Learning Objective: *The student will be able to define risk management terms.*

In the 1990s, the fire and emergency services were encouraged to consider a broader, all-hazards approach to risk management by many national-level organizations. Terms such as community risk reduction, prevention, mitigation, hazard, risk and resilience have become commonplace in our industry. The following are definitions that you should be familiar with:

Community risk reduction integrates emergency response with prevention. Community risk reduction involves identifying and prioritizing risks, selecting and implementing strategies, monitoring and evaluating activities, and involving community partners, all in an effort to better protect residents and firefighters. This definition is taken from the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA's) standard, NFPA 1452, *Guide for Training Fire Service Personnel to Conduct Community Risk Reduction*, 2015 edition.

The following are definitions from the United States Department of Homeland Security Risk Lexicon, 2010 edition:

Prevention is an action that stops an incident from happening. A cooking fire can be prevented by staying in the kitchen and practicing safe cooking.

Mitigation is an effort to reduce the impact or loss from an incident. A cooking fire can be mitigated by putting a lid on the pan to keep the fire from spreading.

Hazard is a natural or man-made source or cause of harm or difficulty. An example of a potential hazard is improperly maintained or protected storage tanks. A hazard differs from a threat in that a threat is directed at an entity, asset, system, network or geographic area, while a hazard is not directed. A hazard can be actual or potential.

Risk is the potential for an unwanted outcome resulting from an incident, event or occurrence, as determined by its likelihood and the associated consequences. Occupants are at greater risk of dying in a house fire when smoke alarms are not installed or not working.

Resilience is the ability of systems, infrastructures, government, business, communities and individuals to resist, tolerate, absorb, recover from, prepare for, or adapt to an adverse occurrence that causes harm, destruction or loss. An example of resilience: The county was able to recover quickly from the disaster because of the resilience of governmental support systems.

These are a few terms that you should know and use to help the fire and emergency services in their expanding role in all-hazards community risk reduction.