

VICSES Glossary for students

Some of the words used in emergencies can be tricky. If you don't understand a word you can use this glossary to help you.

Word	meaning
atmosphere	a layer of gas that surrounds our earth
awash	to be covered with water
condensation	when water changes from a gas into a liquid
constant	a value that does not change
contamination	something dirty or unwanted
converging	coming together
displaced	moved to somewhere else
downpour	heavy rainfall
equator	an invisible line that wraps around the earth marking the centre (between the north pole and the south pole)
evacuate	to leave in an emergency situation
evaporate	When water changes from a liquid to a gas
fatalities	A death resulting from an accident or a disaster
forecast	To calculate or estimate something in advance, like the weather
hazard	something dangerous
impassable	cannot cross over
intensify	to get stronger
inundation	to cover with floodwater
isolated	far away from other places or surrounded by water
localised	something that happens in one area
peak	the highest point
precipitation	water that falls from the sky either as rain, hail or snow
provisions	a supply of food and drink
sodden	very wet
tides	the rise and fall of sea levels
torrential	water falling or flowing very fast and hard
water vapour	the gas form of water
waterways	any water that you can navigate through including rivers, lakes, seas, oceans, and canals
whirlpool	water spinning around very fast