a given population of organisms under a defined set of experimental conditions. The defined effect must be quantal.


**Synonyms:**

**ED50**

**Related terms:**

Effective dose
Toxic substances
Quantal effect
Toxicity
Permissible limits

**Median lethal concentration / Concentración letal media**

Statistically derived concentration of a chemical in water that can be expected to cause death in 50% of a given population of organisms under a defined set of experimental conditions.


**Synonyms:**

**LC50**

**Related terms:**

Effective concentration

**Megaton / Megatonelada**

A measure of the explosive power of nuclear arms, equivalent to 4.187 X 10\(^{15}\) joules, or about the equivalent of one million tons of TNT.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

**Meiosis / Meiosis**

Process of "reductive" cell division, occurring in the production of gametes, by means of which each daughter nucleus receives half the number of chromosomes characteristic of the somatic cells of the species.


**Related terms:**

Haploid
Gamete

**Melt water / Agua de deshielo**

Disintegration of the ice cover.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

**Synonyms:**

Sleet
Thawing

**Related terms:**

Runoff
Ice
Snow
Mental health / Salud mental
The absence of identifiable psychiatric disorder according to current norms. In noise research, mental health covers a variety of symptoms, ranging from anxiety, emotional stress, nervous complaints, nausea, headaches, instability, argumentativeness, sexual impotency, changes in general mood and anxiety, and social conflicts, to more general psychiatric categories like neurosis, psychosis and hysteria.
Source: OMS. Community noise
Related terms:
- Anxiety
- Hysteria
- Neurosis
- Psychosis

Mercalli scale / Escala de Mercalli
Numerical scale from 1 to 12, indicating the intensity of an earthquake.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Earthquakes
- Intensity macroseismic

Mesothelioma / Mesotelioma
Malignant spreading tumour of the mesothelium of the pleura, pericardium, or peritoneum, arising as a result of the presence of asbestos fibres. It is diagnostic of exposure to asbestos.
Related terms:
- Tumour
- Asbestosis
- Pneumoconiosis

Metabolic activation / Activación metabólica
Biotransformation of relatively inert chemicals to biologically reactive metabolites.
Synonymes:
- Activation
- Bioactivation
Related terms:
- Biotransformation
- Lethal synthesis

Metabolic transformation / Transformación metabólica
Biochemical transformation of a substance which takes place within an organism.
Synonymes:
- Biotransformation
**Metabolism / Metabolismo**

Sum of the physical and chemical changes that take place in living organisms. These changes include both synthesis (anabolism) and breakdown (catabolism) of body constituents. In a narrower sense, the physical and chemical changes that take place in a given chemical substance within an organism. It includes the uptake and distribution within the body of chemical compounds, the changes (biotransformations) undergone by such substances, and the elimination of the compounds and their metabolites.


Related terms:
- Biodegradation
- Biology
- Biochemistry
- Biochemical oxygen demand
- Biotransformation
- Nutrients
- Proteins

**Metal cleaning wastes /**

Any cleaning compounds, rinse waters, or any other waterborne residues derived from cleaning any metal process equipment including, but not limited to, boiler tube cleaning, boiler fireside cleaning, and air preheater cleaning.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

**Metaplasia / Metaplasia**

Conversion of one kind of tissue into a form that is not normal for that tissue.


Related terms:
- Hyperplasia
- Neoplasia

**Meteorological sounding / Telesondeo meteorológico**

Determination of the profile of the atmosphere at different altitudes, usually by means of radio or satellite signals.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Related terms:
- Remote sounding

**Meteorology / Meteorología**

The science of the atmosphere and of the phenomena that occur in it. Meteorological forecasting can help prevent or mitigate disasters.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Related terms:
- Climatology
- Meteorological disasters
- Meteorologic statistics
- Meteorological stations
- Meteorological factors
- Hydrometeorology
- Atmospheric pressure
Meteosat / Meteosat
The European geostationary satellite, located above the equator on the prime meridian from where it can observe and transmit images of the meteorological conditions over the whole Africa, much of Europe and the Atlantic and part of South America. Other operational systems include IROS-N (USA), METEOR (USSR) and, for hydrology and oceanography, the LANDSAT.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Related terms:
Satellite

Methane / Metano
A colourless, odourless gas, formula CH₄. It is flammable and forms explosive mixtures with air. Methane is the principal constituent of most natural gas and a major constituent of coal gas. It is formed in the decomposition of organic matter, e.g. in marshes, and a common term for it is "marsh gas".


Related terms:
Hydrocarbons
Organic compounds
Biogas
Asphyxiating gases
Ethane
Sanitary landfills

Methanogenic bacteria / Bacterias metanógenas
Bacteria that produce primarily methane during conversion of fermentation end products.


mg/l /
Milligrams per liter, a measure of concentration, equivalent to the replacing ppm in the case of dilute solutions.

Source: Banco Mundial

Synonymes:
Milligrams per liter

mgd /
Million gallons per day, a measure of flow, equivalent to 1.547 cfs; 681 gpm; 3785 cu m/d.

Source: Banco Mundial

Synonymes:
Million gallons per day

Microbiology / Microbiología
Study of microscopic organisms of living matter and their processes.

Source: Banco Mundial

Related terms:
Microbiological analysis
Bacteriology
Biology
Biotechnology
Water microbiology
Protozoa
Rickettsias
Virology
Microencapsulation /  
The isolation of a waste from external effects by mixing it with a material which then cures or converts it to a solid, nonleaching barrier.  
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Microzonation / Microzonificación  
Subdivision of a region into areas where similar hazard-related effects can be expected. Seismic microzonation is the mapping of a local seismic hazard using a large scale (order of magnitude from 1/5000 to 1/10000).  
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Milled refuse /  
Solid waste that has been mechanically reduced in size.  
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996  
Related terms:  
Solid waste

Mine water /  
Drainage water from surface or underground mines; when specified as acid mine drainage, refers to coal mine wastewater that is highly contaminated with sulfuric acid and dissolved iron produced by biological and chemical reactions with exposed iron pyrites.  
Source: Banco Mundial

Mining waste /  
Residues which result from the extraction of raw materials from the earth.  
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996  
Related terms:  
Solid wastes

Miscible / Miscible  
A material which mixes readily with water.  
Synonyms:  
Polar

Mist / Bruma  
Loose term applied to a suspension of droplets in a gas. In meteorology it relates to visibility of less than 2 km but greater than 1 km. See also fog.  
Related terms:  
Fog  
Meteorological factors  
Mist catchment  
Photochemical mist
Mist / Nebulina

Loose term applied to a suspension of droplets in a gas. In meteorology it relates to visibility of less than 2 km but greater than 1 km. See also fog.

A suspension in the atmosphere of extremely small (dry) particles, individually invisible to the naked eye, but which are numerous enough to give the atmosphere an appearance of opalescence together with reduced visibility.

Source: OMS. Guidelines for air quality

A suspension in the atmosphere of extremely small (dry) particles, individually invisible to the naked eye, but which are numerous enough to give the atmosphere an appearance of opalescence together with reduced visibility.

Source: OMS. Vegetation fire events

Liquid particles, measuring 40 to 500 A in diameter, that are formed by condensation of vapor.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Synonyms: Haze

Related terms: Meteorological factors

Photochemical mist

Mist catchment

Clouds

Fog

Mist eliminator /

Equipment that removes entrained water droplets downstream from a scrubber.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a

Mitosis / Mitosis

Process by which a cell nucleus divides into two daughter nuclei, each having the same genetic complement as the parent cell; nuclear division is usually followed by cell division.


Mixed function oxidases / Oxidasas de función mixta

Oxidizing enzymes which are involved in the metabolism of many foreign compounds, giving products of different toxicity from the parent compound.


Related terms: Oxidizing enzymes
Mixed layer / Capa de mezcla
Layer adjacent to the earth’s surface which is mixed by convection or frictionally-induced turbulence or both.
Related terms:
Air pollution
Convection

Mixed paper /
Scrap paper of various grades, weights and colors. To be recyclable, limits must usually be placed on the inclusion of some types of paper.
Source: State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.
Related terms:
Paper stock

Mixing basin /
A basin or tank in which agitation is applied to water, wastewater, or sludge to increase the dispersion rate of applied chemicals; also, tanks used for general mixing purposes.
Source: Banco Mundial

Mixing chamber /
A chamber usually placed between the primary and secondary combustion chambers and in which the products of combustion are thoroughly mixed by turbulence that is created by increased velocities of gases, checkerwork, or turns in the direction of the gas flow.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Mixture /
Any combination of two or more chemical substances if the combination does not occur in nature and is not, in whole or in part, the result of a chemical reaction.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Mobile satellite communication system / Sistema móvil de comunicación por satélite
Used after breakdown of other communication facilities in disaster affected areas by disaster aid teams to perform via Satellite exchange of detailed information by telex, phone, fax with their headquarters concerning detailed requirements ensuring a most effective way for the delivery of appropriate relief supplies.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Synonyms:
SATCOM
Related terms:
Satellite applications
Communication resources
Remote sensors

Modular combustion unit /
One of a series of incinerator units designed to operate independently and can handle small quantities of solid waste.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Synonyms:
MCU
Related terms:
Incinerator
Molluscicide / Molusquicida
Chemical used to kill molluscs.

Related terms:
- Molluscs
- Pesticide

Monitoring / Monitoreo
System that permits the continuous observation, measurement and a valuation of the progress of a process or phenomenon with a view to taking corrective measures.
Source: CRID

(1) Routine observation, sampling and testing of designated locations or parameters to determine efficiency of treatment or compliance with standards or requirements. (2) The procedure or operation of locating and measuring radioactive contamination by means of survey instruments that can detect and measure, as dose rate, ionizing radiations.
Source: Banco Mundial

 Related terms:
- Biological monitoring
- Environmental monitoring

Monsoon climate / Clima monzónico
Type of climate found in regions subject to monsoons, especially around the Indian Ocean, characterized mainly by a dry winter and wet summer, due to the geographic influences of an unequal warming of the land and of the seas.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Related terms:
- Climate
- Climatic zone

Morbidity / Morbilidad
The number of sick persons or cases of disease in relationship to a specific population.

Related terms:
- Life quality
- Demography
- Vital statistics
- Mortality

Mortality / Mortalidad
The death rate; the ratio of the number of deaths to a given population.

Synonyms:
- Death causes

Related terms:
- Life quality
- Epidemiology
- Vital statistics
- Occupational accidents
- Morbidity
- Demography
- Mortality rate
Mountain climate / Clima de montaña
Climate governed by the geographic factor of altitude, and characterized by low pressure and by intense solar radiation rich in ultra-violet rays.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Climate
 Climatic zone

Movable grate /
A grate with moving parts.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
Grate

Mudflow / Flujo de lodo
The down-slope transfer of fine earth material mixed with water.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Geological disasters

Multigeneration study / Estudio de multigeneración
Toxicity test in which at least 3 generations of the test organism are exposed to the substance being assessed. Exposure is usually continuous.
Related terms:
Toxicity test

Multiple-chamber incinerator /
An incinerator that consists of two or more chambers, arranged as in-line or retort types, interconnected by gas passage parts of flues.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Municipal incinerator /
A privately or publicly owned incinerator primarily designed and used to burn residential and commercial solid waste within a community.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
Incinerator

Municipal solid waste / Residuo sólido municipal
Waste generated in households, commercial establishments, institutions, and businesses. MSW includes used paper, discarded cans and bottles, food scraps, yard trimmings, and other items. Industrial process wastes, agricultural wastes, mining wastes, and sewage sludge are not MSW.
Source: EPA. The consumer's handbook for reducing solid waste. Solid or semisolid wastes from urban activities. They can be residential, domestic, commercial, and institutional, from the small industry or from sweeping and cleaning streets, markets, public areas and others. Its management is responsibility of the municipality or other governmental authority.
Source: BID Inglés
Municipal waste is that waste that is collected and disposed of by or on behalf of a local authority. It will generally consist of household waste, some commercial waste and waste taken to civic amenity waste collection/disposal sites by the general public. In addition, it may include road and pavement sweepings, gully emptying wastes, and some construction and demolition wastes arising from local authority activities.
Source: IPCS
**Synonyms:**
- MSW
- Garbage
- Solid waste
- Municipal waste

**Related terms:**
- Household solid waste
- Commercial solid waste
- Industrial solid waste
- Integrated waste management

**Mutagenesis / Mutagénesis**
Production of mutations; this may lead to transformation and carcinogenesis.


**Related terms:**
- Mutations
- Carcinogenesis
- Transformation

**Mutagenic / Mutagénico**
Causing mutations; mutagenic substances may also be carcinogenic.


Pertaining to an agent that causes genetic mutations.


**Related terms:**
- Mutations
- Mutagenesis
- Carcinogenic substances

**Mutagenicity / Mutagenicidad**
The property of a substance or mixture of substances which, when it interacts with a living organism, causes the genetic characteristics of the organism to change and its offspring to have a decreased life expectancy.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

**Mutagens / Mutágenos**
Agents causing mutations.


**Synonyms:**
- Clastogens
- Mutagenic substances

**Related terms:**
- Clastogenesis
- Clastogenic
- Mutations
- Genetics
- Pesticides
- Teratogenesis
- Teratogenicity
- Teratogenic
- Teratogens
Mutation / Mutación

Any heritable change in genetic material. This may be a chemical transformation of an individual gene (a gene or point mutation), which alters its function. On the other hand, this change may involve a rearrangement, or a gain or loss of part of a chromosome, which may be microscopically visible. This is designated a chromosomal mutation. Most mutations are considered to be harmful.


Related terms:
- Radiation effects
- Radiation exposure
- Genetics
- Ionized radiation
- Gene
- Chromosome
- Clastogenesis
- Genotoxicity

Mycotoxins / Micotoxinas

Substances produced by mould growing in food or animal feed and causing illness or death when ingested by humans or animals.


Related terms:
- Toxins
n.o.s. / n.e.o.m.
These letters refer to not otherwise specified. The entries which use this description are
generic names such as "Corrosive liquid, n.o.s.". This means that the actual chemical name
for that corrosive liquid is not listed in the regulations; therefore, a generic name must be
used to describe it on shipping papers.
Source: CANUTEC. Guía de respuesta en caso de emergencia. 2000. Ottawa: Canadian
Transport Emergency Centre; 2000. También en inglés. (CANUTEC)
Sinonimos:
Not otherwise specified

Natural draft /
The negative pressure created by the height of a stack or chimney and the difference in
temperature between flue gases and the atmosphere.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Natural gas /
A natural fuel containing methane and hydrocarbons that occurs in certain geologic
formations.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
Fossil fuel

Natural purification /
Other body of water which results in the reduction of bacteria concentrations, satisfaction of
the BOD, stabilization of organic constituents, replacement of depleted dissolved oxygen,
and the return of the stream biota to normal. Also called self-purification.
Source: Banco Mundial
Related terms:
Water self-purification

Natural resources / Recursos naturales
The aggregate of mineral and biotic elements of the earth, as well as the various forms of
energy occurring in the natural state (solar energy) or environmental forces independent of
man (winds, tides), that are considered as being of potential value to man. Natural
resources can be: renewable by reproducing (living organisms) or by biogeochemical cycles
(water, nitrogen); non-renewable (petrol); permanent (solar energy).
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre
desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Environmental planning
Environmental protection
Natural resources exploitation
Endangered species

Natural risk / Riesgo natural
The probability of occurrence, within a specific period of time in a given area, of a potentially
damaging phenomenon of nature.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre
desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Environmental risks

Navigable water /
Any stream, lake, arm of the sea, or other natural body of water which is actually navigable
and that, by itself or by its connection with other waters, is of sufficient capacity to float
watercraft for the purposes of commerce, trade, transportation, or even pleasure for a
period long enough to be of commercial value.
Source: Banco Mundial
**Necrosis / Necrosis**

Mass death of areas of tissue surrounded by otherwise healthy tissue.


**Nematocide / Nematocida**

Chemical used to kill nematodes.


Related terms:
- Nematodes
- Helminthes

**Neoplastic transformation / Transformación neoplástica**

Neoplastic transformation is the conversion of normal cells into tumour cells. Frequently this is the result of a genetic change (mutagenesis) and the same term is used to describe the genetic modification of bacteria for use in biotechnology.


Related terms:
- Epigenetic changes
- Genetic toxicology
- Genotoxic
- Mutation
- Mutagenesis
- Tumour

**Nephanalysis / Nefanalisis**

System of meteorological information gathering based on the study of the clouds, usually seen from above.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Related terms:
- Clouds
- Satellite applications

**Nephrotoxic / Nefrotóxico**

This descriptor is applied to any substance harmful to the kidney.


Related terms:
- Kidney

**Nerve agents / Agentes nerviosos**

Substances that interfere with the central nervous system. Exposure is primarily through contact with the liquid (via skin and eyes) and secondarily through inhalation of the vapor. Tabun (GA), Sarin (GB), Soman (GD) and VX are nerve agents.

Symptoms: pinpoint pupils, extreme headache, severe tightness in the chest, dyspnea, runny nose, coughing, salivation, unresponsiveness, seizures.

Neutralization / Neutralización
The chemical process in which the acidic or basic characteristics of a fluid are changed to those of water.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
- Mining acid water
- Acidification
- Acids
- Alkalination
- Corrosive water
- Water acidity
- pH

Nitrates / Nitratos
See nitric acid.
Related terms:
- Nitrogen compounds
- Nitrogen cycle
- Eutrophication
- Fertilizers
- Nitrification

Nitric acid / Acido nítrico
A colourless or yellowish fuming liquid, formula HNO₃. It is highly corrosive and the vapour is very hazardous. Nitric acid and nitrates (mainly ammonium nitrate) occur in the atmosphere in the form of aerosols: the acid is formed from oxides of nitrogen and then reacts with ammonia to form ammonium nitrate.
Related terms:
- Nitrogen compounds
- Nitrification

Nitric oxide / Óxido nítrico
See nitrogen oxides.
Sinonimos:
- Nitrogen oxides

Nitrification / Nitrificación
Sequential oxidation of ammonium salts to nitrite and nitrate by micro-organisms.
Related terms:
- Chemical reaction
- Nitric acid
- Nitrogen cycle
- Denitrification
- Nitrogenous deoxygenation
- Activated sludge
- Nitrates
- Nutrients
- Nitrites
- Oxidation
- Ammonia
Nitrogen / Nitrógeno
A gaseous element, atomic number 7, relative atomic mass 14.0067, symbol N. It is the principal constituent of air (78% by volume).
Related terms:
- Nitrogen compounds
- Nitrogen cycle
- Nitrogen oxides
- Nutrients

Nitrogen dioxide / Dióxido de nitrógeno
See nitrogen oxides.

Nitrogen oxides / Óxidos de nitrógeno
A series of seven compounds, of which only three are of any significance in the atmosphere. Dinitrogen oxide (nitrous oxide), formula N2O, is a colourless gas that is believed to play an important role in the nitrogen cycle. It is the most abundant atmospheric nitrogen compound and a greenhouse gas but is of no significance as a pollutant. Nitrogen oxide (nitric oxide), formula NO, is a colourless poisonous gas that reacts readily with oxygen (and very rapidly with ozone) to form the dioxide. It is formed in combustion processes, e.g., in furnaces and internal combustion engines. NO is an active participant in the atmospheric reactions that lead to the production of photochemical smog. Nitrogen dioxide, formula NO2, is a reddish-brown poisonous gas. At ordinary temperatures the vapour is an equilibrium mixture of NO and the dimer NO2O4 (dinitrogen tetroxide); on heating, the latter dissociates and the NO2 content increases. Above 140°C, the NO2 dissociates into NO and oxygen.

In the air pollution literature, the term “nitrogen oxides” and the formula NOx are used for the mixture of NO and NO2 in the air.

Sinonimos:
- Nitrogen anhydride

Related terms:
- Nitrogen compounds
- Nitrogen gaseous pollutants
- Oxides
- Nitrogen dioxide
- Nitrogen
- Nitrogen cycle

Nitrogenous wastes /
Animal or plant residues that contain large amounts of nitrogen.
Source:Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
No observed effect level / Nivel de efecto no observable
This is the greatest concentration or amount of a chemical found by experiment or observation that causes no detectable adverse alteration of morphology, functional capacity, growth, development, or life span of the target organism. The maximum dose or ambient concentration which an organism can tolerate over a specified period of time without showing any detectable adverse effect and above which adverse effects are apparent.

Sinonimos:
NOEL

Related terms:
Chemicals
Tolerable maximum ambient concentration
Target organism
Detectable adverse effect

Noise / Ruido
Undesired sound. By extension, noise is any unwarranted disturbance within a useful frequency band, such as undesired electric waves in a transmission channel or device.
Source: OMS. Community noise

Related terms:
Sound contamination
Physical contaminants
Noise control
Noise effects
Noise measurement
Sound

Noise pollution /
Introduction of undesirable sound into the environment at levels that can be detrimental to human activity.
Source: Banco Mundial

Nomad / Nómada
The traditional way of life of certain rural people who do not live continually in the same area but move cyclically or periodically, usually in search of grazing or hunting grounds and watering places, and who are well adapted to their changing environment.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Non-bioenvironmental transformation / Transformación no bioambiental
Change in the chemical or physical nature of a substance occurring as a result of physicochemical conditions and independent of any biological system.

Related terms:
Environmental transformation

Non-ferrous /
Metals that contain no iron, e.g., aluminum, copper, brass, and bronze materials.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Non-point pollution /
Man-made or man-induced alteration of the chemical, physical, biological, or radiological integrity of water, originating from any source other than a point source.
Source: Banco Mundial
Non-point sources / Fuentes móviles
Any source, other than a point source, which discharges pollutants into air or water.
Source: Banco Mundial

Sinonimos:
- Automobile exhaust
- Non-point sources
- Motor vehicles
- Automobiles

Related terms:
- Environmental contaminants
- Industrial contaminants
- Smoke
- Plumes
- Carbon monoxide

Non-polar / No-polar

Sinonimos:
- Immiscible

Non-structural flood mitigation / Medidas no estructurales para el control de crecidas
System for reduction of the effects of floods using non-structural means, e.g. land-use planning (flood plain zoning), advance warning systems, flood insurance.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Related terms:
- Prevention and mitigation
- Disaster insurances

Nowcast / Pronóstico momentáneo
A description of current weather and a short-period (0-2 hours) forecast.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Related terms:
- Weather forecast

Noxious / Nocivo
A material that may be harmful or injurious to health or physical well-being.

Nuclear activity / Actividad nuclear
The spontaneous emission of alpha, beta or sometimes gamma rays from the disintegration of the nuclei of atoms per second. The unit of radioactivity is the becquerel.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Related terms:
- Alpha rays
- Beta rays
- Gamma rays
Nuclear reactors / Reactores nucleares
An industrial system for generating heat and electricity from nuclear power by the controlled fission of Uranium-235 (fission reaction) or by the fusion of light atoms (fusion reaction). Generally intended for peaceful uses of nuclear energy, but accidents can cause immediate and long-lasting disasters.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Related terms:
- Nuclear plants
- Radioactive effluents
- Nuclear energy
- Radioactivity

Nucleus / N·cleo
A particle of any nature upon which molecules of water or ice accumulate as a result of a phase change to a more condensed state.

Related terms:
- Particle

Nutrients / Nutrientes
Any substance that is assimilated by organisms and promotes growth; generally applied to nitrogen and phosphorus in wastewater, but also to other essential and trace elements.
Source: Banco Mundial

Related terms:
- Algae
- Food chain
- Water chemical characteristics
- Bacterial growth
- Eutrophication
- Metabolism
- Nitrification
- Periphyton
- Plankton
- Phosphorus
- Nitrogen
- Potassium
- Substrata
Objective environment / Ambiente objetivo
Actual physical, chemical, and social environment as described by objective measurements, such as noise levels in decibels and concentrations of air pollutants.

Obligate proton reducing acetogenic bacteria / Bacteria acetogénica reductora de protones obligados
Bacteria producing acetate, H₂ and CO₂ during fermentation processes.

Obsolescence /
The decrease in the value of assets due to economic, social, technical, or legal changes. This is an element of depreciation.
Source: Banco Mundial
Related terms:
Depreciation

Occupational health / Salud ocupacional
Occupational hygiene is the applied science concerned with the recognition, evaluation, and control of chemical, physical and biological factors arising in or from the workplace which may affect the health or well-being of those at work or in the community.
Synonymes:
Occupational hygiene Industrial hygiene
Related terms:
Ergonomics
Sanitary engineering
Occupational medicine
Accidents prevention
Industrial psychology
Occupational risks
Industrial sanitation
Industrial safety

Ocean disposal /
Ultimate disposal of solids, wastes or sludges by barging out to sea and dumping in deep water.
Source: Banco Mundial
Related terms:
Receiving waters

Ocean outfall /
Facilities for the discharge of storm drainage and/or wastewater into the ocean.
Source: Banco Mundial
Related terms:
Storm drainage
Ocean wave / Ola oceánica
A wave system generated by winds at some distance from the coast over a wide area, with little change in its characteristics.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Wave
- Coasts

Oceanic area / Área oceánica
Describes the marine area beyond the coast, generally situated away from the continental margin.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Oceanography

Oceanic ridge / Cadena oceánica
Sub-marine elevation along several thousand kilometres, with steep reliefs resulting from the rising of the crust.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Ocular / Ocular
The adjective applied to anything pertaining to the eye.
Related terms:
- Eyes

Odor threshold /
The lowest concentration of an airborne odor that a human being can detect.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Offal /
The viscera and trimmings of a slaughtered animal removed from the carcass.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Office wastes /
Discarded materials that consist primarily of paper waste including envelopes, ledgers, and brochures.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
- Solid waste

Offshore wind / Viento terral
Wind that engenders the surface movement of the water towards the open sea (as opposed to onshore wind).
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Winds

Oil / Aceites
Oil of any kind or in any form including, but not limited to, petroleum, fuel oil, sludge, oil refuse, and oil mixed with wastes other than dredged spoil.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
- Industrial effluents
- Oil and fat industry
Old corrugated containers /  
A grade of paper, generally consisting of corrugated cardboard having a ruffled inner liner between two layers of kraft paper. Does not include linerboard or paperboard such as cereal boxes or clothing liners.  
Source: State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.

Old news /  
A grade of newsprint, suitable for recycling into boxboard, paperboard and many construction and packing materials.  
Source: State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.

Oligotrophic / Oligotrófico  
Nutrient deficient.  
Related terms:  
Nutrients

On-site incinerator /  
An incinerator that burns solid waste on the property used by the generator thereof.  
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996  
Related terms:  
Incinerator  
Solid waste

Oncogene / Oncogén  
Gene which can cause neoplastic transformation of a cell; oncogenes are slightly changed equivalents of normal genes known as proto-oncogenes.  
Related terms:  
Oncogenesis  
Oncogenic  
Oncogenicity

Onshore wind / Viento de mar  
Wind that engenders the surface movement of the sea towards the coast (as opposed to offshore wind).  
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)  
Related terms:  
Winds

Opacity /  
Degree of obscuration of light; e.g., a window has zero opacity, while a wall has 100 percent opacity.  
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Open burning /  
The combustion of any material without control of combustion air or combustion temperature, without containment of the combustion reaction in an enclosure, and/or without provision of a stack or a vent for discharge of combustion products.  
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996  
Related terms:  
Combustion  
Combustion air
Open dumps / Botaderos a cielo abierto
Open place where wastes are disposed of without any sanitary treatment.
Source: BID Inglés

A site used to dispose of solid wastes, or other containerized wastes, without environmental controls.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Synonyms:
- Refuse dumps
- Dump
- Open pit

Related terms:
- Solid waste segregators
- Sanitary landfill

Open hearth furnace /
A long, wide, shallow reverberatory furnace used to produce steel from cast or pig iron.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Related terms:
- Furnace

Open-pit incinerator /
A burning apparatus that has an open top and a system of closely spaced nozzles that place a stream of high-velocity air over the burning zone.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Related terms:
- Incinerator

Operating costs /
Equipment, a treatment plant, or other facility or system to perform its intended function, excluding the initial cost of building or purchasing the equipment, plant, facility, or system. Depending on the context, it may or may not include such factors as labor, energy, chemicals, supplies, replacement parts, interest on borrowed money, insurance.
Source: Banco Mundial

Operating expenses /
Expenses necessary for the daily running of an enterprise, rendering of service, and collection of revenue. It may include the daily costs of maintenance, labor, materials, chemicals, power and depreciation.
Source: Banco Mundial

Operation and maintenance / Operación y mantenimiento
Operation is the organized procedure for causing a piece of equipment, a treatment plant, or other facility or system to perform its intended function, but not including the initial building or installation of the unit. Maintenance is the organized procedure for keeping the equipment, plant, facility, or system in such condition that it is able to continually and reliably perform its intended function.
Source: Banco Mundial

Related terms:
- Corrective maintenance
- Equipment maintenance
- Preventive maintenance
- Operators
- Spare parts
Operon / Operón
Complete unit of gene impression and regulation, including structural genes, regulator gene(s) and control elements in DNA recognized by regulator gene product(s).
Related terms:
- Gene regulation
- Structural genes
- Regulator genes

Orderly departure / Evacuación ordenada
1. Organized displacements or departure of refugees or victims of a disaster; 2. The UNHCR programme for orderly departure is based on a memorandum of understanding concluded between the HCR and the government concerned, establishing the procedures for the departure of the refugee who possesses an exit visa from the country and a resettlement guarantee from the host country.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Evacuation
- Security measures

Organelle / Orgánulo
In cell biology, this is any structure which occurs in cells and which has a specialized function.
Related terms:
- Cells

Organic matter / Materia orgánica
Chemical substance comprised mainly of carbon, covalently bonded. May have its origin in animal or plant life, coal, petroleum, or laboratory synthesis.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Synonyms:
- Organic materials
Related terms:
- Biomass
- Organic chemistry
- Substrata
- Organic load

Organic nitrogen /
Nitrogen combined in organic molecules such as protein, amines, and amino acids.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Organización social / Organización social
General term used to refer to the organizational processes of several groups of the population that form the society, independently of the objectives for this union.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Organization

Original cost /
The actual cost of a property to the entity first devoting it to utility service.
Source: Banco Mundial
**Orsat**
An apparatus used to analyze flue gases volumetrically by dissolving the constituent gases selectively in various solvents.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

**Oscillating-grate stoker**
A stoker whose entire grate surface oscillates to move the solid waste and residue over the grate surface.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms: Stoker

**OSHA**
The Occupational Safety and Health Administration.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a
Synonyms: Occupational Safety and Health Administration

**Outdoor air / Aire en exteriores**
That portion of the atmosphere external to buildings to which the general public has access.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Synonyms: Ambient air

**Outfall sewer**
A sewer that receives wastewater from a collecting system or from a treatment plant and carries it to a point of final discharge. See also outfall.
Source: Banco Mundial
Related terms: Outfall

**Outfalls / Emisores**
(1) The point, location, or structure where wastewater or drainage discharges from a sewer, drain, or other conduit. (2) The conduit leading to the ultimate disposal area. Also see outfall sewer.
Source: Banco Mundial
Related terms: Sewerage Collector channels Outfall sewer

**Overall reduction**
The difference in the concentration of pollutants in the final effluent and that in the raw wastewater.
Source: Banco Mundial

**Overfire air**
Air under control as to quantity and direction, introduced above and beyond a fuel bed by induced or forced draft.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

**Overhead**
Those elements of indirect cost necessary to produce an article or perform a service but of such nature that the amount applied to each unit of product or service cannot be determined readily or accurately and is thus usually allocated in some arbitrary basis. Normally, overhead relates to those objects of expenditure which do not become an integral part of the finished product or service, such as rent, light, supplies, management, supervision.
Source: Banco Mundial
Related terms: Indirect charges
Overspill / Vertimiento
Permanent change in the course of a stream or river which, due to spilling over, changes its bed and follows another course.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Oxidants / Oxidantes
(In atmospheric chemistry) A very qualitative term which includes any and all trace gases which have a greater oxidation potential than oxygen (for example O₃, peroxyacetyl nitrate, hydrogen peroxide, organic peroxides, NOₓ, etc.). It is recommended that alternative, more definitive terms be used which define the specific oxidant of interest whenever possible.
Source: OMS. Guidelines for air quality
A substance containing oxygen that reacts chemically to release some of or all its oxygen component to another substance.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
Oxidation
Atmospheric oxidants

Oxidation / Oxidación
A transformation of an organic substrate that can be rationally dissected into steps or primitive changes. The latter consist in removal of one or several electrons from the substrate followed or preceded by gain or loss of water and/or hydrons or hydroxide ions, or by nucleophilic substitution by water or its reverse and/or by an intramolecular molecular rearrangement.
Source: OMS. Vegetation fire events
The addition of oxygen to a compound.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
Combustion
Nitrification
Oxides
Oxidation lagoons
Electrodialysis
Antioxidants
Oxidation reduction
Oxidants
Corrosion

Oxidation ditches / Zanjas de oxidación
A secondary wastewater treatment facility that uses an oval channel with a rotor placed across it to provide aeration and circulation. The screened wastewater in the ditch is aerated by the rotor and circulated at about 0.3 to 0.6 m/sec. See also secondary treatment.
Source: Banco Mundial
Related terms:
Oxidation lagoons
Activated sludge
Biological treatment
Secondary treatment
Wastewater treatment

Oxidation pond /
A relatively shallow body of wastewater contained in an earthen basin of controlled shape, in which biological oxidation of organic matter is effected by natural or artificially accelerated transfer of oxygen.
Source: Banco Mundial
Related terms:
Oxidation lagoon
Oxides / Óxidos
A compound of two elements, one of which is oxygen.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Synonymes:
- Anhydrides

Related terms:
- Oxidation

Oxygen / Oxígeno
A gaseous element, atomic number 8, relative atomic mass 15.9994, symbol O. Oxygen is a colourless, odourless gas which supports combustion in air. Molecular oxygen (O₂) constitutes 20.95% by volume of dry air in the lower part of the atmosphere. O₂ is essential for the maintenance of almost all forms of life. Above an altitude of 20 km atomic oxygen appears in significant amounts and at 100 km it is in the predominant form. For the tri-atomic form of oxygen, see ozone.
Source: OMS. Guidelines for air quality
Related terms:
- Oxygen consumption
- Aeration
- Oxigenation
- Ozone

Ozone / Ozono
The tri-atomic allotrope of oxygen; a pale blue gas with a distinctive pungent odour, formula O₃. It is a highly reactive oxidising agent and is very poisonous, and is considered a serious pollutant at concentrations much in excess of 125 μg/m³. It is naturally occurring in the atmosphere. It occurs at large concentrations in the upper atmosphere, where it is formed by the action of solar ultraviolet radiation. In the troposphere, O₃ is mostly formed by photochemical reactions involving hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides.
Related terms:
- Ozone layer
- Water disinfectants
- Gases
- Oxygen
- Ozonation

Ozone depletion / Pérdida de ozono
The stratospheric ozone layer that protects the earth from excessive ultra-violet radiation can be depleted by certain pollutants. Gases used in spray cans (chlorofluorocarbons, chlorofluoromethanes) or oxides of nitrogen released by cars, flying aircrafts can damage or create “holes” in the ozone layer, allowing excess amounts of ultra-violet radiation to reach the earth, with global climatic and environmental consequences and damage to health. A combined technological and natural disaster.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Ozone
- Ozone layer
- Environmental pollution
- Chemical pollutants
Ozone layer / Capa de ozono

A layer in the earth’s atmosphere (about 10 and 50 km) in which ozone is formed, preventing harmful radiation from the sun reaching the earth. Recently it has been found that there are holes in the ozone layer, and scientists believe that the ozone layer is being damaged by the use of certain chemicals.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

An atmospheric layer lying between about 10 and 50 km (above the surface of the earth), in which the percentage of ozone is relatively high. The maximum concentration generally occurs about 20 or 25 km; it acts as an effective shield for the solar ultraviolet rays.


Related terms:

Air contamination
Ozone
p.o. / p.o.
This is the abbreviation for per os, signifying oral administration.

Synonyms:
- Per os
- Oral administration

Package wastewater plants /
Prefabricated structures that perform one or more wastewater treatment processes.
Source:Banco mundial

Related terms:
- Treatment plants
- Waste treatment

Packed tower /
A pollution control device that forces dirty gas through a tower packed with crushed rock, wood chips, or other packing while liquid is sprayed over the packing material. Pollutants in the gas stream either dissolve in or chemically react with the liquid.
Source:Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Palmer index / Índice de Palmer
A mathematical representation of drought conditions.
Source:Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Related terms:
- Droughts

Paper /
The term for all kinds of matted or felted sheets of fiber laid down on a fine screen from a water suspension. Specifically, as one of the two subdivisions of the general term, paper refers to materials that are lighter in basis weight, thinner, and more flexible than paperboard, the other subdivision.
Source:Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Related terms:
- Cellulose

Paper stock /
Scrap or waste papers that have been sorted and baled into specific grades.
Source:State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.

Related terms:
- Mixed paper

Paragrapher / Paragrafo
Vessel of less than 500 tons usually used for coastal or inshore navigation that can be utilized in emergencies with a small crew, life-saving equipment and light radio facilities.
Source:Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Related terms:
- Emergencies

Parakeratosis / Paraqueratosis
In medicine, this term is applied to the imperfect formation of horn cells of the epidermis.

Related terms:
- Horn cells
- Epidermis
Parenchyma / Parénquima
In medicine, this term is applied to a specific or functional component of a gland or organ.
Source:OMS. Programa Internacional de Seguridad de Sustancias Químicas.
Seguridad química; principios básicos de toxicología aplicada. La naturaleza de los peligros químicos. 2. ed. (revisada). Lima: CEPIS; 1997. Módulo de capacitación, 1. También en inglés. (IPCS)
Synonyms:
Parenchymal
Related terms:
Functional component
Gland
Organ

Paroxysm / Paroxismo
A sudden, periodic attack or recurrence of symptoms of a disease; an exacerbation of the symptoms of a disease.
Related terms:
Symptom

Particle aerodynamic diameter / Diámetro aerodinámico de las partículas
Diameter of a sphere of density 1 g/cm³ with the same terminal velocity due to gravitational force in calm air as the particle, under the prevailing conditions of temperature, pressure and relative humidity.
Related terms:
Particle

Particle size /
An expression for the size of liquid or solid particle usually expressed in microns, millionths of a meter.
Source:Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a
Related terms:
Particles

Particle size analysis / Análisis del tamaño de la partícula
The science, which deals with the measurement of the dimensions and the determination of the shape of particles; the whole of the operations by which a particle size distribution can be obtained.
Related terms:
Particle
Particle size distribution

Particle size distribution / Distribución del tamaño de la partícula
The distribution of equivalent diameters of particles in a sample or the proportion of particles for which the equivalent diameter lies between defined limits.
Related terms:
Particle
Particles / Partículas
Small discrete mass of solid or liquid matter.
Source:OMS. Guidelines for air quality

(1) Any material, except water in uncombined form, that is or has been airborne and exists as a liquid or a solid at standard conditions.

(2) Fine liquid or solid particles such as dust, smoke, mist, fumes, or smog, found in the air or in emissions.

Source:Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Synonyms:
Particulate matter
Particulates
Related terms:
Sewage collectors
Physical contaminants
Dust
Electrostatic rain
Particle removal

Particulate emission /
Fine solid matter suspended in combustion gases carried to the atmosphere.
Source:Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a
Related terms:
Particulates

Particulate matter, suspended / Materia particulada suspendida
All solid and liquid particles in the air that are small enough not to settle out on to the earth's surface under the influence of gravity; also defined as the material that can be removed from the air by passing it through a suitable filter. See also: aerosol; dust.
Related terms:
Aerosol
Dust
Particulate matter

Parts per million /
The number of weight or volume units of a minor constituent present with each one million units of a solution or mixture. The more specific term milligrams per liter is (mg/l) preferred.
Source:Banco Mundial
Synonyms:
ppm

Pathogenic solid waste / Residuo sólido patógeno
Wastes that due to its characteristics and composition may produce infections to humans.
Source:BID Inglés
Discarded materials that contain organisms capable of causing disease.
Source:Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a
Synonyms:
Pathogenic waste
Related terms:
Pathogen
Solid waste
Pathogenic waste / Residuo patogénico
Discarded materials that contain organisms capable of causing disease.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Synonyms:
- Pathogenic solid waste

Related terms:
- Pathogen

Pathological waste /
Waste material consisting of anatomical parts.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a

Peak demand /
The maximum momentary load placed on a water or wastewater plant or pumping station or on an electric generating plant or system. This is usually the maximum average load in one hour or less, but may be specified as instantaneous or with some other short time period.
Source: Banco Mundial

Peak expiratory flow rate / Tasa máxima de flujo de espiración
See rate.

Related terms:
- Rate

Peak flow /
Maximum flow.
Source: Banco Mundial

Percentage reduction /
The ration of material removed from water or wastewater by treatment to the material originally present, expressed as a percentage.
Source: Banco Mundial

Percolated liquid / Percolado
See leachate.
Source: BID

Synonyms:
- Leachate

Percolating liquid / Líquido percolado
Liquid which seeps through a landfill, and by so doing extracts substances from the deposited waste.
Source: IPCS

Liquid that percolates through solid wastes. It is composed of rainwater, runoffs, refuse moisture and decomposition of organic matter containing dissolved and suspended materials.
Source: BID Inglés

Synonyms:
- Percolating water
- Lixiviated
- Leachate
- Percolated liquid

Related terms:
- Sanitary landfills
- Percolation
Perinatal / Perinatal
Concerning the period beginning after the 28th week of pregnancy and ending 28 days after birth.
Related terms:
Gestational

Permafrost / Permafrost
Layer of soil or rock in which the temperature has been continuously below 0°C for at least some years.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Permissible limits / Límites permisibles
The presence of a pollutant or potentially harmful agent in the air, in food and in water to a degree that, on absorption by an organism, it will remain below the maximum allowed dose.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Synonymes:
Maximum permissible exposure level
Exposure levels
Exposure limits
Exposure time
Related terms:
Lethal dose 50
Environmental contaminants
Environmental risk exposure

Peroxisome / Peroxisoma
In cell biology, this is the organelle present in the cytoplasm of eukaryotic cells and characterized by its content of catalase and other oxidative enzymes such as peroxidase.
Related terms:
Catalase
Peroxidase

Persistence / Persistencia
The ability of a substance to remain in the environment in a chemically unchanged state.
**Pesticides / Plaguicidas**

This is the descriptor applied to chemicals used to kill pests and minimize their impact on agriculture, health and other human interests. Pesticides are often classified according to the organisms which they are used to control, e.g. as fungicides, herbicides, insecticides, molluscicides, nematocides, rodenticides etc.


**Synonyms:**
Bioicides
Pesticides
Agricultural toxics

**Related terms:**
Algicides
Rodenticides
Herbicides
Insecticides
Industrial fungicides
Bactericides
Pest control
Fumigation

**Pests / Plagas**

Pests are organisms which may adversely affect public health or attack food and other materials important to mankind.


**Related terms:**
Pest control
Pesticides
Public health

**pH / pH**

pH is a value that represents the acidity or alkalinity of a water solution. Pure water has a pH of 7. A pH value below 7 indicates an acid solution (a pH of 1 is extremely acidic). A pH above 7 indicates an alkaline solution (a pH of 14 is extremely alkaline). Acids and alkalies (bases)are commonly referred to as corrosive materials.

Source: CANUTEC

See hydrogen-ion concentration.

Source: Banco Mundial

A measure of the acidity (0, most acid) or alkalinity (14, most alkaline) of a liquid or solid on a scale of 0 to 14, with water (7) neutral.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a

**Related terms:**
Water chemical characteristics
Corrosion
Acidity
Neutralization
Ion concentration

**Phagocytosis / Fagocitosis**

Phagocytosis is the term describing the ingestion of micro-organisms, cells, and foreign particles by phagocytes, e.g. phagocytic macrophages.


**Related terms:**
Phagocytic macrophages
Pharmacodynamics / Farmacodinámica
Broadly, this is the science concerned with the study of the way in which xenobiotics exert their effects on living organisms. Such a study aims to define the fundamental physicochemical processes which lead to the biological effect observed.
Synonyms:
Toxicodynamics
Related terms:
Xenobiotics

Pharmacokinetics / Farmacocinética
This is the science which describes quantitatively the uptake of drugs by the body, their biotransformation, their distribution, metabolism, and elimination from the body. Both total amounts and tissue and organ concentrations are considered. "Toxicokinetics" is essentially the same term applied to xenobiotics other than drugs.
Synonyms:
Toxicokinetics
Related terms:
Drugs
Medicines
Pharmaceutical products

Phase 1 reactions / Reacciones de la fase 1
This group of reactions comprises every possible stage in the enzymic modification of a xenobiotic by oxidation, reduction, hydrolysis, hydroxylation, dehydrochlorination and related reactions.
Synonyms:
Phase 1 biotransformation reactions
Related terms:
Biotransformation
Cytochrome P 420
Cytochrome P 448
Cytochrome P 450
Microsome
Phase 2 reactions
Phase 3 reactions

Phase 2 reactions / Reacciones de la fase 2
This group of reactions comprises all reactions concerned with modification of a xenobiotic by conjugation.
Synonyms:
Phase 2 biotransformation reactions
Related terms:
Conjugate
Biotransformation
Phase 1 reactions
Phase 3 reactions

Phenotype / Fenotipo
This is a term which is applied to the appearance or constitutional nature of an organism as contrasted with its genetic potential, the genotype.
Genotype

Photic zone / Zona fótica
Zone where the light intensity is high enough to allow for photoreactions.

Related terms:
Photoreactions

Photochemical fog / Bruma fotoquímica
Result of reactions in the atmosphere between nitrogen oxides, organic compounds and oxidants under the influence of sunlight, leading to the formation of oxidising compounds or possibly causing poor visibility, eye irritation or damage to material and vegetation if sufficiently concentrated.

Related terms:
Aerosols
Air contaminants
Mist
Condensation

Photochemical smog / Smog fotoquímico
Result of reactions in the atmosphere between nitrogen oxides, organic compounds and oxidants under the influence of sunlight, leading to the formation of oxidising compounds or possibly causing poor visibility, eye irritation or damage to material and vegetation if sufficiently concentrated.

Related terms:
Air pollutants
Fog
Haze

Photodegradable /
A material which undergoes destruction of its chemical structure when exposed to light. Typically, the materials become brittle with time and fragment into small pieces or powder.

Related terms:

PICs /
Products of incomplete combustion.
Pig / Permeabilidad
A container, usually lead, used to ship or store radioactive materials.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
Container

Pilot /
A burner that is used to ignite waste and auxiliary fuel during start-up.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a

Pilot-plant studies /
Evaluation, on a scale larger than laboratory-scale but smaller than full-scale, of the amenability of wastewater to treatment with particular operations or processes.
Source: Banco Mundial

Pipelines / Tuberías
A closed conduit that diverts or conducts water or wastewater from one location to another.
Source: Banco Mundial
Synonyms:
Piping
Pipes
Related terms:
Plumbing accessories
Corrosion
Head loss
Materials
Sewerage

Piracy / Piratería
Violent action, for private ends, committed on the high seas outside the jurisdiction of a state. It is an offence under international law.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Hijacking

Pit privy /
A privy placed directly over an excavation in the ground.
Source: Banco Mundial

Plain sedimentation /
The sedimentation of suspended matter in a liquid, unaided by chemicals or other special means and without provision for the decomposition of deposited solids in contact with the wastewater.
Source: Banco Mundial
Related terms:
Sedimentation

Plant-scale studies /
Full-scale evaluation of whether or not a particular wastewater is amenable to treatment with particular operations or processes.
Source: Banco Mundial

Plastics / Plásticos
Nonmetallic compounds that result from a chemical reaction and are molded or formed into rigid or pliable structural material.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
Polyvinyl chloride
Plastics industry
**Plume rise / Elevación de la pluma**
Height of the centreline of a plume above the level it was emitted to the atmosphere.

*Related terms:*
Plume

**Plumes / Plumas**
Identifiable stream of air with a temperature or composition different from that of its environment. Examples are the smoke plume from a chimney and a buoyant plume rising by convection from heated ground.
Source: OMS. Vegetation fire events
Visible emissions from a flue or chimney.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
*Synonyms:*
Industrial chimneys
Industrial fumes
Plumes

*Related terms:*
Point sources
Non-point sources
Smoke
Contaminant dispersion
Air contaminants
Industrial contaminants

**Pluviometry / Pluviometría**
The measure of the total amount of liquid precipitation in a given place and time.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. *(CRID)*

*Related terms:*
Precipitation gauge

**Point sources / Fuentes fijas**
Any discernable, confined, or discrete conveyance from which pollutants are or may be discharged, including, but not limited to, any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, container, rolling stack, concentrated animal feeding operation, or vessel or other floating craft.
Source: Banco Mundial
*Synonyms:*
Point sources

*Related terms:*
Ringelman chart
Industrial contaminants
Environmental contaminants
Smoke

**Poison Inhalation Hazard / Peligro de Inhalación de Tóxicos**
Term used to describe gases and volatile liquids that are toxic when inhaled.

*Synonyms:*
PIH
Toxic Inhalation Hazard
TIH
Polar / Polar
See "Miscible".
Related terms:
Miscible

Polar front / Polar
Quasi-permanent atmospheric front of great extent, in middle latitudes, which separates polar air and tropical air.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Atmospheric factors
Atmospheric front

Polder / Polder
A mostly low-lying area artificially protected from surrounding water and within which the water table can be controlled.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Pollutants / Contaminantes
Any undesirable solid, liquid or gaseous matter in a solid, liquid or gaseous environmental medium: "undesirability" is often concentration dependent, low concentrations of most chemicals being tolerable or even essential in many cases. For the meaning of "undesirable" in air pollution context, see pollution. A primary pollutant is one emitted into the atmosphere, water, sediments or soil from an identifiable source. A secondary pollutant is a pollutant formed by chemical reaction in the atmosphere, water, sediments, or soil.
Source: IPCS

Any material that has a deleterious effect on a product or the usability of a recyclable material. Too many contaminants may render materials useless for recovery.
Source: State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.

Dredged spoil, solid waste, incinerator residue, sewage, garbage, sewage sludge, munitions, chemical wastes, biological materials, radioactive materials, heat, wrecked or discarded equipment, rock, sand, cellar dirt, and industrial, municipal, and agricultural waste discharged into water.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Synonymes:
Contaminant
Related terms:
Pollution
Contamination
Environmental pollution
Pollution / Contaminación
Degradation of one or more elements or aspects in the environment by noxious industrial, chemical or biological wastes, from debris of man-made products and from mismanagement of natural and environmental resources.
Source: CRID

(1) Specific impairment of water quality by agricultural, domestic, or industrial wastes (including thermal and atomic wastes) to a degree that has an adverse effect upon any beneficial use of water. (2) The addition to a natural body of water of any material which diminishes the optimal economic use of the water body by the population which it serves and has an adverse effect on the surrounding environment.
Source: Banco Mundial

The presence of matter or energy whose nature, location, or quantity produces undesired environmental effects. Also, the artificial or human-introduced alteration of the chemical, physical, biological, and radiological integrity of water, land or air.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a
Related terms:
  - Air contamination
  - Water contamination
  - Soil contamination

Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon / Hidrocarburo aromático policíclico
See hydrocarbon.
Related terms:
  - Hydrocarbon

Polymerization / Polimerización
This term describes a chemical reaction which is generally associated with the production of plastic substances. Basically, the individual molecules of the chemical (liquid or gas) react with each other to produce what can be described as a long chain. These chains can be formed in many useful applications. A well-known example is the styrofoam (polystyrene) coffee cup which is formed when liquid molecules of styrene react with each other or polymerize forming a solid, therefore changing the name from styrene to polystyrene (poly means many).

Polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbon / Hidrocarburo aromático polinuclear
See hydrocarbon.
Related terms:
  - Hydrocarbon

Population at risk / Población en riesgo
A well-defined population whose lives, property, and livelihood are threatened by given hazards. Used as a denominator.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
  - Social vulnerability
  - Impacts on health
  - Health risks
  - Enteric infection diseases
Population concentration / Concentración demográfica
The establishment of a population over a given territory.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Population
Demography

Population equivalent /
The estimated population which would contribute a given amount of a specific waste parameter (BOD₅, suspended solids, flow); usually applied to industrial waste. Domestic wastewater contains material that consumes, on the average, 0.17 lb (0.08 kg) of oxygen per capita per day, as measured by the standard BOD test. For example, if an industry discharges 1,000 pounds (454 kg) of BOD per day, its waste is equivalent to the domestic wastewater from 6,000 persons (1,000/0.7 = approx. 6,000).
Source: Banco Mundial

Post disaster resettlement / Reinstalación por desastre
Actions necessary for the permanent settlement of persons dislocated or otherwise affected by a disaster to an area different from their place of habitation.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Reconstruction

Post-consumer materials / Recovered materials from a consumer-oriented recycling collection system or drop-off center.
Source: EPA. The consumer's handbook for reducing solid waste.
Related terms:
Recycled content

Post-consumer waste /
Products and packaging which have been discarded by household or business users: printers' trimmings are not post-consumer by most standards.
Source: State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.

Potentiation / Potenciación
Potentiation is the ability of one chemical to enhance the activity of another chemical to an extent greater than the simple summation of the two expected activities.
Related terms:
Additive effect
Antagonism
Synergy
Synergism

Pour point /
The lowest temperature at which an oil will flow or can be poured under specified conditions of test.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
Oil
**Poverty areas / Áreas de pobreza**
Disorderly conglomeration of improvised dwellings with minimal or absent public services, consisting of unsanitary shacks, constructed with reclaimed materials, often built in and contributing to an unsanitary environment.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. *(CRID)*

**Synonymes:**
- Squatters
- Slums
- Marginal areas
- Poor settlements
- Marginal zones
- Squatter settlements

**Related terms:**
- Human settlements

**PPE /**
Personal protective equipment.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a

**Synonymes:**
- Personal protective equipment

**Practical certainty / Certidumbre práctica**
The concept of practical certainty involves the determination of a numerically specified low risk or socially acceptable risk which may be used in decision making where absolute certainty is not possible.


**Pre-consumer materials /**
Recovered materials obtained from manufacturers.
Source: EPA. The consumer’s handbook for reducing solid waste.

**Related terms:**
- Recycled content

**Precipitation intensity / Intensidad de precipitación**
Amount of precipitation collected in unit time interval.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. *(CRID)*

**Related terms:**
- Precipitation
- Antecedent precipitation index
**Precipitation / Precipitación**

Water, in liquid or solid state, precipitated from the atmosphere onto the ground.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Hydrometeor consisting of a fall of an ensemble of particles. The forms of precipitation are: rain, snow, snow grains, snow pellets, diamond dust, hail and ice pellets.

Removal of contents of air masses onto a substrate, usually the surface.


**Synonyms:** Deposition

**Related terms:** Atmospheric precipitation, Rain, Hail, Snow

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**Precipitation gauge / Medidor de precipitación**

General term for any device that measures the amount of precipitation; principally a rain-gauge or snow-gauge.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

**Related terms:** Pluviometry

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**Precipitators /**

Air pollution control devices that collect particles from an emission by mechanical or electrical means.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

**Related terms:** Air pollution control

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**Precision / Precisión**

Degree of agreement between individual measurements of a certain property under similar conditions, generally expressed in terms of standard deviation.


**Related terms:** Accuracy

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**Precursor / Precursor**

A pollutant that takes part in a chemical reaction resulting in the formation of one or more new pollutants.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a

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**Predicted environmental concentration / Concentración ambiental pronosticada**

This is the estimated concentration of a chemical in an environmental compartment calculated from available information on its properties, its use and discharge patterns, and the quantities involved.

**Preliminary treatment /**
(1) The conditioning of a waste at its source before discharge into a sewer system, to remove or to neutralize substances injurious to sewers and subsequent treatment processes or to effect a partial reduction in load on the treatment process. (2) Unit operations, such as screening, comminution, and grit removal, that prepares the wastewater for subsequent major treatment.
Source:Banco Mundial

**Preparedness / Preparación**
Activities designed to minimize loss of life and damage, to organize the temporary removal of people and property from a threatened location and facilitate timely and effective rescue, relief and rehabilitation. See also "prevention".
Source:Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

*Related terms:*
Prevention

**Pressure drop /**
The difference in static pressure between two points due to energy losses in a gas stream.
Source:Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a

**Pretreatment / Tratamiento preliminar**
(1) Any water or wastewater treatment process that precedes primary treatment; may include aeration, equalization, pH adjustment, grit removal, grease removal, screening, skimming, and comminution.
Source:Banco Mundial

*Related terms:*
Straining
Grit removal
Degreasing
Wastewater treatment

**Prevention and mitigation / Prevención y mitigación**
Measures taken in advance of a disaster aimed at decreasing or eliminating its impact on society and environment.
Source:Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

*Related terms:*
Civil protection plan
Preparedness

**Primary chamber /**
Chamber with hearth or grate that receives waste material and in which the waste is ignited.
Source:Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a

**Primary combustion air /**
The air admitted to a combustion system when the fuel is first oxidized.
Source:Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

*Related terms:*
Combustion air

**Primary pollutant /**
A pollutant emitted directly from a polluting stack.
Source:Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

*Related terms:*
Pollutant
Primary production / Producción primaria
Amount of biomass formed by autotrophic processes.
Related terms:
- Autotrophic processes
- Biomass

Primary standard / A national air emissions standard intended to establish a level of air quality that, with an adequate margin of error, will protect public health.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
- Standard
- Air quality standard

Primary treatment / Tratamiento primario
(1) Any water or wastewater treatment process that precedes primary treatment; may include aeration, equalization, pH adjustment, grit removal, grease removal, screening, skimming, and comminution.
Source: Banco Mundial
Related terms:
- Primary sedimentation
- Primary treatment plants
- Wastewater treatment
- Conventional treatment

Prisoners / Prisioneros
Person deprived of liberty and restricted in activity by the use of force.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Armed conflicts

Privatization / Privatización
Granting of concessions to the private sector for managing municipal solid wastes.
Source: BID Inglés
Related terms:
- Sanitary management
- Sanitary utilities
- Sanitary planning
- Sanitation policy
- Private sector

Probable maximum precipitation / Precipitación máxima probable
Amount of precipitation that is the upper limit for a given duration over a particular basin.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Atmospheric precipitation

Probe / Sonda
Measuring instrument used in situ and in continuity. Example: probe to measure depth, salinity, temperature.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Space probe
**Process waste /**

Any designated toxic pollutant which is inherent to or unavoidable resulting from any manufacturing process, including that which comes into direct contact with or results from the production or use of any raw material, intermediate product, finished product, by-product, or waste product.

*Source:* Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

*Related terms:*
- Toxic pollutant

**Processing centre / Centro de clasificación de los refugiados**

A centre where refugees who have been accepted for resettlement in a third country live while awaiting their final departure. The term "camp" is not used at UNHCR.

*Source:* Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. *(CRID)*

*Related terms:*
- Sheltering
- Refugee

**Processors /**

Companies that convert secondary materials into a form more suitable for transportation or manufacture into new products.

*Source:* State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.

**Product substitution /**

The replacement of any product intended for an intermediate or final use with another product intended and suitable for the same intermediate or final use.

*Source:* Banco Mundial

**Products of incomplete combustion /**

Materials other than carbon dioxide, water, and acid gases that are produced when organic materials are burned.

*Source:* Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a

*Synonyms:*
- PICs

**Prokaryote / Procariota**

A prokaryote is an organism, e.g. a mycoplasma, a blue-green alga or a bacterium, whose cells contain no membrane-bound nucleus or other membranous organelles.


*Related terms:*
- Eukaryote

**Prolonged aeration activated sludge / Lodos activados por aeración prolongada**

A modification of the activated sludge process which provides for aerobic sludge digestion within the aeration system. The process includes the stabilization of organic matter under aerobic conditions and disposal of the gaseous end products into the air. Effluent contains finely divided suspended matter and soluble matter.

*Source:* Banco Mundial

*Synonyms:*
- Extended aeration activated sludge
- Oxidation ponds activated sludge
- Extended aeration
**Promoter (carcinogenicity) / Promotor (carcinogenicidad)**

This is an agent which increases tumour production by another substance when applied to susceptible organisms after their exposure to the first substance.


*Related terms:*

- Initiator

**Protective clothing / Ropa de protección**

Includes both respiratory and physical protection. One cannot assign a level of protection to clothing or respiratory devices separately. These levels were accepted and defined by response organizations such as U.S. Coast Guard, NIOSH, and U.S. EPA.

- Level A: SCBA plus totally encapsulating chemical resistant clothing (permeation resistant).
- Level B: SCBA plus hooded chemical resistant clothing (splash suit).
- Level C: Full or half-face respirator plus hooded chemical resistant clothing (splash suit).
- Level D: Coverall with no respiratory protection.


*Related terms:*

- Personal protection

**Protein binding / Enlace proteínico**

This is the property of having a physicochemical affinity for protein.


**Protocol refugee / Refugiado acogido al protocolo**

Person who fulfils the definition of refugee according to article 1 (2) of the Protocol on the status of refugees.

*Source:* Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. *Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres.* San José: CRID; 2000. *(CRID)*

*Related terms:*

- Refugees

**Protusive dome / Cono**

Type of volcanic dome where the lava has extruded to the surface.

*Source:* Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. *Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres.* San José: CRID; 2000. *(CRID)*

*Related terms:*

- Volcanos
- Volcanic eruptions

**Proximate analysis /**

The analysis of a fuel to determine (on a percentage basis) how much moisture, volatile matter, fixed carbon, and ash the sample contains; usually the fuel #8217;s heat value is also obtained.

*Source:* Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

*Related terms:*

- Analysis
- Fuel
**PSD /**
Prevention of significant deterioration.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a
*Synonymes:* Prevention of significant deterioration

**Psychological stress / Estrés psicológico**
The sum of the biological reactions to any adverse stimulus, physical, mental or emotional, internal or external, that tends to disturb the organism's homeostasis.
Source: OMS. Community noise
*Synonymes:* Stress
*Psychological tension*
*Related terms:* Industrial psychology
Mental health

**Public awareness / Sensibilización p·blica**
The process of informing the community as to the nature of the hazard and actions needed to save lives and property prior to and in the event of disaster.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
*Related terms:* Public information

**Puentes / Puentes**
Structure that carries a road or railway over a valley, river, etc.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
*Related terms:* Construction works
Civil engineering

**Pulmonary alveoli / Alvéolos pulmonares**
The pulmonary alveoli are minute air-filled sacs in the vertebrate lungs, thin walled and surrounded by blood vessels.

**PURPA /**
Public utilities regulatory policies act.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a
*Synonymes:* Public utilities regulatory policies act

**Putrescible / Putrecible**
Readily able to be decomposed by bacterial action. Offensive odors usually occur as by-products of the decomposition.
Source: IPCS
A substance that can rot quickly enough to cause odors and attract flies.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
*Related terms:* Decomposition
Putrefaction
Putridness
**Pyroclastic flow / Flujo piroclástico**
High density flow of solid volcanic fragments suspended in gas which flows downslope from a volcanic vent (at speed up to 200 km/h) which may also develop from partial collapse of a vertical eruption cone, subdivided according to fragment composition and nature of flowage into: ash flow, glowing avalanche, nuee ardent, pumice flow.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. *(CRID)*
*Related terms:* Volcanic eruptions, Explosivity index, Ash flow

**Pyrolysis / Pirólisis**
The chemical decomposition of organic matter through the application of heat in an oxygen-deficient atmosphere.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
*Related terms:* Incineration

**Pyrophoric / Pirofórico**
A material which ignites spontaneously upon exposure to air (or oxygen).
*Related terms:* Cesium, Lithium, Potassium, Sodium
Quality assurance / Aseguramiento de la calidad
An integrated system of administrative activities that includes planning, implementation, evaluation, information and quality improvement to ensure that a process, product or service is of the type and quality needed and expected by the client.
Source: Korc ME, Farías F., Cevala R. El proceso de fijación y revisión de normas de calidad del aire. Lima: CEPIS; 2000. (CEPIS)

Synonymes:
QA

Related terms:
Evaluation
Planning
Food quality
Water quality

Quality control / Control de calidad
A system of technical activities that measures the attributes and performance of a process, product or service against defined standards to check whether they meet the requirements set by the client. The operational techniques and activities used to meet quality requirements. A system of activities and checks to ensure that measurement systems are maintained within prescribed limits to provide protection against out-of-control conditions and to ensure that results are of an acceptable quality.
Source: Korc M.E., Farías F., Cevala R. El proceso de fijación y revisión de normas de calidad del aire. Lima: CEPIS; 2000. (CEPIS)

Synonymes:
QC

Related terms:
Analytical quality control
Air quality control
Water quality control

Quality handbook / Manual de calidad
A document that establishes the policies, system and practices for quality within an organization.
Source: Korc M.E., Farías F., Cevala R. El proceso de fijación y revisión de normas de calidad del aire. Lima: CEPIS; 2000. (CEPIS)

Related terms:
Manuals
Reference books

Quality system / Sistema de calidad
Organizational structure, responsibilities, procedures, processes and resources to implement quality handling.
Source: Korc M.E., Farías F., Cevala R. El proceso de fijación y revisión de normas de calidad del aire. Lima: CEPIS; 2000. (CEPIS)

Related terms:
Quality

Quench /
Reduction of the temperature of hot gases by rapid evaporation of water.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a

Related terms:
Evaporation

Quench tank /
A water-filled tank used to cool incinerator residues or hot materials during industrial processes.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Quench tank /
A water-filled tank used to cool incinerator residues or hot materials during industrial processes.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
**Quicksand / Arena movediza**

Saturated sandy deposits which, under the influence of hydrostatic pressures, are buoyant and are able to flow.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. *(CRID)*
**Radar / Radar**
Radio method of determining at a single station the direction and distance of an object.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

**Radiactive wastes / Residuos radiactivos**
Wastes that emit electromagnetic radiation at higher levels than natural background radiation.
Source: BID Inglés
Synonyms:
- Radioactive solid waste

**Related terms:**
- Radioactive effluents
- Radioactive elements
- Soil contamination
- Radioactive contaminants

**Radiactivity / Radiactividad**
The property of some substances to emit invisible and potentially harmful radiation.

Synonyms:
- Radioactivity

**Related terms:**
- Heavy water
- Thermonuclear plants
- Nuclear plants

**Radiation dosage / Dosificación de radiación**
1. In pharmacology, the strength or amount of medicament prescribed for each individual application; 2. In radioactivity, the amount of ionizing radiation absorbed by the exposed body.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

**Related terms:**
- Radiation
- Radiation exposure
- Radiation measurements

**Radioactive /**
Substances that emit rays either naturally or as a result of scientific manipulation.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

**Related terms:**
- Radioactivity
- Radioactive tracers
- Radioactive elements

**Radionuclide / Radionucleido**
Species of atom characterized by the number of protons and of neutrons in its nucleus. Usually specified by the symbol of the element and the mass number, as in 235U, our uranium-235.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

**Related terms:**
- Radioisotope
- Radionuclide maximum acceptable concentration
Radionuclide maximum acceptable concentration / Concentración máxima admisible de radionucleidos
The radioactivity of a nuclide in the air or in drinking water which, when inhaled or ingested, produces the maximum admissible dose in the receiver.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Radioactivity
- Radionuclide

Rain / Lluvia
Precipitation of liquid water particles, either in the form of drops of more than 0.5 mm in diameter, or of smaller widely scattered drops.
Synonyms:
- Atmospheric precipitation
Related terms:
- Rainwater
- Stormwater runoff
- Condensation
- Hydrometeorology
- Rain measurements
- Snow

Rainy season / Estación lluviosa
Term used mainly in tropical regions for the annually recurring period of high rainfall which is preceded and followed by dry periods. In the latitudes concerned, this season is often the cause of flood disasters.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Tropical zones
- Rain fall

Rate base /
The investment or established valuation on which a public utility is entitled to a fair return and on which rates may be based.
Source: Banco Mundial

Rated incinerator capacity /
The number of tons of solid waste that can be processed in an incinerator per 24-h period when specified criteria prevail.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
- Incineration

Raw sludge /
Settled sludge promptly removed from sedimentation tanks before decomposition has much advanced. Frequently referred to as undigested sludge.
Source: Banco Mundial
Synonyms:
- Undigested sludge
Related terms:
- Sludge
RCRA /
Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a
Synonymes:
Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
Related terms:
Resource conservation

Re-circulation /
(1) In the wastewater field, the re-filtration of all or a portion of the effluent in a trickling filter to maintain a uniform high rate through the filter. Return of a portion of the effluent to maintain minimum flow is sometimes called recycling. (2) The return of effluent to the incoming flow. (3) The return of the effluent from a process, factory, or operation to the incoming flow to reduce the water intake. The incoming flow is called makeup water.
Source: Banco Mundial

Re-refined oil /
Waste oil that has been cleaned of insoluble and soluble contaminants to its original base oil condition before formulation with additives. Re-refined oil is also called lubricating base oil and is suitable for fine grade lubrication.
Source: State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.

Reactivity /
The tendency to create vigorous reactions with air or water, tendency to explode, to exhibit thermal instability with regard to shock, ready reaction to generate toxic gases.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Readily biodegradable / Fácilmente biodegradable
Arbitrary classification of chemicals which have passed certain specified screening tests for ultimate biodegradability; these tests are so stringent that such compounds will rapidly and completely biodegrade in a wide variety of aerobic environments.
Related terms:
Biodegradability

Reagent /
Reactive material used to remove acid gases from combustion gases.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a

Receiving water /
(1) A river, lake, ocean or other watercourse into which wastewater or treated effluent is discharged. (2) Waters into which point or non-point sources discharge.
Source: Banco Mundial
Synonymes:
Receiving waters
Related terms:
Ocean disposal

Reciprocating grate stoker /
A stoker with a bed of bars or plates arranged so that alternate pieces, or rows of pieces, reciprocate slowly in a horizontal sliding mode and act to push the solid waste along the stoker surface.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
Stoker
**Reclaimed /**
A material is reclaimed if it is processed to recover a usable product or if it is regenerated.

Examples are recovery of lead values for spent batteries and regeneration of spent solvents.

Source: Banco Mundial

Related terms:
- Recycled

**Reclaimed oil /**
Used oil that has been cleaned of insoluble contaminants for use as an industrial grade lubricant or fuel.

Source: State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.

Related terms:
- Used oil

**Recognized refugee / Refugiado reconocido**
Person who is formally recognized as a refugee by the authorities of a State that has signed the international instruments relative to the status of refugees.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. *(CRID)*

Related terms:
- Refugees
- De jure refugee

**Recommended limit / Límite recomendado**
This regulatory value is the maximum concentration of a potentially toxic substance which is believed to be safe. Such limits often have no legal backing in which case a control or statutory guide level which should not be exceeded under any circumstances may be set.


Related terms:
- MEL

**Reconstruction / Reconstrucción**
Actions taken to re-establish a community after a period of rehabilitation subsequent to a disaster. Actions would include construction of permanent housing, full restoration of all services, and complete resumption of the pre-disaster state.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. *(CRID)*

Related terms:
- Rehabilitation
- Buildings reconstruction
- Initial reconstruction and return to normality

**Recoverable materials /**
Materials which can be separated from waste for reuse, recycling or composting. These may include production scrap, corrugated cardboard containers, office papers, pallets and many other materials.

Source: State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.

Related terms:
- Recovery
- Recycling
- Reuse

**Recyclable /**
Products or materials that can be collected, separated, and processed to be used as raw materials in the manufacture of new products.

Source: EPA. The consumer’s handbook for reducing solid waste.

**Recycled contents /**
The portion of a product’s or package’s weight that is composed of materials that have been recovered from waste; this may include pre-consumer or post-consumer materials.
Recycling /
A material that is used in place of a primary, raw, or virgin material in manufacturing a product and consists of materials derived from postconsumer waste, industrial scrap, material derived from agricultural wastes and other items, all of which can be used in the manufacture of new products.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Related terms:
- Recycling
- Recycling of waste

Recycling (Environmental health)/ Reciclaje (Salud ambiental)
The collection, separation and recovery of useful materials, which would otherwise be discarded as waste, for manufacture into raw materials or new products.
Source: State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.

Separating, collecting, processing, marketing, and ultimately using a material that would have been thrown away.
Source: EPA. The consumer’s handbook for reducing solid waste.

Process through which waste materials are reincorporated as raw material to the productive cycle.
Source: BID Inglés

Synonyms:
- Recovery

Related terms:
- Contaminants removal
- Water treatment
- Wastewater treatment
- Industrial effluent treatment
- Ecolabel
- Waste recovery

Recycling of waste / Reciclaje de residuos
Process or method allowing for the recovery of some value from a waste, either as reusable material or as energy.

Related terms:
- Recycling
- Waste
- Waste recovery

Red bag waste /
Infectious waste, deriving from the use of red plastic bags to contain the waste and to clearly identify that the waste should be handled as infectious.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a

Related terms:
- Hazardous waste
- Infectious waste

Reduction in toxicity /
The reduction or elimination of the toxicity of a hazardous waste by (1) altering the toxic constituents of the waste to less toxic or non-toxic forms or (2) lowering the concentration of toxic constituents in the waste by means other than dilution.
Source: Banco Mundial

Related terms:
- Hazardous waste
- Toxicity
Reference material / Material de referencia
A material or substance whose properties are established enough to be used in calibrating a
piece of equipment, evaluating a measurement method, or assigning values to materials.
Source: Korc M.E., Farias F., Cevala R. El proceso de fijación y revisión de normas de
calidad del aire. Lima: CEPIS; 2000. (CEPIS)

Reference standard / Norma de referencia
A standard, generally of the highest metrological quality available in a given place, from
which measurements taken at that place are derived.
Source: Korc M.E., Farias F., Cevala R. El proceso de fijación y revisión de normas de
calidad del aire. Lima: CEPIS; 2000. (CEPIS)

Reforestation / Reforestación
The process of replanting trees in an area that previously had forests.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre
desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Related terms:
- Forests
- Deforestation
- Soil treatment

Refractory material /
Nonmetallic substances used to line furnaces because they can endure high temperatures
and resist abrasion, spalling, and slagging.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Refractory wall /
A wall made of heat-resistant material.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Refrigerated liquid / Líquido refrigerado
Source: CANUTEC. Guía de respuesta en caso de emergencia. 2000. Ottawa: Canadian
Transport Emergency Centre; 2000. También en inglés. (CANUTEC)

Synonyms:
- Cryogenic liquid

Refuge / Albergues
Physical place that provides asylum, protection and sheltering for persons in the face of the
hazard, the imminence or the occurrence of a destructive phenomenon. Public buildings and
spaces are usually used with the aim of giving services of sheltering in the cases of disaster.

Sheltering. Action that consists of providing asylum or provisional lodgings to an individual
or group.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre
desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Synonyms:
- Sheltering

Related terms:
- Refugee camps
- Temporary housing

Refugee sur place / Refugiado a posteriori
Person who, while not being a refugee when he left his country, becomes one as a result of
intervening circumstances.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre
desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Related terms:
- Refugees
Refugees / Refugiados
According to international legislation, persons having a well-founded fear of persecution for reason of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion mostly outside the country of nationality and unable to return or avail himself of the protection of that country. Includes mass exodus of peoples for reasons of conflict and natural disasters moving outside their country of origin.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Related terms:
- De jure refugee
- Refugee sur place
- Convention refugee
- Mandate refugee
- Protocol refugee
- De facto refugee
- Recognized refugee

Refuse-derived fuel / Combustible derivado de residuos
The combustible, or organic, portion of municipal waste that has been separated out and processed for use as fuel.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Related terms:
- Municipal waste

Rehabilitation / Rehabilitación
The operations and decisions taken after a disaster with a view to restoring a stricken community to its former living conditions, whilst encouraging and facilitating the necessary adjustments to the changes caused by the disaster.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Related terms:
- Reconstruction
- Post disaster resettlement

Relative humidity /
The ratio of the absolute humidity in a gas to the absolute humidity of a saturated gas at the same temperature.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a

Synonyms:
- Humidity, relative

Related terms:
- Humidity

Relative humidity of moist air with respect to water / Humedad relativa del aire húmedo respecto al agua
The ratio of the mole fraction of the water vapour in the air to the corresponding mole fraction if the air were saturated with respect to water at a particular pressure and temperature. Also see humidity.


Related terms:
- Humidity
Relative risk / Riesgo relativo
This term may have any of the following meanings depending upon context.

(i) Ratio of the risk of disease or death among the exposed to the risk among the unexposed: this usage is synonymous with "risk ratio";

(ii) Alternately, the ratio of the cumulative incidence rate in the exposed to the cumulative incidence rate in the unexposed, i.e. the cumulative incidence ratio;

(iii) Sometimes used as a synonym for "odds ratio".


Related terms:
Cumulative incidence
Odds ratio
Risk

Relief work / Sistemas de socorro
Assistance and/or intervention during or after disaster to meet the life preservation and basic subsistence needs. It can be of emergency or prolonged duration.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Related terms:
Assistance
Emergency feeding
Food relief
Emergency relief

Remote sensing / Detección a distancia
Determination of substances in the atmosphere, or of emissions, or of meteorological parameters in the atmosphere, by means of instruments not in immediate physical contact with the sample being examined. According to WMO, remote sensing is defined as the collection and recording of data from a distant point, e.g. radar and satellite-based observations of the atmosphere as opposed to on-site (in situ) sensing.


Incendios de vegetación)

Related terms:
Remote sensors

Remote sensors / Sensores remotos
An object that orbits around a larger one. Artificial satellites orbiting the earth are now used for communications, monitoring weather, gathering hydrological, agricultural, seismological and other similar data and observing environmental phenomena. Also used for military purposes.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Synonymes:
Satellite
Artificial satellites

Related terms:
Satellite applications
Communication resources
Mobile satellite communication system
Automation
Photogrametry
Remote sounding / Telesondeo
The methodical local exploration of a given environment carried out from a distance by the use of signals.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Ionospheric sounding
- Meteorological sounding

Renal / Renal
This term is applied to anything associated with the kidneys.
Pertaining to the kidney.

Repatriation / Repatriación
To bring or send someone back to their own country. The actions and measures taken to ensure the return of a person to his country of origin or of usual residence.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Returnee

Repeatability / Repetibilidad
Degree of agreement between the results of independent tests done on the same sample within a short period by the same analyst, using the same method and equipment.
Source: Korc M.E., Farías F., Cevala R. El proceso de fijación y revisión de normas de calidad del aire. Lima: CEPIS; 2000. (CEPIS)

Replacement /
Installation of new or alternate equipment in place of existing equipment for a variety of reasons such as obsolescence, total disrepair, improvement, or modification.
Source: Banco Mundial

Representivity / Representatividad
Degree to which data accurately and precisely characterize a population, parameter variations at the sampling point, process conditions or environmental conditions.
Source: Korc M.E., Farías F., Cevala R. El proceso de fijación y revisión de normas de calidad del aire. Lima: CEPIS; 2000. (CEPIS)

Reproductive toxicology / Toxicología reproductiva
Reproductive toxicology is the study of the effects of chemicals on the adult reproductive and neuroendocrine systems, the embryo, fetus, neonate and prepubertal mammal.
Related terms:
- Embryo
- Fetus
- Neonate
Request for disaster assistance / Solicitud de asistencia en caso de desastre
Official approach made by the authorities of a disaster-stricken country to other
governments, international organizations or voluntary agencies requesting aid in face of the
calamity
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre
desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
International assistance in disaster

Requirement / Requisito
Set of specifications or conditions needed to carry out a task or function.
Source: Korc M.E., Farias F., Cevala R. El proceso de fijación y revisión de normas de
calidad del aire. Lima: CEPIS; 2000. (CEPIS)

Residence time / Tiempo de residencia
Is the mean time a substance remains in a compartment, it is obtained by dividing the
amount of the substance in the compartment by the flux of that substance into the
compartment. For example, the residence time of water in the ocean is typically 3550 years
and 11 days in the atmosphere.
Source: OMS. Programa Internacional de Seguridad de Sustancias Químicas. Seguridad química; principios básicos de toxicología aplicada. La naturaleza de
capacitación, 1. También en inglés. (IPCS)

(Atmpheric) The average time a molecule or aerosol spends in the atmosphere after it is
released or generated there. For compounds with well defined sources and emission rates,
this is estimated by the ratio of the average global concentration of a substance to its
production rate on a global scale. It is a function of not only the emission rates but the loss
rates by chemical and physical removal processes.
Source: Schwela DH, Goldammer JA, Morawska LH, Simpson O. Health guidelines for
vegetation fire events. Geneva: WHO; 1999. También disponible en español. Traducido por el CEPIS (Guías de salud para incendios de vegetación). (OMS.
Incendios de vegetación)

The average length of time during which pollutants, such as smoke, toxic chemicals,
radioactivity, remain in the atmosphere from the time the pollution begins.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre
desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Residual oil /
A general term used to indicate a heavy viscous fuel oil.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
Oil

Residual wastes /
Those solid, liquid, or sludge substances from human activities in the urban, agricultural,
mining, and industrial environments remaining after collection and necessary treatment.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
Waste

Residue / Residuo
Solid or semisolid materials such as, but not limited to, ash, ceramics, glass, metal, and
organic structures remaining after incineration or processing.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
Incineration

Residue conveyer /
Generally a drag or flight conveyer used to remove incinerator residue from a quench
through to a discharge point.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Resource conservation / 
Reduction of the amounts of wastes generated, reduction of overall consumption, and utilization of recovered resources.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms: 
Resource Conservation and Recovery Act

Resource recovery / Recuperación de recursos
The extraction of discarded materials for use in the manufacture of new products or as a fuel or energy source. An "umbrella" term for recycling, composting waste-to-energy and other alternatives to landfilling.
Source: State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.
The extraction of useful materials or energy from waste.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms: 
Recovery 
Recoverable resources 
Recycling

Respiration / Respiración
The act of breathing (i.e. inhaling and exhaling) during which the lungs are provided with air through inhaling and carbon dioxide is removed through exhaling.
Related terms: 
Oxygen consumption 
Endogenous respiration 
Respiratory diseases

Respirator / Respirador
Special masks designed for the protection of workers exposed to occupational health hazards.
Related terms: 
Occupational health 
Industrial safety

Respiratory / Respiratorio
Pertaining to respiration.
Related terms: 
Respiratory diseases 
Respiration

Retention ponds /
Basins, usually enclosed by artificial dikes, that are utilized for wastewater treatment and/or storage.
Source: Banco Mundial
Related terms: 
Wastewater treatment
**Reticuloendothelial system / Sistema reticuloendotelial**
This is the system of cells which have the ability to take up and retain certain dyes and particles ingested into a living animal. This term has generally been replaced by the term, mononuclear phagocyte system.


**Synonyms:**
- Mononuclear phagocyte system

**Related terms:**
- Cells
- Phagocytes

**Retort-type incinerator /**
A multiple-chamber incinerator in which the gases travel from the end of the ignition chamber, then pass through the mixing and combustion chambers.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

**Related terms:**
- Incinerator

**Retreading /**
A process whereby a worn tread is removed and a new tread is placed on an un-damaged tire casing.

Source: State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.

**Returned sludge /**
Settled activated sludge returned to mix with incoming raw or primary settled wastewater. More commonly called returned activated sludge.

Source: Banco Mundial

**Synonyms:**
- Returned activated sludge

**Related terms:**
- Activated sludge

**Returnee / Refugiado regresado**
Person who, after having crossed an international boundary as a refugee, returns voluntarily to his country of origin or of usual residence. Term used by the HCR.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

**Related terms:**
- Repatriation

**Reuse / Reúso**
The use of a product more than once in its same form for the same purpose or for different purposes, such as reusing a soft-drink bottle when it is returned to the bottling company for refilling, or reusing a coffee can as a container for nuts and bolts.

Use of a product at least twice without changing its original form.

Source: State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.

Application of appropriately treated wastewater to a constructive purpose. See also recycle.

Source: Banco Mundial

**Related terms:**
- Industrial reuse
- Recoverable materials
- Recycling
**Reverberatory furnace /**
A furnace in which the fuel is not in direct contact with the charge (waste) but the heating effect is basically generated by reflection down from a refractory roof.

*Source:* Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
*Related terms:*
- Furnace

**Ribonucleic acid (RNA)/ -cido ribonucleico (ARN)**
RNA is the generic term for polynucleotides, similar to DNA but containing ribose in place of deoxyribose and uracil in place of thymine. These molecules are involved in the transfer of information from DNA, programming protein synthesis and maintaining ribosome structure.

The 4 main types of RNA are heterogeneous nuclear RNA (hRNA), messenger RNA (mRNA), transfer RNA (tRNA) and ribosomal RNA (rRNA).

*Related terms:*
- Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA)

**Richter scale / Escala de Richter**
Devised by C.F. Richter in 1935, an index of the seismic energy released by an earthquake (as contrasted to intensity that describes its effects at a particular place), expressed in terms of the motion that would be measured by a specific type of seismograph located 100 km from the epicenter of an earthquake.

*Related terms:*
- Earthquakes
- Seismic instruments
- Seismograph

**Rising tide / Marea creciente**
Time interval during which the tide current is directed approximately in the same way as the direction of the sea current.

*Related terms:*
- Tide
- Flood-tide

**Risk acceptance / Aceptación del riesgo**
Decision that the risk associated with a given chemical exposure or an event leading to such exposure is low enough to be tolerated in order to gain associated benefits.

*Related terms:*
- Acceptable risk

**Risk assessment / Evaluación del riesgo**
Risk assessment is the identification and quantification of the risk resulting from a specific use or occurrence of a chemical, taking into account the possible harmful effects on individual people or society of using the chemical in the amount and manner proposed and all the possible routes of exposure. Quantification ideally requires the establishment of dose-effect and dose-response relationships in likely target individuals and populations.

*Synonyms:*
- Risk evaluation
Risk aversion / Aversión al riesgo
Term used to describe the tendency of an individual person to avoid risk.
Source: OMS. Programa Internacional de Seguridad de Sustancias Químicas.
Seguridad química; principios básicos de toxicología aplicada. La naturaleza de los peligros químicos. 2. ed. (revisada). Lima: CEPIS; 1997. Módulo de capacitación, 1. También en inglés. (IPCS)

Risk characterization / Caracterización del riesgo
Outcome of hazard identification and risk estimation applied to a specific use of a chemical or occurrence of an environmental health hazard: the assessment requires quantitative data on the exposure of organisms or people at risk in the specific situation. The end product is a quantitative statement about the proportion of organisms or people affected in a target population.
Source: OMS. Programa Internacional de Seguridad de Sustancias Químicas.
Seguridad química; principios básicos de toxicología aplicada. La naturaleza de los peligros químicos. 2. ed. (revisada). Lima: CEPIS; 1997. Módulo de capacitación, 1. También en inglés. (IPCS)
Related terms:
- Hazard identification
- Risk estimation

Risk estimation / Estimación del riesgo
Assessment, with or without mathematical modelling, of the probability and nature of effects of exposure to a chemical based on quantification of dose-effect and dose-response relationships for that chemical and the population(s) and environmental components likely to be exposed and on evaluation of the levels of potential exposure of people, organisms and environment at risk.
Source: OMS. Programa Internacional de Seguridad de Sustancias Químicas.
Seguridad química; principios básicos de toxicología aplicada. La naturaleza de los peligros químicos. 2. ed. (revisada). Lima: CEPIS; 1997. Módulo de capacitación, 1. También en inglés. (IPCS)
Synonyms:
- Risk assessment
Related terms:
- Environmental contaminants
- Environmental risk exposure
- Impacts on health
- Risk zones

Risk evaluation / Valoración del riesgo
Risk evaluation involves the establishment of a qualitative or quantitative relationship between risks and benefits, involving the complex process of determining the significance of the identified hazards and estimated risks to those organisms or people concerned with or affected by them.
Source: OMS. Programa Internacional de Seguridad de Sustancias Químicas.
Seguridad química; principios básicos de toxicología aplicada. La naturaleza de los peligros químicos. 2. ed. (revisada). Lima: CEPIS; 1997. Módulo de capacitación, 1. También en inglés. (IPCS)
Related terms:
- Risk determination

Risk management / Manejo de riesgos
Risk management is the decision-making process involving considerations of political, social, economic and engineering factors with relevant risk assessments relating to a potential hazard so as to develop, analyze and compare regulatory options and to select the optimal regulatory response for safety from that hazard. Essentially risk management is the combination of three steps: risk evaluation; emission and exposure control; risk monitoring.
Source: OMS. Programa Internacional de Seguridad de Sustancias Químicas.
Seguridad química; principios básicos de toxicología aplicada. La naturaleza de los peligros químicos. 2. ed. (revisada). Lima: CEPIS; 1997. Módulo de capacitación, 1. También en inglés. (IPCS)
Related terms:
- Risk evaluation
- Emission and exposure control
- Risk monitoring
- Decision making
**Risk monitoring / Monitoreo de riesgos**

Process of following up the decisions and actions within risk management in order to check whether the aims of reduced exposure and risk are achieved.


*Related terms:*
- Monitoring
- Risk management

**Risk perception / Percepción de riesgos**

Subjective perception of the gravity or importance of the risk based on a person's knowledge of different risks and the moral, economic, and political judgement of their implications.


*Related terms:*
- Risk

**Risk reduction / Reducción de riesgos**

The process of selecting the practical means to achieve the lowest level of risk as indicated by the outcomes of risk assessment and risk management procedures. Such as assessment can be conducted in a formal manner (i.e., at the stage of risk analysis, or whether it relief primarily on professional judgment techniques). What is vital in conducting Risk Reduction is that the selection of the outcomes leads to an enduring improvement.


*Related terms:*
- Lowest level of risk
- Risk analysis
- Risk assessment
- Risk management
- Professional judgement techniques

**Risk zones / Zonas de riesgos**

Hazard zone A: LC50 of less than or equal to 200 ppm.

Hazard zone B: LC50 greater than 200 ppm and less than or equal to 1000 ppm.

Hazard zone C: LC50 greater than 1000 ppm and less than or equal to 3000 ppm.

Hazard zone D: LC50 greater than 3000 ppm and less than or equal to 5000 ppm.


*Synonymes:*
- Inhalation hazard zones
- Risk areas

*Related terms:*
- Disasters
- Environmental risks
River basins / Cuencas fluviales
The area drained by a river and its tributaries. See also drainage basin.
Source: Banco Mundial
Related terms:
- Rivers
- Drainage basin

Rockfall / Desprendimiento de rocas
Free-falling or precipitous movement of a newly detached segment of bedrock of any size from a cliff or other very steep slope.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Rocking-grate stoker /
A stoker with a bed of bars or plates on axles; when the axles are rocked in a coordinated manner, the solid waste is lifted and advanced along the surface of the grate.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
- Stoker

Rodenticides / Rodenticidas
This is the descriptor applied to any chemical used to kill rodents.
Synonyms:
- Raticides
Related terms:
- Rats
- Pesticides

Roller / Oleada
A form of violent coastal surge with a spiral curling movement of the wave crest.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Sea surge

Rotary distributor /
A movable distributor made up of horizontal arms that extend to the edge of the circular trickling filter bed, revolve about a central post, and distribute liquid over the bed through orifices in the arms. The jet action of the discharging liquid normally supplies the motive power.
Source: Banco Mundial

Rotary kiln stoker /
A cylindrical, inclined device that rotates, thus causing the solid waste to move in a slow cascading and forward motion.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Rubble / Escombros
Waste from construction and demolition of houses, buildings, or any other type of construction.
Source: BID Inglés
Synonyms:
- Rubble
- Demolition
Related terms:
- Solid wastes
**Rural development / Desarrollo rural**

Study and application of measures aiming, within a rural set, at better utilization of natural resources in function of the needs of the population and within the framework of an environmental policy.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. *(CRID)*

**Related terms:**
- Economic development
- Rural planning
- Basic sanitation
- Rural zones

**Rural economy / Economía rural**

Branch of economics and administration with emphasis on agricultural activity that studies the mechanisms of agricultural enterprise and the definition of the rural/agricultural sector within the wider economic context.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. *(CRID)*

**Related terms:**
- Rural development
SAC / Starved air combustion.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a
Synonymes:
Starved air combustion

Safety / Seguridad
Safety is the practical certainty that injury will not result from exposure to a hazard under defined conditions; in other words, the high probability that injury will not result.
Related terms:
Practical certainty
Risk

Safety factor / Factor de seguridad
See uncertainty factor.
Synonymes:
Uncertainty factor

Saline waters / Aguas salinas
A mixture of salt and fresh water.
Synonymes:
Saline water
Salt water
Brackish water
Water salinity
Related terms:
Water physicochemical characteristics
Desalting
Sodium hydroxide
Silicates

Salinity / Salinidad
Is defined as total quantity of inorganic solids in g/kg seawater when all carbonate has been converted to oxide, the bromine and iodine replaced by chlorine and all organic matter completely oxidized. It is expressed in parts per thousand (ppt or %) and has no units. In practice, salinity is now determined by measuring the electrical conductivity relative to a standard seawater and converting to salinity using tables prepared from laboratory correlations between conductivity and salinity.
Related terms:
Seawater
Physicochemical characteristics
**Sampling / Muestreo**

The collection of a representative portion for analysis and testing. Continuous sampling is sampling, without interruptions, throughout an operation or for a predetermined time. Grab sampling or spot sampling is the taking of a sample in a very short time.


*Synonymes:*
- Sample collection

*Related terms:*
- Air analysis
- Soil analysis
- Monitoring stations
- Water analysis
- Water samples
- Analytical methods

**Sanitary landfills / Rellenos sanitarios**

Engineering technique for the adequate confinement of municipal solid wastes; it includes waste placement and compaction, daily covering with soil or other inert material and control of gases, leachate and vector proliferation to prevent environmental pollution and to protect population health.

Source: BID, Inglés

The deposit of waste onto and into land in such a way that pollution or harm to the environment is prevented and, through restoration, to provide land which may be used for another purpose.

(i)”Controlled landfill” is a disposal practice where wastes are deposited in an orderly planned manner at a licensed site.

(ii)”Monofill” #8212; a landfill site at which only one type of waste is deposited.

(iii)”Multifill” #8212; a landfill site which can accept several types of wastes.

(iv)”Codisposal” #8212; the landfilling of both industrial and household wastes together in such a way that benefit is derived from biodegradation processes to produce relatively non-polluting products.

(v)”Direct landfill” #8212; where domestic or other wastes are deposited without pretreatment.

(vi)”Onion skin” landfill #8212; in this method waste is deposited in front of the tip face and then spread upwards over the working face in thin layers by steel wheeled compactors to break up and compact the waste.

Source: IPCS

The disposal of solid waste at engineered facilities in a series of compacted layers on land and the frequent daily covering of the waste with soil. Fill areas are carefully prepared to prevent nuisances or public health hazards, and clay and/or synthetic liners are used to prevent releases to ground water.

Source: EPA. The consumer’s handbook for reducing solid waste.

*Synonyms:*
- Solid waste burial
- Landfill

*Related terms:*
- Methane
- Solid waste discharge
- Secure landfills
- Site selection
- Percolating liquid
Open dumps
Codisposal

Sanitary sewage /
Home wastewater that contains human wastes; the major fraction of municipal wastewater.
See also sewage, stormwater.
Source: Banco Mundial
Related terms:
Sewage
Municipal waste

Satellite applications / Aplicaciones del satélite
The use of satellite technology for the purpose of communications or data transmission for monitoring, warning and dissemination of information pertinent to emergency response and/or disaster management.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Communication resources
Mobile satellite communication system
Remote sensors

Saturated gas /
A mixture of gas and vapor to which no additional vapor can be added, at specified conditions.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a

Savannah / Sabana
Semi-arid region (dryness ratio 1 to 7) of grasslands across which shrubs and trees are scattered. The grasses are typically tall and fast-growing, that become dormant during and immediately after the short wet season. For the remainder of the year they are brown and dry, particularly prone to extensive fire disasters.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Semi-arid zone

Scavenging / Barrido
Removal process; often used to indicate the capture of gaseous chemicals or particles in the atmosphere by water droplets.
Related terms:
Scavenging by precipitation

Scrap /
Discarded materials which can be economically recycled.
Source: State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.
Related terms:
Scrap consumer
Scrap metal

Scrap consumer /
A company or "end-user" which receives scrap and processes it into useable products.
Source: State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.
Related terms:
Scrap

Scrap tire /
A tire considered unroadworthy by virtue of worn tread or damaged carcass.
Source: State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.
Screening grinder /
A device for grinding, shredding, or macerating material removal from wastewater by screens.
Source: Banco Mundial
Related terms:
Grinders

Screens / Rejas
A device with openings, generally of uniform size, used to retain or remove suspended or floating solids in flowing water or wastewater and to prevent them from entering an intake or passing a given point in a conduit. The screening element may consist of parallel bars, rods, wires, grating wire mesh, or perforated plate, and the opening may be of any shape, although they are usually circular or rectangular.
Source: Banco Mundial
Related terms:
Straining

Scrubbing /
The removal of impurities from a gas stream by spraying of a fluid or solid.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Sea bed / Fondo oceánico
In the marine environment, the interface between the solid floor and the liquid overlay.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Marine environment
Oceanography
Sea bottom

Sea level / Nivel del mar
The actual level of the sea constantly changes; the mean level at a stable place is determined by averaging all the levels over a given period.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Sea

Sea surge / Golpe de mar
A rise in sea level that results in the inundation of areas along coastlines. These phenomena are caused by the movement of ocean and sea currents, winds and major storms.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Oceanic flow
Storms
Winds

Search and rescue / Búsqueda y rescate
The process of locating and recovering disaster victims and the application of first aid and basic medical assistance as may be required.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Rescue
First aid
Secondary burner /
A burner installed in the secondary combustion chamber of an incinerator to maintain a minimum temperature and to complete the combustion of incompletely burned gas.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
- Burner
- Secondary combustion chamber

Secondary combustion chamber /
Component of the incinerator that receives combustion gases from the primary chamber and completes the combustion process.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a
Related terms:
- Combustion chambers
- Combustion

Secondary combustion air /
The air introduced above or below the fuel (waste) bed by a natural, induced, or forced draft.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
- Combustion air

Secondary metabolite / Metabolito secundario
Metabolite which is produced by routes other than normal metabolic pathways, mostly after the phase of active growth and under conditions of deficiency.
Related terms:
- Metabolism
- Biotransformation

Secondary pollutant /
A pollutant formed in the atmosphere by chemical changes taking place between primary pollutants and other substances present in the air.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
- Pollutant
- Primary pollutant

Secondary production /
The production of materials or products substantially from scrap.
Source: State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.

Secondary settling tank /
A settling tank following secondary treatment designed to remove by gravity part of the suspended matter. Also called secondary clarifiers. See also sedimentation basic.
Source: Banco Mundial
Related terms:
- Settling basin
- Secondary treatment

Secondary standard /
A national air quality standard that establishes that ambient concentration of a pollutant that, with an adequate margin of safety, will protect the public welfare (all parts of the environment other than human health) from adverse impacts.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
- Air quality standards
- Air quality criteria
Secondary treatment / Tratamiento secundario
(1) Generally, a level of treatment that produces removal efficiencies for BOD and SS of 85%. (2) Sometimes used interchangeably with concept of biological wastewater treatment, particularly the activated sludge process. Commonly applied to treatment that consists chiefly of clarification followed by a biological process, with separate sludge collection and handling.
Source: Banco Mundial
Related terms:
Aeration
Secondary treatment plants
Conventional treatment
Intermediate treatment

Secure landfills / Rellenos de seguridad
Sanitary landfill for the adequate final disposal of industrial or hazardous wastes.
Source: BID Inglés
Synonymes:
Controlled confinement
Security storage
Related terms:
Codisposal
Site selection
Sanitary landfills
Subsurface mines

Sedimentation / Sedimentación
The settling out of particles due to gravitational forces.
(1) The process of subsidence and decomposition of suspended matter carried by water, wastewater, or other liquids, by gravity. It is usually accomplished by reducing the velocity of the liquid below the point at which it can transport the suspended material. Also called settling. May be enhanced by coagulation and flocculation. (2) Solid-liquid separation resulting from the application of an external force usually settling in a clarifier under the force of gravity. It can be variously classed as discrete, flocculent, hindered and zone sedimentation.
Source: Banco Mundial
Synonymes:
Natural sedimentation
Decantation
Plain sedimentation
Related terms:
Unit operations
Flocculant sedimentation
Chemical clarification
Chemical precipitation
Gravity thickening
Settlers
Secondary sedimentation
Settleable solids
Physicochemical treatment
Primary sedimentation
Acelerated sedimentation
Total solids

Seiche / Seiche
A free or standing wave oscillation of the surface of water in an enclosed basin that is initiated by local atmospheric changes, tidal currents or earthquakes.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Seismic belt / Cinturón sísmico
An elongated earthquake zone; usually located along the boundaries of tectonic plates.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
   - Earthquakes

Seismic engineering / Ingeniería sísmica
Scientific assessment of the answer given by a structure to a seism.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
   - Seisms
   - Seismic response

Seismic instruments / Instrumentos sísmicos
Seismographic instruments used to record the accelerations of the ground or to measure the seriousness of the ground shaking produced by a seism in a given place.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
   - Seismograph
   - Seismometer
   - Seismoscope

Seismic isolation / Aislamiento sísmico
Systems used to limit the transfer of strong ground motion to a structure.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
   - Seisms
   - Respuesta sísmica

Seismic response / Respuesta sísmica
Behavior of a structure in a seism.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
   - Seismic engineering
   - Seismic isolation

Seismic sea wave / Mar de fondo sísmico
Ocean wave caused by undersea earthquakes, volcanoes or land movements.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Seismic sounding / Sondeo sísmico
Definition of the position of submarine plates by measuring the time interval that separates the emission of seismic signals and their rebound after reflection and/or refraction in the variable terrain and onto the sounding reflectors.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Seismic zone / Zona sísmica
An area within ground motion and seismic-design requirements for structures are similar.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
   - Seisms
Seismograph / Sismógrafo
An instrument for recording vibratory motion of the ground.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Seismology
Seismometer
Seismic instruments

Seismology / Sismología
The scientific study of shaking movements in the surface of the earth.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Seismic instruments
Seismograph
Seismometer
Seismoscope

Seismoscope / Sismoscopio
An instrument which indicates only the occurrence of an earthquake, without permanently recording it, as opposed to the seismograph.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Seismology
Earthquake

Semi-arid zone / Zona semiárida
Zone, bordering an arid region, in which the precipitation is insufficient (dryness ratio 1 to 7) to maintain agriculture and where artificial irrigation is needed if cultivation is to be carried out. Particularly prone to extensive fire disaster.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Savannah

Semipermanent anticyclone / Anticiclón semipermanente
Region where high pressures predominate during about half of the year and where an anticyclone appears on the corresponding seasonal mean pressure chart.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Anticyclone
Continental anticyclone
Subtropical anticyclone

Sensitization / Sensibilización
This is the term applied to the exposure to a substance (allergen) which provokes a response in the immune system such that disease symptoms will ensue on subsequent encounters with the same substance.
Related terms:
Hypersensitivity
Immune system
Settlers / Sedimentadores

A basin or tank in which water or wastewater containing settleable solids is retained to remove by gravity a part of the suspended matter. Also called sedimentation tank, sedimentation basin, settling basin, settling tank.

Source: Banco Mundial

Synonymes:
- Sedimentation tanks
- Sedimentation basin
- Settling basin
- Settling tank

Related terms:
- Sedimentation
- Final settling tank

Settling chamber /

Any chamber designed to reduce the velocity of the products of combustion and thus to promote the settling of fly ash from the gas stream before it is discharged to the next process or to the environment.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Settling velocity /

The velocity at which a given dust will fall out of dust-laden gas under the influence of gravity only; also called terminal velocity.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Sewage sludge /

A semiliquid substance consisting of settled sewage solids combined with varying amounts of water and dissolved materials.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Related terms:
- Sludge

Sewerage / Alcantarillado

A complete system of piping, pumps, basins, tanks, unit processes, and appurtenances for the collection, transporting, treating, and discharging of wastewater. Term is declining in use. See also sewer system, wastewater facilities.

Source: Banco Mundial

Synonymes:
- Pipe networks
- Sewerage systems
- Gut
- Sewerage networks
- Sewage
- Sewage collection
- Sewage catchment
- Sewage conduits

Related terms:
- Collector channels
- Intercepting sewers
- Sanitary engineering
- Air injection into sewers
- Drop manholes
- Inspection manholes
- Dimensioning
- Wastewater disposal
- Outfalls
- Sewerage utilities
- Sewerage hydraulics
- Wastewater
- Sanitation
- Pipelines
- Pipe laying
- Wastewater facilities
**Shear wall / Muro de retención**
A structural element which resists lateral forces.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. ([CRID](#))

**Shore profile / Perfil litoral**
The line of the coast formed by the constant accumulating and abrasive action of the waves.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. ([CRID](#))

**Short term exposure limit / Límite de exposición a corto plazo**
According to American Conference of Governmental Hygienists, this is the time weighted average (TWA) airborne concentration to which workers may be exposed for periods up to 15 minutes, with no more than 4 such excursions per day and at least 60 minutes between them.

Synonymes:
- STEL

Related terms:
- MEL

**Shredders / Desmenuzadores**
A machine used to break up waste materials into smaller pieces by cutting or tearing.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Related terms:
- Wastewater treatment
- Grinders

**Shredding /**
Size reduction by shearing, tearing or chopping action.
Source: State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.

Related terms:
- Shredder
- Volume reduction

**Siftings /**
The fine materials that fall from a fuel bed through its grate openings during incineration.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Related terms:
- Incineration

**Silo /**
A storage vessel, generally tall relative to its cross section, for dry solids; materials are fed into the top and withdrawn from the bottom through a control mechanism.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

**Simulation exercise / Ejercicio de simulación**
Decision making exercise and disaster drills within threatened communities in order to represent disaster situations to promote more effective coordination of response from relevant authorities and the population.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. ([CRID](#))

Related terms:
- Simulation
**Sister chromatid exchange** / **Intercambio de cromátidas hermanas**
This is the process producing reciprocal exchange of DNA between the two DNA molecules of a replicating chromosome.

**Related terms:**
- Mitosis
- Mutagenicity

**Slag /**
The more or less completely fused and vitrified matter separated during the reduction of a metal from its ore, or formed in a furnace usually as a result of excessive operating temperatures.
*Source:* Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

**Slagging /**
Destructive chemical action that forms slag on refractory materials subjected to high temperatures; also a molten or viscous coating produced on refractory materials by ash particles.
*Source:* Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

**Sliding damper /**
A plate normally installed perpendicular to the flow of gas in a breeching and arranged to slide across it to regulate the flow.
*Source:* Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

**Sludge (Environmental health) / Lodos (Salud ambiental)**
Liquid with high content of suspended solids derived from water or wastewater treatment plants or similar processes.
*Source:* BID Inglés

1. The accumulated solids separated from liquids, such as water or wastewater, during processing. 2. Organic deposits on bottoms of streams or other bodies of water. 3. The removed material resulting from chemical treatment coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation, flotation, and/or biological oxidation of water or wastewater. 4. Any solid material containing large amounts of entrained water collected during water or wastewater treatment. See also activated sludge.
*Source:* Banco Mundial

Any solid, semisolid, or liquid waste generated from a municipal, commercial, or industrial wastewater treatment plant, water supply treatment plant, or air pollution control facility, or any other such waste having similar characteristics and effects.
*Source:* Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

**Related terms:**
- Wastewater
- Activated sludge
- Domestic sludge
- Industrial sludge
- Sludge age
- Humus
- Sludge digestion
- Sludge treatment
**Sludge dehydration / Deshidratación de lodos**
A physical process which removes sufficient water from sludge so that its physical form is changed from that of a fluid to that of slurry or damp solid.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R., 1996

*Synonyms:*
- Sludge drying
- Dewatering

*Related terms:*
- Evaporation ponds
- Sludge combustion
- Press filters
- Drying beds
- Dewatered sludge

**Sludge digestion / Digestión de lodos**
The process by which organic or volatile matter in sludge is gasified, liquefied, mineralized, or converted into more stable organic matter through the activities of either anaerobic or aerobic organisms.
Source: Banco Mundial

*Related terms:*
- Anaerobic digestion
- Aerobic digestion
- Activated sludge processes
- Biological wastewater treatment
- Digestion

**Sludge lagoon /**
A basin used for the storage, digestion, or dewatering of sludge.
Source: Banco Mundial

*Related terms:*
- Dewatering
- Sludge digestion

**Sludge retention time / Tiempo de retención de lodos**
The mean age of the sludge in a biodegradation system.
Source: OMS. Programa Internacional de Seguridad de Sustancias Químicas.  

*Synonyms:*
- SRT

*Related terms:*
- SRTc

**Sludge treatment / Tratamiento de lodos**
The processing of wastewater sludges to render them innocuous. This may be done by aerobic or anaerobic digestion followed by drying on sand beds, filtering and incineration or filtering and drying or wet air oxidation.
Source: Banco Mundial

*Related terms:*
- Sludge conditioning
- Sludge stripping
- Sludge
- Activated sludge
- Wastewater treatment

**Slurry /**
A pumpable mixture of solids and fluid.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Smoke / Humos
An aerosol originating from combustion, thermal decomposition or thermal evaporation. Its particles may be solid (magnesium oxide smoke) or liquid (tobacco smoke). The International Standard definition of smoke is that of a visible aerosol usually resulting from combustion. WHO defines smoke as a suspension in the atmosphere of small particles produced by combustion.

Particles suspended in air after incomplete combustion of materials containing carbon.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
Combustion
Air contaminants
Point sources
Non-point sources
Gases
Suspended particles

Smoke abatement / Reducción de humos
Legal measures that may be taken on community, regional, or national level to control smoke emissions and thus reduce pollution by smoke.
Related terms:
Smoke

Smoke control / Control de humos
See smoke abatement.

Synonyms:
Smoke abatement

Social group / Grupo social
Groups of individuals, within a population, who share one or several characteristics that distinguish them sociologically.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Social indicators / Indicadores sociales
Different indices used for the assessment of the socioeconomic situation of a society. Examples: infantile mortality rates, green spaces per inhabitant, density of motor traffic, literacy rates.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Social conditions
Socioeconomic situation
Social vulnerability / Vulnerabilidad social
Degree of susceptibility or of risk to which a population is exposed to suffer damage in a natural disaster.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Vulnerability
- Vulnerability analysis
- Disasters

Socioeconomic survey / Encuesta socioeconómica
Enquiry based on social and economic factors, comprising the structure of the family, social attitudes, cultural activities, profession, regular or seasonal employment, revenue, spending power, level of education, size of enterprise, agriculture, etc.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Socioeconomic factors
- Socioeconomic analysis

Sodium hydroxyde / Hidróxido de sodio
Sodium hydroxide (NaOH), a strong alkaline substance used as an acid neutralizer.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Synonymes:
- Caustic soda
Related terms:
- Saline waters
- Sodium

Soil conditions / Condición del suelo
The conditions of earth (moisture content, disaggregation, density, etc.) that may mitigate or intensify disaster agents, such as drought, flooding, or seismic movement.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Soil characteristics
- Soils

Soil erosion / Erosión del suelo
Degradation of the soil through carrying away by wind or water of soil necessary for the forests, food and agriculture. Often caused by mismanagement of the land, a natural and man-made disaster.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Soil quality
- Wind erosion
- Runoff
- Soils

Soil moisture / Humedad del suelo
Content of water in the portion of the soil which is above the table including water vapour present in the soil pores. In some cases refers strictly to moisture within the root zone of plants.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Soil conditions
Soil permeability / Permeabilidad del suelo
The property of a solid material which allows fluid to flow through it.
Source:Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Synonymes:
- Permeable soils
- Permeability
Related terms:
- Porosity
- Seepage

Solfatara / Solfatara
A vent in a volcano from which only gases are emitted.
Source:Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
- Volcano

Solid waste processing / Procesamiento de residuos sólidos
(1)A series of chemical, physical, or biological processes to remove dissolved and suspended solids from wastewater before discharge. (2)Any process to which wastewater or industrial waste is subject to make it suitable for subsequent use or acceptable for discharge to the environment. (3)In a broader sense, encompasses the treatment and disposal of solid waste as well as wastewater.
Source:Banco Mundial
Synonymes:
- Solid waste treatment
- Waste treatment
- Processing
Related terms:
- Compaction
- Composting
- Solid waste conditioning
- Incineration
- Urban cleaning
- Solid waste segregation
- Grinding

Solid waste segregators / Segregadores de residuos sólidos
Person who segregates materials from waste. The term has different denominations in the countries of the Region: "cirujas" in Argentina; "buzos" in Bolivia; "catadores" in Brasil; "cachurreros" in Chile; "basuriegos" in Colombia; "buzos" in Cuba, Costa Rica, and Dominican Republic; "chamberos" in Ecuador; "guajeros" in Guatemala; "pepenadores" in México; "cutreros" in Per.; "hurgadores" in Uruguay.
Source:BID Inglés
Synonymes:
- Scavengers
- Garbage collectors
Related terms:
- Open dumps
- Solid waste segregation
- Segregation plants
- Segregation
Solid waste segregation / Separación de residuos sólidos
Separation and recovery of useful and recyclable materials from waste.
Source:BID, Inglés

Synonyms:
Segregation
Separation

Related terms:
Segregation plants
Solid waste processing
Solid waste segregators
Solid waste use
Urban cleaning
Mechanical separation

Solid waste use / Uso de residuos sólidos
Processes for recovering usable materials from wastes. Usable portions are isolated from unusable materials by mechanical or manual separation and chemical or thermal separation processes.
Source:State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.

Synonyms:
Waste recovery
Reusable solid wastes
Solid waste recovery
Recovery
Reclamation
Garbage recycling

Related terms:
Solid waste disposal
Solid wastes
Solid waste segregation

Solid wastes / Residuos sólidos
Solid domestic waste, predominantly food wastes.

Any garbage, refuse, sludge from a waste treatment plant, water supply treatment plant, or air pollution control facility, and other discarded material, including solid, liquid, semisolid, or contained gaseous material resulting from industrial, commercial, mining, and agricultural operations, and from community activities.

Includes residential, commercial and industrial wastes. Does not include liquid or semi-liquid hazardous wastes which are regulated under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

Synonyms:
Garbage
Refuse
Rubbish

Related terms:
Metallic wastes
Organic wastes
Hazardous wastes
Domestic wastes
Industrial wastes
Rubble
Solid waste characteristics
Urban cleaning
Solid waste use
Solid waste volume
**Soot / Hollín**
A randomly formed carbonaceous particulate matter that may be coarse, fine and/or colloidal in proportions depending on its origin. Soot consists of variable quantities of carbonaceous and inorganic solids together with absorbed and occluded tars and resins.

Notes: An unwanted by-product of incomplete combustion or pyrolysis. Soot generated within flames consists essentially of aggregates of spheres of carbon. Soot found in domestic fireplaces chimneys contains few aggregates but may contain substantial amounts of particulate fragments of coke or char. Soot from diesel engines consists essentially of aggregates together with tars and resins.


Carbon dust formed by incomplete combustion.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

*Related terms:*
Pyrolysis

**Source /**
Any building, structure, facility, or installation from which there is or may be the discharge of pollutants.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

*Related terms:*
Stationary source

**Source control /**
Any activity classified under source reduction with the notable exception of product substitution.
Source: Banco Mundial

*Related terms:*
Source reduction

**Source separation / Separación en la fuente**
The segregation of materials from a waste stream at the point of generation.
Source: State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.

Separating materials (such as paper, metal, and glass) by type at the point of discard so that they can be recycled.
Source: EPA. The consumer's handbook for reducing solid waste.

*Related terms:*
Waste stream

**Space probe / Sonda espacial**
Uninhabited device for the exploration of space beyond the earth's gravity.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. *(CRID)*

*Related terms:*
Probe

**Space station / Estación espacial**
Satellite that does not have its autonomous means of propulsion (or has limited such capacity), placed in space to ensure a mission of a certain length of time.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. *(CRID)*

*Related terms:*
Satellite
Special solid waste / Residuo sólido especial
Solid wastes that due to its quality, quantity, volume, or weight represent a hazard, hence, they require special management. It includes solid wastes from health centers, chemical products, outdated drugs, outdated food, hazardous wastes, sludge, bulk or heavy wastes that with authorization or illegally are handled together with municipal solid wastes.
Source:BID Inglés
Related terms:
- Toxic solid waste
- Hazardous waste

Special wastes / Residuo especial
A particular class of hazardous wastes, so controlled by regulation that prenotification of their transport and deposit is required to be given to statutory authorities.
Source: OMS. Programa Internacional de Seguridad de Sustancias Químicas.
Seguridad química; principios básicos de toxicología aplicada. La naturaleza de los peligros químicos. 2. ed. (revisada). Lima: CEPIS; 1997. Módulo de capacitación, 1. También en inglés. (IPCS)
Related terms:
- Controlled hazardous wastes
- Prenotification of transport and deposit

Special wastes / Residuos especiales
A particular class of hazardous wastes, so controlled by regulation that prenotification of their transport and deposit is required to be given to statutory authorities.
Source: IPCS
Related terms:
- Hazardous wastes
- White goods
- Bulky waste

Spectrophotometry / Espectrofotometría
An estimation of colouring matter in a solution.
Related terms:
- Atomic absorption
- Spectrophotometers

Spirometry / Espirómetro
Measurement of the air capacity of the lungs.

Spray chamber /
A chamber equipped with water sprays that cool and clean the combustion products passing through it.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Spray nozzle /
A device used for the controlled introduction of scrubbing liquid at predetermined rates, distribution patterns, pressures, and droplet sizes.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a
**Stabilization ponds / Lagunas de estabilización**

A type of oxidation pond.

A type of oxidation pond in which biological oxidation of organic matter is effected by natural or artificially accelerated transfer of oxygen to the water from air.

Source: Banco Mundial

**Synonyms:**
- Stabilization lagoons
- Oxidation lagoon

**Related terms:**
- Ponds in parallel
- Dissolved oxygen
- Stabilization
- Ponds in series
- Wastewater treatment
- Biological treatment

**Stack /**

Any chimney, flue, vent, roof monitor, conduit, or duct arranged to discharge emissions to the ambient air.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

**Standard / Estándar**

A level of an air pollutant, e.g. a concentration or a deposition value, which is adopted by a regulatory authority as enforceable. Unlike a guideline value, a number of elements in addition to the effect-based level and the averaging time must be specified in the formulation of a standard. These elements include the measurement strategy, data handling procedures, statistics used to derive, from measurements, the value to be compared with the standard. The numerical value of a standard may also include the permitted number of exceedings.


**Related terms:**
- Air quality models
- Water quality models
- Technical standards
- Food quality standards

**Staple food / Alimentos**

A food that is regularly consumed in a country or community and from which a substantial proportion of the total calorie supply is obtained.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

**Starved-air incineration /**

Controlled air incineration in which the primary chamber is maintained at less than stoichiometric air conditions.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a

**Static pressure /**

The pressure exerted in all directions by a fluid; measured in a direction normal (perpendicular) to the direction of flow.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a

**Synonyms:**
- Pressure, static

**Stationary source /**

Any building, structure, facility, or installation which emits or may emit any air pollutant.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

**Related terms:**
- Source
Statistically significant effect / Efecto estadísticamente significativo
An effect considered to be significant according to defined mathematical, statistical and/or descriptive methods.

Stochastic / Estocástico
This is the adjective applied to any phenomenon obeying the laws of probability.

Synonymes:
Casual
Occurring by chance

Stockpile / Reservas de emergencia
A place or storehouse where material, medicines and other supplies needed in disaster are kept for emergency relief. Examples: UNDRO warehouse in Pisa, UNIPAC in Copenhagen.
Source:Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Related terms:
Materials and supplies stockpiling
Food relief

Stoichiometric air /
The theoretical amount of air required for complete combustion of waste to carbon dioxide and water vapor.
Source:Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a

Stoichiometric air /
The theoretical amount of air required for complete combustion of waste to carbon dioxide and water vapor.
Source:Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a

Stoichiometric combustion /
Combustion with the theoretical air quantity.
Source:Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Related terms:
Combustion

Stoker /
A mechanical device to feed solid fuel or solid waste to a furnace.
Source:Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Related terms:
Chain grate stoker

Storm surge / Marea de tempestad
A sudden rise of sea as a result of high winds and low atmospheric pressure; sometimes called a storm tide, storm wave, or tidal wave. Generally affects only coastal areas but may intrude some distance inland.
Source:Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Related terms:
Tide
Amplitude tidal range
Storm warning / Aviso de temporal
Meteorological message intended to warn those concerned of the actual or expected occurrence of high winds, of Beaufort force 10 or 11, over a specified area.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Warning
Meteorological disasters
Storms

Storms / Tormentas
A sudden, local, relatively short cloudburst of cumulus with lightning and rumble, but usually without a frontal system.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Synonyms:
Thunderstorms
Related terms:
Snow storm
Electric storm
Meteorological disasters

Stormwater /
Surface water from rain, snow, or ice melting and running off from the surface of a drainage area. It is normally collected in sewers separate from the sanitary sewers, and receives minimal, if any, treatment prior to discharge to a receiving water. When collected in a combined sewer system, the resulting mixture of sewage and stormwater is called combined wastewater.
Source: Banco Mundial
Related terms:
Stormwater runoff
Rainwater

Straight stream / Chorro pleno
Method used to apply or distribute water from the end of a hose. The water is delivered under pressure for penetration. In an efficient straight (solid)stream, approximately 90% of the water passes through an imaginary circle 38 cm. (15 inches) in diameter at the breaking point. Hose (solid or straight)streams are frequently used to cool tanks and other equipment exposed to flammable liquid fires, or for washing burning spills away from danger points. However, straight streams will cause a spill fire to spread if improperly used or when directed into open containers of flammable and combustible liquids.
Synonyms:
Solid stream

Strato-volcano / Estravolcán
Volcanic complex composed of the piling up of lava flows and of pyroclastic beds.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Lava
Pyroclastic beds
Volcano

Stratosphere / Estratosfera
The zone of atmospheric air, above the troposphere, between 10 and 50 km altitude, in which the temperature changes vary little with height.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Atmosphere
Atmospheric layers
Stratus cloud / Estratos
The zone of atmospheric air, above the troposphere, between 10 and 50 km altitude, in which the temperature changes vary little with height.
Source:Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Stream standards /
A set of criteria defining the desired physical, chemical, and biological conditions of a stream; usually established by government regulation.
Source:Banco Mundial

Street refuse /
Solid waste picked up when streets and sidewalks are swept manually and mechanically, wastes from public waste receptacles, and material removed from catch basins.
Source:Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
Solid waste

Structures strengthening / Reforzamiento de estructuras
Techinics and usage of several materials with the aim of strengthening a building, to prevent the possible effects of a disaster or emergency.
Source:Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Fire resistant buildings
Buildings reconstruction
Flood proofing

Subacute toxicity / Toxicidad subaguda
Adverse effects occurring as a result of repeated daily dosing of a chemical, or exposure to the chemical, for part of an organism #8217;s lifespan (usually not exceeding 10%). With experimental animals, the period of exposure may range from a few days to 6 months.
Synonymes:
Subchronic toxicity
Related terms:
Adverse effects
Toxicity

Subsidence / Subsidencia
Collapse of a considerable area of land surface, due to the removal of liquid or solid underlying or removal of soluble material by means of water.
Source:Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Subsurface irrigation /
(1)Irrigation by means of underground porous tile or its equivalent. (2)The process of wastewater treatment and disposal in which wastewater or effluent is applied to land by distribution beneath the surface through open-jointed pipes or drains.
Source:Banco Mundial
Related terms:
Irrigation
Wastewater treatment
Subtropical anticyclone / Anticiclón subtropical
Anticyclone of the subtropical high pressure regions.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Anticyclone
Continental anticyclone
Semipermanent anticyclone

Suggested no adverse response level / Nivel sugerido de respuesta no adversa
This regulatory value defines the maximum dose or concentration which, on the basis of current knowledge, is likely to be tolerated by an organism without producing any adverse effect.
Synonymes:
SNRAL
Related terms:
Maximum dose or concentration
Adverse effect

Sulfate-reducing bacteria / Bacterias reductoras de sulfato
Anaerobic bacteria that obtain energy by the dissimilatory reduction of sulphate to sulphide.

Surface water / Aguas superficiales
Water flowing or stagnating on the surface of the ground.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms:
Surface streams
Hydrography

Surfactant / Agente surfactante
The descriptor for any substance that lowers surface tension.
**Suspended solids / Sólidos suspendidos**

(1) Insoluble solids that either float on the surface of, or are in suspension in, water, wastewater, or other liquids. (2) Solid organic or inorganic particles (colloidal, dispersed, coagulated, or flocculated) physically held in suspension by agitation or flow. (3) The quantity of material removed from wastewater in a laboratory test, as prescribed in #8220;Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater #8221; and referred to as non-filterable residue.

Source: Banco Mundial

**Synonymes:**
- Non-filterable total residue
- Suspended matter

**Related terms:**
- Volatile suspended solids
- Microstraining
- Suspended particles
- Secondary sedimentation
- Total solids
- Primary sedimentation
- Water physical characteristics

**Symptom / Síntoma**

Any perceptible change in the body or its functions that indicates disease or the kind or phases of disease.


**Related terms:**
- Syndrome
- Sick building syndrome
- Symptomatology

**Syneresis /**

The process whereby a colloidal gel releases bound water by the application of heat.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

**Synergism / Sinergismo**

Pharmacological or toxicological interaction in which the combined biological effect of one or more chemicals is greater than the sum of the effect(s) of each chemical alone.


**Synergistic effect / Efecto sinérgico**

A synergistic effect is the any effect of two chemicals acting together which is greater than the simple sum of their effects when acting alone: such chemicals are said to show synergism.


**Synonymes:**
- Synergism

**Synoptic chart / Mapa sinóptico**

Geographical map on which meteorological data, analysed or forecast for a specific time, are presented to describe the atmospheric conditions at the synoptic scale.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. *(CRID)*

**Related terms:**
- Meteorological statistics
**Target / Diana**

(of environmental pollution) Human being or any organism, organ tissue, cell, resource, or any constituent of the environment, living or not, which is subject to the activity of a pollutant or other chemical or physical activity or other agent.


**Target organ dose / Dosis en el órgano diana**

The target organ dose is the amount of a potentially toxic substance reaching the organ chiefly affected by that substance.


Related terms:
- Toxic substances
- Toxicity

**Telemetry / Telemetría**

The use of data communications device from the sensors in situ, to a receiving station.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Related terms:
- Environmental monitoring

**Temperate zones / Zonas templadas**

Area between hot and cold zones where personnel and equipment decontamination and hot zone support take place. It includes control points for the access corridor and thus assists in reducing the spread of contamination. Also referred to as the contamination reduction corridor (CRC), contamination reduction zone (CRZ), yellow zone or limited access zone in other documents.


Synonymes:
- Warm zones

Related terms:
- Climatic zones
- Temperate climate

**Temperature inversion / Inversión de temperatura**

Sudden increase in the vertical gradient of temperature in the atmosphere.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Vertical temperature distribution such that temperature increases with height.


Related terms:
- Thermal inversion
Temporary housing / Refugio temporal
Physical protection requirements of disaster victims who no longer have access to normal habitation facilities. Immediate post-disaster needs are met by the use of tents. Alternatives may include polypropylene houses, plastic sheeting, geodesic domes, and other similar types of temporary housing.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Related terms:
Refuge
Sheltering
Refugee camps

Temporary safe reference action level / Nivel de seguridad temporal para la acción de referencia
This is the regulatory value defining the inhalational exposure level in the workplace which is safe for a short time but which should be reduced as soon as possible or appropriate respiratory protection employed.

Synonyms:
TSRAL

Related terms:
Inhalational exposure level
Workplace
Respiratory protection

Tephra / Tephra
Material ejected from a volcano, with the exception of lava.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Related terms:
Glowing avalanche
Pyroclastic flow
Ejecta

Teratogen / Teratógeno
This is the descriptor applied to any substance that can cause non-heritable birth defects.

Related terms:
Teratogenic
Teratogenesis
Teratogenicity

Teratogenesis / Teratogénesis
Teratogenesis is the production of non-heritable birth defects.

Related terms:
Teratogen
Teratogenic
Teratogenicity
**Teratogenic / Teratogénico**

Anything which produces non-heritable birth defects is said to be teratogenic.


Affecting the genetic characteristics of an organism so as to cause its offspring to be misshapen or malformed.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

**Related terms:**
- Teratogen
- Teratogenesis
- Teratogenicity

**Teratogenicity / Teratogenicidad**

Causation of abnormal development of the embryo.


**Related terms:**
- Teratogen
- Teratogenic
- Teratogenesis

**Terrorism / Terrorismo**

The use of violence or the threat of violence to obtain political demands.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

**Related terms:**
- Terrorist assault

**Theoretical air /**

The quantity of air, calculated from the chemical composition of a waste that is required to burn the waste completely. Also stoichiometric air requirement.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

**Thermal contamination / Contaminación térmica**

Discharge of heated effluents at temperatures that can be determined to aquatic life.

Source: Banco Mundial

**Synonyms:**
- Thermal pollution

**Related terms:**
- Heat
- Energy plants
- Thermal water contamination
- Physical contaminants
- Thermic contamination control
- Thermal contamination effects
- Thermal energy
- Cooling ponds
- Temperature

**Thermal efficiency /**

The ratio of heat used to total heat generated.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

**Threshold dose /**

The minimum application of a given substance to produce a measurable effect.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
**Threshold limit value / Valor umbral límite**

This is a guideline value defined by the American Conference of Governmental Hygienists to establish the airborne concentration of a potentially toxic substance to which it is believed that healthy working adults may be exposed safely through a 40 hour working week and a full working life. This concentration is measured as a time weighted average concentration. They are developed only as guidelines to assist in the control of health hazards and are not developed for use as legal standards.


**Synonymes:**
- TLV

**Related terms:**
- Permissible exposure limit (PEL)
- Maximum permissible concentration
- Time-weighted average concentration (TWAC)
- Exposure limit

**Tide forecast / Predicción de la marea**

Prediction, for a particular place, of the height of the tide at a given time, or of the heights and times of high and low tides.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. *(CRID)*

**Related terms:**
- Tide
- Prediction
- Tide-gauge

**Tideland / Litoral cubierto por la marea**

Low coastal land partly under sea water, at least at high tide, and possessing special ecological characteristics.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. *(CRID)*

**Related terms:**
- Coastal areas
- Intertidal

**TIH / RIT**

Toxic Inhalation Hazard. Term used to describe gases and volatile liquids that are toxic when inhaled.


**Synonymes:**
- Toxic Inhalation Hazard
- Poison Inhalation Hazard
- PIH

**Tolerable Daily Intake / Ingestión diaria tolerable**

TDIs are applied to chemical contaminants in food and drinking water. The presence of contaminants is unwanted and they have no useful function, differing from additives and residues where there is or was deliberate use resulting in their presence. TDIs are calculated on the basis of laboratory toxicity data with the application of uncertainty factors. A TDI is thus an estimate of the amount of a substance (contaminant) in food or drinking water that can be ingested daily over a lifetime without appreciable health risk.


**Synonymes:**
- TDI
- Acceptable daily intake
- ADI
Tolerance / Tolerancia
Tolerance is the ability to experience exposure to potentially harmful amounts of a substance without showing an adverse effect.
Related terms:
- Toxicology
- Exposure to harmful doses

Torrent control / Control de torrente
Structures (rock or other materials) constructed to halt the erosion of stream channels.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Torture / Tortura
Any act by which pain and acute physical or mental suffering are intentionally inflicted upon a person, in order to obtain a confession or information, to punish for an act committed by him or another suspected person, to intimidate, degrade, or exercise pressure; or for any other discriminatory motive, when such pain and suffering are inflicted by a public servant or any other person acting on behalf of an official, with or without the latter’s consent - UN Convention against torture, 1984. Amnesty International is the principal organization active against torture.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Total organic carbon / Carbón orgánico total
A measure of the amount of elemental and/or combined carbon present in the ‘organic chemical’ fraction of that material.
Synonymes:
- TOC
Related terms:
- Water chemical characteristics
- Dissolved organic carbon

Toxic / Tóxico
This is the adjective applied to any substance able to cause injury to living organisms as a result of physicochemical interaction.
Ability (or property) of a substance to produce harmful or lethal effects on humans and/or the environment.
Source: EPA. The consumer’s handbook for reducing solid waste.
Related terms:
- Toxicity
- Toxicology
Toxic dose / Dosis tóxica
Amount of a substance whose effect on the organism leads to intoxication without lethal outcome.
Related terms:
Intoxication
Toxic substances
Toxicity

Toxic metals / Metales tóxicos
A term for those ferrous and non-ferrous metals having a density greater than ~4 which possess properties which may be hazardous in the environment. The term usually includes the metals copper, nickel, zinc, chromium, cadmium, mercury, lead, arsenic, and may include selenium and others.
Source: IPCS
Metals that can be precipitated by hydrogen sulphide in acid solution; for example, lead, silver, gold, mercury, bismuth and copper.
Source: Banco Mundial
Metallic elements, such as mercury, chromium, lead, cadmium and arsenic, with high atomic weights and which tend to accumulate in the food chain.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Synonyms:
Heavy metals
Metallic contaminants
Related terms:
Zinc
Industrial effluents
Cadmium
Mercury
Lead
Metallic wastes
Toxic substances

Toxic substances / Sustancias tóxicas
Substance causing injury to living organisms as a result of physicochemical interactions.
A chemical or mixture that may present an unreasonable risk of injury to health or to the environment.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Synonyms:
Toxic compounds
Toxic pollutants
Toxic elements
Toxic materials
Toxic products
Toxic chemicals
Toxic substance
Toxicants
Poison
Related terms:
Accidents with toxics
Chemical pollutants
Lethal dose 50
Toxic metals
Hazardous waste minimization
Hazardous wastes
Hazardous substances
Toxicity
Toxicology

**Toxicant / Agente tóxico**
This descriptor is applied to any substance which is potentially toxic.

*Related terms:*
- Toxic substances
- Toxicity

**Toxicity / Toxicidad**
The term "toxicity" is used in two different senses.

(i) Capacity to cause injury to a living organism;

(ii) Any adverse effects of a chemical on a living organism.

The severity of toxicity produced by any chemical is directly proportional to the exposure concentration and the exposure time. This relationship varies with the developmental stage of an organism and with its physiological status.


The degree of danger posed by a substance to animal or plant life.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

*Synonyms:*
- Toxic effects

*Related terms:*
- Bioaccumulation
- Daphnia
- Lethal dose 50
- Toxic substances
- Adverse effect
- Toxicology

**Toxicity assessment / Evaluación de la toxicidad**
This is the process of defining the nature of injuries that may be caused to an organism by exposure to a given chemical and the exposure concentration and time dependence of the chemically induced injuries. The aim of the assessment is to establish safe exposure concentration limits in relation to possible time of exposure.


**Toxin / Toxina**
A toxin is a fairly complex and highly toxic organic substance produced by a living organism.

*Related terms:*
- Toxic substances
- Mycotoxin
**Traceability / Trazabilidad**
The possibility of relating measurement results to appropriate standards, generally international or national, by a continuous sequence of comparisons.
Source: Korc ME, Farías F, Cevala R. El proceso de fijación y revisión de normas de calidad del aire. Lima: CEPIS; 2000. (CEPIS)

**Trachea / Tráquea**
A cylindrical tube from the larynx to the primary bronchi.

**Training / Capacitación**
The process of training a person or a group of persons in a knowledge or theoretic and practical application of a given activity.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

**Transcription / Transcripción**
Process by which the genetic information encoded in a linear sequence of nucleotides in one strand of DNA is copied into an exactly complimentary sequence of RNA.

**Transfrontier contamination / Contaminación transfrontera**
Pollution and pollutants that have been produced in one country and that have passed international boundaries through water or air to other countries, causing pollution. The effects can be mitigated only through international agreements as the damage is caused outside the boundaries of the victim country.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

**Transuranium /**
Nuclide having an atomic number greater than that of uranium (i.e., greater than 92).
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

**Traveling grate stoker /**
A stoker that is essentially a moving chain belt carried on sprockets and covered with separated, small metal pieces called keys.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
**Treatment / Tratamiento**

Physical, chemical or biological transformation of solid wastes to modify its characteristics or take advantage of its potential. A new solid waste can be generated with different characteristics.

Source: BID Inglés

(As part of waste minimization)- any activity or series of activities that results in reduction of the volume and/or toxicity of hazardous waste without attendant generation of a valuable material that is subsequently employed in the manufacture of a commercial product (an example is an incinerator for disposal of spent chlorinated solvent with scrubbing and neutralization of hydrogen chloride from the flue gas).

Source: Banco Mundial

**Related terms:**
- Solid waste processing
- Complete treatment

**Treatment plants / Plantas de tratamiento**

The central portion of water or wastewater facilities, which contain various treatment processes exclusive of collection or distribution of water or wastewater.

Source: Banco Mundial

**Synonyms:**
- Water treatment plants
- Wastewater treatment plants
- Hazardous waste treatment plants

**Related terms:**
- Potable water
- Wastewater
- Pumping stations
- Hazardous waste minimization
- Site selection
- Water treatment
- Wastewater treatment
- Package wastewater plants

**Trickling filter /**

A very coarse filter used to provide secondary treatment of wastewater. A film of aerobic microorganisms on the filter media metabolizes the organic material in the wastewater trickling downward to underdrains, biofilm that sloughs off is subsequently removed by sedimentation.

Source: Banco Mundial

**Related terms:**
- Contact bed
- Enclosed trickling filter
- Filter plant

**Trommel /**

A perforated, rotating, horizontal cylinder that may be used in resource recovery facilities to break open trash bags, to remove glass and such small items as stone and dirt, and to remove cans from incinerator residue.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

**Tropical air / Aire tropical**

Mass of air which has stayed over tropical latitudes for several days and which, accordingly, has become relatively warm.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

**Related terms:**
- Atmosphere
**Tropical cyclone / Ciclón tropical**
Generic term for a non-frontal synoptic scale cyclone originating over tropical or subtropical waters with organized convection and definite cyclonic surface wind circulation. Tropical disturbance: light surface winds with indications of cyclonic circulation. Tropical depression: wind speed up to 33 knots. Tropical Storm: maximum wind speed of 34 to 47 knots. Severe Tropical Storm: maximum wind speed of 48 to 63 knots. Hurricane: maximum wind speed of 64 knots or more. Typhoon: maximum wind speed of 64 knots or more. Tropical Cyclone (South-West Indian Ocean): maximum wind speed of 64 to 90 knots. Tropical Cyclone (Bay of Bengal, Arabian Sea, South-East Indian Ocean, South Pacific): maximum wind speed of 34 knots or more; the Australian term is Willy-Willy.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. *(CRID)*

**Related terms:**
- Tropical storm
- Hurricane
- Typhoon
- Meteorological disasters

**Tropical depression / Depresión tropical**
Tropical perturbation with maximum winds below 34 knots.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. *(CRID)*

**Related terms:**
- Tropics
- Cyclones

**Tropical zones / Zonas tropicales**
Countries which are continually warm, situated between the tropical latitudes, where the seasonal differentiation is function of the rainfall, expressed as a dry season (corresponding to winter in the northern hemisphere) and a humid season.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. *(CRID)*

**Synonyms:**
- Tropics
- Equatorial zones

**Related terms:**
- Tropical climate
- Tropical ecosystem
- Amazone ecosystem

**Trunk sewer /**
A sewer that receives many tributary branches and serves a large territory. See also main sewer.

Source: Banco Mundial

**Related terms:**
- Main sewer

**TSCA /**
Toxic substances control act.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a

**Synonyms:**
- Toxic substances control act

**Tsunamis / Tsunamis**
A series of large waves generated by sudden displacement of seawater (caused by earthquake, volcanic eruption or submarine landslide); capable of propagation over large distances and causing a destructive surge on reaching land. The Japanese term for this phenomenon, which is observed only in the Pacific, has been adopted for general usage.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. *(CRID)*

**Synonyms:**
- Giant waves

**Related terms:**
- Tidal waves
**Tumorigenic / Tumorigeno**

This adjective is applied to anything which causes tumour formation.


**Synonyms:**
- Tumourigenic

**Related terms:**
- Tumour

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**Tumour / Tumor**

This term describes any growth of tissue forming an abnormal mass. Cells of a benign tumour will not spread and will not cause cancer. Cells of a malignant tumour can spread through the body and cause cancer.


**Synonyms:**
- Neoplasm

**Related terms:**
- Cancer
- Tumourigenesis

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**Tuyeres /**

Openings or ports in a grate through which air can be directed to improve combustion.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

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**Typhoon warning / Aviso de tifón**

Meteorological message to warn of the existence or expected arrival of a typhoon, often coupled with advise on protective measures.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. *Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres.* San José: CRID; 2000. *(CRID)*

**Related terms:**
- Warning
- Meteorological disasters
- Typhoons
Ultimate analysis / The chemical analysis of a solid, liquid, or gaseous fuel. Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996


Related terms:
- Particles
- Fine particles

Unaccompanied minor / Menor no acompañado A child under 15 years of age who has been separated from both parents following a disaster, exodus or refugee displacement, and for whose care no person can be found who by law or custom has primary responsibility. Humanitarian organizations usually take care of unaccompanied minors/children pending family reunion. It is the usual practice to allow unaccompanied children over 15 to take decisions concerning durable solutions for themselves.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Related terms:
- Refugee

Uncertainty factor / Factor de incertidumbre This term may be used in either of two ways depending upon the context.

(i) Mathematical expression of uncertainty applied to data that are used to protect populations from hazards which cannot be assessed with high precision.

(ii) With regard to food additives and contaminants, a factor applied to the no-observed effect level to derive acceptable daily intake (ADI) (the no-observed-effect level is divided by the safety factor to calculate the ADI). The value of the safety factor depends on the nature of the toxic effect, the size and type of the population to be protected, and the quality of the toxicological information available.


A factor that allows for a variety of uncertainties, for example, possible undetected effects on particularly sensitive members of the population, synergistic effects of multiple exposures, the adequacy of existing data, the extrapolation from animals to humans and the extrapolation from a small group of individuals to a large population. Uncertainty factors are based on scientific judgements in a complex decision process, involving the transformation of mainly non quantitative information into a single number.


Synonyms:
- UF
- Safety factor

Related terms:
- Food additives
- Food contamination

Underdrain / A drain that carries away groundwater or the drainage from prepared beds to which water or wastewater has been applied.

Source: Banco Mundial

Related terms:
- Drainage
**Underfire air /**
Forced or induced combustion air (quantity and direction are controlled) introduced under a grate to promote burning within a fuel bed.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
Combustion air

**Unit-suspended wall /**
A furnace wall or panel that is hung from a steel structure.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

**Unreclaimable residues /**
Residual materials of little or no value remaining after incineration.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms:
Incineration

**Upper respiratory symptom / Síntoma respiratorio superior**
Symptom in the upper respiratory tract (i.e. the respiratory tract from nose to larynx).

**Urate oxidase / Oxidasa úrica**
This is the hepatic peroxisomal enzyme which catalyses the oxygen mediated conversion of uric acid into allantoin.
Related terms:
Peroxisome

**Urban cleaning utility / Entidad de aseo urbano**
Individual or body corporation, public or private, in charge or responsible for public cleaning services.
Source: BID Inglés
Related terms:
Urban cleaning services
Urban cleaning
Urban cleaning / Limpieza urbana
Set of activities and processes, including storage, presentation, collection, transportation, transfer, treatment, disposal, sweeping and cleaning of public areas, recovery, reuse, and recycling of municipal solid wastes.
Source: BID Inglés
Synonyms:
Public cleaning
Related terms:
Solid waste conditioning
Municipal management
Solid waste storage
Street sweeping and cleaning
Solid waste disposal
Urban cleaning utilities
Solid waste processing
Solid waste collection
Solid wastes
Urban sanitation
Solid waste segregation
Solid waste transport

Urban cleaning service / Servicio de limpieza urbana
The urban cleaning service includes the following activities related to municipal solid waste management: storage; presentation; collection; transport; transfer; treatment; sanitary disposal; sweeping and cleaning of public areas; recovery and recycling.
Source: BID Inglés
Synonyms:
Public cleaning service
Related terms:
Urban cleaning
Urban cleaning utility

Used oil /
Oil that has been used and may or may not be suitable for recycling or re-refining.
Source: State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.
Related terms:
Reclaimed oil

User charge /
Charge made to users of water and wastewater systems for services supplied.
Source: Banco Mundial

Utilization rate /
The percentage of a particular waste fraction that is used as an input to the total production of a commodity.
Source: State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.
Vapor /  The gaseous phase of substances that is liquid or solid at atmospheric temperature and pressure, e.g., steam.
   
   Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
   
   Related terms:  
   
   Vapor plume

Vapor /  The gaseous phase of substances that is liquid or solid at atmospheric temperature and pressure, e.g., steam.
   
   Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
   
   Related terms:  
   
   Vapor plume

Vapor density / Densidad de vapor
Weight of a volume of pure vapor or gas (with no air present) compared to the weight of an equal volume of dry air at the same temperature and pressure. A vapor density less than 1 (one) indicates that the vapor is lighter than air and will tend to rise. A vapor density greater than 1 (one) indicates that the vapor is heavier than air and may travel along the ground.
   
   
   Related terms:  
   
   Vapor

Vapor plume /  The stack effluent consisting of flue gases made visible by condensed water droplets or mist.
   
   Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
   
   Related terms:  
   
   Vapor

Vapor pressure / Presión de vapor
Pressure at which a liquid and its vapor are in equilibrium at a given temperature. Liquids with high vapor pressures evaporate rapidly.
   
   
   Related terms:  
   
   Vapor

Vector / Vectores
It includes flies, mosquitoes, rodents, and other animals that can transmit infectious diseases directly or indirectly to humans or animals.
   
   Source: BID Inglés
   
   Related terms:  
   
   Transmissible diseases

Vector control / Control vectorial
Measures taken to decrease the number of disease carrying organisms (vectors) and to diminish the risk of their spreading infectious diseases.
   
   Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
   
   Related terms:  
   
   Disease vectors
   Communicable disease control
   Quarantine
Verification / Verificación
Confirmation, through examination and evidence, that specified requirements have been met. For measuring equipment, verification allows controls so that deviations between the values of a measuring instrument and the known values of a measured quantity are systematically smaller than the maximum allowable error defined by a standard, regulation or specification referring to the handling of measuring equipment. The results of verification lead to a decision, whether by restoring service, making adjustments, doing repairs, discarding the measuring instrument, or declaring it obsolete. In any event, a report registering the verification is required and a record of the measurement documentation should be filed.


Vibration / Vibración
Oscillation of a parameter that defines the motion of a mechanical system.

Source: OMS. Community noise

Synonyms:
Vibratory waves

Related terms:
Noise effects
Sound contamination

Victims identification / Identificación de víctimas
Technics used by forensic physicians in order to identify the bodies after the occurrence of a disaster.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Related terms:
Disasters
Physicians

Virgin materials / Materia virgen
Resources extracted from nature in their raw form, such as timber or metal ore.

Source: EPA. The consumer’s handbook for reducing solid waste.

Viscosity / Viscosidad
Measure of a liquid’s internal resistance to flow. This property is important because it indicates how fast a material will leak out through holes in containers or tanks.


Vitrification /
A process whereby high temperatures effect permanent chemical and physical change in a ceramic body.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Volatile /
Any substance that evaporates at a low temperature.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Related terms:
Volatility

Volatile matter /
That portion of waste material which can be liberated with the application of heat only.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a

Related terms:
Volatile waste
Volatile suspended solids / The fraction of suspended solids, including organic matter and volatile inorganic salts, which will ignite and burn when placed in an electric muffle furnace at 550 C for 60 minutes. Commonly abbreviated VSS.
Source: Banco Mundial
Synonyms: VSS
Related terms: Suspended solids

Volatility / The property of a substance or substances to convert to vapor or gas without chemical change.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
Related terms: Volatile

Volcanology / Vulcanología Part of geology that studies the volcanic phenomena.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms: Volcano, Volcanic eruptions, Magma

Volcanos / Volcanes The mountain formed by local accumulation of volcanic materials around an erupting vent.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms: Volcanic eruptions, Pyroclastic flow, Crater, Strato-volcano

Voluntary agencies / Agencias voluntarias Non-governmental agencies or organizations that exist in many countries throughout the world. Some possess personnel trained to assist when disaster strikes. Some volags have capabilities that extend from the local to national and international.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms: Disasters

Vortex / Ojo del huracán The “eye” or centre of the spiral clouds of a cyclone, hurricane or typhoon.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms: Hurricanes, Typhoons

Vulnerability / Vulnerabilidad Degree of loss (from 0 to 100 percent) resulting from a potentially damaging phenomenon.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Related terms: Vulnerability analysis, Vulnerability study
Vulnerability analysis / Análisis de vulnerabilidad

Study and investigation of all risks and the hazards susceptible to cause a disaster.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Synonyms:
- Vulnerability study

Related terms:
- Vulnerability
- Social vulnerability
- Disasters
- Seisms

Vulnerable group / Comunidades vulnerables

A section of the population, specially infants, pregnant and lactating mothers, the elderly, the homeless, who are particularly prone to sickness and nutritional deficiencies. They are likely to suffer most in a disaster.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Related terms:
- Human settlements
- Squatter settlements
**War wounded / Herido de guerra**

1. In the strict sense: regular member of the armed forces wounded in an armed conflict in the course of military operations; 2. In a wider sense: any person wounded during an armed conflict in the course of military operations.

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. *(CRID)*

**Related terms:**
- Armed conflicts

**Warm zone / Zona tibia**

Area between hot and cold zones where personnel and equipment decontamination and hot zone support take place. It includes control points for the access corridor and thus assists in reducing the spread of contamination. Also referred to as the contamination reduction corridor (CRC), contamination reduction zone (CRZ), yellow zone or limited access zone in other documents.


**Related terms:**
- Contamination
- Decontamination
- Spread of contamination
- Contamination reduction

**Warning / Advertencia**

Dissemination of message signalling imminent hazard which may include advice on protective measures. See also "alert".

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. *(CRID)*

**Related terms:**
- Alert
- Alarm
- Security measures

**Washout / Lavado**

The scavenging of gaseous or air-borne chemicals and particles by rain droplets.


**Synonyms:**
- Wet disposition and scavenging

**Related terms:**
- Particle removal
- Scavenging by precipitation

**Waste / Residuos**

(i) Anything which is discarded deliberately or otherwise disposed of on the assumption that it is of no further use to the primary user.

(ii) Any substance which constitutes a scrap material or an effluent or other unwanted surplus substance arising from the application of any process; and,

(iii) Any substance or article which requires to be disposed of as being broken, worn out, contaminated or otherwise spoiled.

Source: IPCS

Surplus, obsolete, off-specification, contaminated or otherwise unneeded or unwanted material earmarked for disposal.

Source: State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.
Unwanted materials left over from manufacturing processes, or from places of human or natural habitation or other activities.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a

Related terms:
- Solid wastes
- Domestic wastes
- Industrial wastes
- Industrial wastewater

Waste activated sludge /
Solids removed from the activated sludge process to prevent an excessive build-up in the system.

Source: Banco Mundial

Related terms:
- Activated sludge

Waste assessment /
A study to determine the source, composition, quantities and destinations of materials in a waste stream.

Source: State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.

Synonyms:
- Waste audit

Waste disposal plant /
(1)A plant equipped for treatment and disposal of waste. (2) An arrangement of devices and structures for treating wastewater, industrial wastes, and sludge.

Source: Banco Mundial

Related terms:
- Wastewater treatment

Waste disposal / Disposición de residuos
The process of getting rid of unwanted, broken, worn out, contaminated or spoiled materials in an orderly, regulated fashion.


Synonyms:
- Solid waste disposal
- Solid waste final disposal

Related terms:
- Codisposal
- Groundwater contamination
- Hazardous waste disposal
- Urban cleaning
- Percolation
- Seepage
- Solid waste conditioning
- Solid waste use
- Solid waste volume

Waste exchange / Intercambio de residuos
A system for matching one company’s “waste” with the raw material needs of a second company.

Source: State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.

Synonyms:
- Residues exchange
- Waste bags

Related terms:
- Hazardous waste use
**Waste management / Administración de residuos**
Administration of the reduction, collection, separation, storage, transportation, transfer, processing, treatment and disposal of wastes.
Source: State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.
*Synonyms:*
Waste administration

**Waste minimization / Minimización de residuos**
An organized, systematic, comprehensive and continual effort to reduce waste generation.
Source: IPCS

The reduction, to the extent feasible, of hazardous waste that is generated or subsequently treated, stored, or disposed of. It includes any source reduction or recycling activity undertaken by a generator that results in either (1) the reduction of total volume or quantity of hazardous waste, or (2) the reduction of toxicity of hazardous waste, or both, so the goal of minimizing present and future threats to human health and the environment.
Source: Banco Mundial
*Related terms:*
Hazardous waste abatement

**Waste paper grade /**
Source: State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.
*Related terms:*
Grade

**Waste reduction /**
Waste reduction is waste prevention plus recycling. Waste that cannot be prevented can be separated and collected for recycling or composting.
Source: EPA. The consumer’s handbook for reducing solid waste.

The combined efforts of source reduction, reuse, recycling and composting practices.
Source: State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.

The prevention or restriction of waste generation at its source by redesigning products or the patterns of production and consumption.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996
*Related terms:*
Composting
Recycling
Segregation
Hazardous waste minimization

**Waste-to-energy conversion /**
The incineration of wastes with energy recovery.
Source: State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.
*Synonyms:*
WTE
*Related terms:*
Incineration

**Wastestream / Flujo de residuos**
Waste, from the point of generation to a final destination.
Source: State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.
*Related terms:*
Waste
Wastewater / Aguas residuales
(1) A liquid which flows out of a process or confined space. (2) Wastewater or other liquid, partially or completely treated, or in its natural state, flowing out of a reservoir, basins, treatment plant, or industrial treatment plant, or part thereof.

Household and commercial wastewater that contains human waste. Distinguished from industrial wastewater.

The spent or used water of a community or industry which contains dissolved and suspended matter.

Source: Banco Mundial

Waste materials, usually waterborne, discharged into the environment, treated or untreated.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Water carrying dissolved or suspended solids from homes, farms, businesses, institutions and industries.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996a
Synonymes:
- Sewage
- Refuse
- Septic water
- Effluents
- Domestic wastewater
- Domestic effluents

Related terms:
- Water
- Wastewater disposal
- Wastewater treatment
- Sewerage
- Water contamination
- Wastewater characteristics
- Wastewater use
- Treatment plants
- Emission

Wastewater charge /
A service charge made for providing wastewater collection and/or treatment service. A specific charge, in contrast to and ad valorem tax.
Source: Banco Mundial

Wastewater facilities /
The structures, equipment, and processes required to collect, convey, and treat domestic and industrial wastes and dispose of the effluent and sludge.
Source: Banco Mundial
Related terms:
- Sewerage
- Wastewater treatment

Wastewater lagoon /
An impoundment into which wastewater is discharged at a rate low enough to permit oxidation to occur, so that no substantial nuisance develops.
Source: Banco Mundial
Related terms:
- Oxidation
- Wastewater
Wastewater management/
The collection and treatment of wastewater, including such ancillary matters as administration and financing, engineering planning and design, operation and maintenance, and monitoring and evaluation of overall performance.
Source:Banco Mundial
Related terms:
Wastewater treatment

Water drainage / Drenaje de agua
Gradual evacuation of excess water from the more common surface run-off of wetlands (surface drainage)or from the ground (surface drainage)generally to improve agriculture.
Source:Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)
Synonyms:
Draining
Related terms:
Runoff
Land excavation
Well drilling
Soil treatment

Water quality standards / Normas de calidad del agua
Definitions of water quality established as a basis of control for various water-use classifications.
Source:Banco Mundial
Synonyms:
Water quality standards
Related terms:
Water quality
Water quality criteria
Water rights
Water quality models
Water contamination

Water self-purification / Autopurificación del agua
The natural purification potential of a stream; its ability to receive wastewater and toxic materials without deleterious effects on the aquatic environment or on humans who consume the water.
Source:Banco Mundial
Synonyms:
Assimilative capacity
Water purification
Related terms:
Aeration
Hydrologic cycle
Biodegradation
Water
Water treatment
Natural purification
**Water spray / Rocío de agua**

Method or way to apply or distribute water. The water is finely divided to provide for high heat absorption. Water spray patterns can range from about 10 to 90 degrees. Water sprays streams can be used to extinguish or control the burning of a fire or to provide exposure protection for personnel, equipment, buildings, etc. (This method can be used to absorb vapors, knock-down vapors or disperse vapors. Direct a water spray (fog), rather than a straight (solid)stream, into the vapor cloud to accomplish any of the above).

Water spray is particularly effective on fires of flammable liquids and volatile solids having flash points above 37.8°C(100°F).

Regardless of the above, water spray can be used successfully on flammable liquids with low flash points. The effectiveness depends particularly on the method of application. With proper nozzles, even gasoline spill fires of some types have been extinguished when coordinated hose lines were used to sweep the flames off the surface of the liquid. Furthermore, water spray carefully applied has frequently been used with success in extinguishing fires involving flammable liquids with high flash points (or any viscous liquids)by causing frothing to occur only on the surface, and this foaming action blankets and extinguishes de fire.


**Water use / Usos del agua**

A system of classifying utilization of waters in natural watercourses for such purposes as potable water supply, recreation and bathing, fish culture, industrial processes, waste assimilation, transportation, and power production.

Source: Banco Mundial

*Related terms:*
- Aquaculture
- Water
- Industrial water
- Recreational water
- Water consumption
- Water quality criteria
- Waste of water

**Water-sensitive / Sensibles al agua**

Substances which may produce flammable and/or toxic decomposition products upon contact with water.


**Waterwall incinerator /**

An incinerator whose furnace walls consist of vertically arranged metal tubes through which water passes and absorbs the radiant energy from burning solid waste.

Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

*Related terms:*
- Incinerator

**Wave / Ola**

Agitation of the surface of the sea caused by local winds. The numerical code representing the state of the sea is the Douglas scale. Popular expression describing solitary high wave(s).

Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

*Related terms:*
- Ocean wave
- Roller
- Heatwave
- Well
- Tsunami
**Weather forecast / Predicción del tiempo**
Announcement of meteorological conditions anticipated for a specific area and period of time. Weather forecasting is important in disaster prevention.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

**Related terms:**
- Nowcast

**Weirs / Vertederos**
(1) A diversion dam. (2) A device that has a crest and some side containment of known geometric shape, such as a V, trapezoid, or rectangle, and is used to measure flow of liquid. The liquid surface is exposed to the atmosphere. Flow is related to upstream height of water above the crest, to position of crest with respect to downstream water surface, and to geometry of the weir opening.
Source: Banco Mundial
**Related terms:**
- Hydraulic structures
- Singularities

**Well / Marejada**
In a catchment area or water shed, the swelling of a stream or water course to levels above normal, following heavy precipitation and snow thaw.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

**Related terms:**
- Wave

**White goods / Productos de línea blanca**
Discarded refrigerators, stoves, washers, dryers and other appliances.
Source: State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.

**Related terms:**
- Special wastes

**White ledger /**
White sulphite or sulphate ledger paper; includes copier paper, letterhead and white notebook paper.
Source: State of Michigan. Department of Commerce and Natural Resources.

**Related terms:**
- High-grade paper

**Wind erosion / Erosión eólica**
Erosion of the land due to the action of winds.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

**Related terms:**
- Soil erosion

**Wind field / Campo de vientos**
Combined data for wind speed and direction for a specific region and time.

**Wind force / Fuerza del viento**
Number on a Beaufort scale corresponding to the effects produced by winds within the range of speeds.
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

**Related terms:**
- Beaufort scale
- Winds
Windbox /  
A chamber below a furnace grate or surrounding a burner, through which air is supplied under pressure to burn the fuel.  
*Source*: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996  
*Related terms*: Chamber

Winds / Vientos  
Air movement relative to the earth's surface. Unless otherwise specified, only the horizontal component of the movement is considered. The coding of wind velocity is shown by the Beaufort scale.  
*Source*: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. *(CRID)*  
*Related terms*: Wind energy, Wind erosion, Energy sources, Hurricanes, Windmills

Wood residue /  
Bark, sawdust, slabe, chips, shavings, mill trim, and other wood products derived from wood processing and forest management operations.  
*Source*: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996  
*Related terms*: Lumber industry
**Xenobiotic / Xenobiótico**
A xenobiotic is a chemical which is not a natural component of the organism exposed to it.

**Sinonimos:**
- Drug
- Foreign substance or compound
- Exogenous substance or compound

**Xenobiotic metabolism / Metabolismo xenobiótico**
Xenobiotic metabolism is the sum of the physical and chemical changes that affect foreign substances in living organisms from uptake to excretion.

**Related terms:**
- Biotransformation
Yard trimmings /  
The component of solid waste composed of grass clippings, leaves, twigs, branches, and garden refuse.  
Source:EPA. The consumer’s handbook for reducing solid waste.
**Zero gas /**
A gas containing less than one part per million parts of sulphur dioxide.
Source: Brunner, Calvin R.; 1996

Related terms:
- Gases
- Sulphur dioxide

**Zonification / Zonificación**
In general it is the subdivision of a geographical entity (country, region, etc.) into homogenous sectors with respect to certain criteria (for example, intensity of the hazard, degree of risk, same overall protection against a given hazard, etc.).
Source: Centro Regional de Información sobre desastres. Vocabulario controlado sobre desastres. San José: CRID; 2000. (CRID)

Related terms:
- Physical planning
- Urbanization