

A/Ward —

(W) 301-759-6481

(H) 777-3441

# GLOSSARY OF FIRE AND E.M.S. TERMS

FIRST EDITION

## P R E F A C E

The English language is full of words that have a multitude of meanings, even in everyday use. Then consider that almost every business and hobby have a language all their own. Languages that put whole new meanings to common everyday words. These "sublanguages", if you will, are spoken and written in English and yet, if you are not familiar with the jargon of that particular business or hobby, may just as well be a completely foreign tongue. The fire and emergency medical services have a substantial "sublanguage."

The purpose of this glossary, therefore, is to provide those unfamiliar with the "sublanguage" and terminology of the emergency services a means to become familiar with some of the terms and slang used every day by those in the business. I have tried to limit this glossary to terms that would be unclear to the uninitiated. Words that are transferred from everyday usage, with little change in meaning, have not been included. Also avoided is extensive medical terminology because there are numerous medical dictionaries on the market. However, you will find included a good bit of medical slang, as used by "street" providers.

As is true of any language, some words have a number of meanings, and the same word may mean different things in different areas. Most of the "street" language included in this glossary is indigenous to Maryland and/or the Northeast United States, as that is the dialect with which the author is most familiar. Terms from other dialects have been included for contrast and for assistance in understanding news reports, books, and journals published in other areas of the country.

I've had a lot of fun compiling this listing, and I've learned a lot. I hope you, too, will find it entertaining as well as informative. I welcome any submissions for inclusion in future editions.

Al Ward  
Firefighter/C.R.T.

AERIAL - see Truck

A.L.S. - advanced life support (skills, training, treatment)  
includes EKG interpretation, intravenous fluid  
therapy, drug administration, endotracheal  
intubation, cardiac defibrillation

ALARM - notify a station of a call in its area

ALERT - same as Alarm

ALL HANDS - incident, usually fire, that requires  
services of all responding personnel

AIR BAGS - high strength rubber bags that can be filled with  
compressed air and capable of lifting great  
weights often used in auto extrication and  
other rescue operations

AIR PACK - slang for Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus..  
See S.C.B.A.

AIR TRUCK - vehicle equipped with system for refilling  
S.C.B.A.

AMBO - slang for ambulance

AMBULANCE ASSIST - engine or truck company response to  
assist ambulance crew with additional  
manpower, tools, etc.

APRON - area of station between garage doors and street

ARSON - deliberate burning of property, usually for profit

ARSONIST - one who commits arson

ATTACK LINE - hose line used to attack fire, usually  
described by diameter size (inch and a half,  
etc.) or location on engine (pre-connect,  
mattydale, etc.)

AUTO EX - slang for auto extrication

AUXILARY - see Ladies' Auxiliary

B.P. (BLOOD PRESSURE) - an indication of the status of  
the heart and circulatory system,  
only vital sign that requires  
specialized equipment to obtain

BACKBOARD - 6 foot by 2 foot board with holes for gripping  
and straps used to immobilize spine of patients  
with spinal injuries

BACKDRAFT - phenomenon where oxygen-starved fire races toward a new source of oxygen

BACKPACK PUMP - manually operated pump and water supply used in fighting brush/field fires

BACK STEP - rear platform or "running board" on older engines where firefighter(s) ride

BANGOR LADDER - large ground ladder, usually 50 feet or more, with guide poles to assist with raising and lowering; requires 6 people

BAR-B-QUE - fire where people, usually civilians, are burned, usually fatally. Also a common fund raiser for volunteer departments.

BARN - slang for ambulance or fire station

BARNBURNER - slang for a large, working fire

BEAT AND BLOW - slang for performing C.P.R.

BELLS - audible device for notifying those in the station of a call

B.L.S. - Basic Life Support (skills, training, treatment) includes C.P.R., bleeding control, airway management, splinting, et.al.

BLOOD BUCKET - slang for ambulance

'BO - slang for ambulance

'BOARD - 1) short for backboard 2) short for radio/telephone switchboard

BODY BAG - canvas or heavy plastic bag for transporting bodies

BOOSTER (HOSE, LINE, REEL) - small hose line (usually 3/4 inch diameter) used for small fires or clean up

BOOSTER TANK - water storage tank built into engine and connected to pump by piping

(TO) BOTTOM OUT - deteriorate; usually patient's condition

BOX - type of ambulance with a modular patient compartment mounted on a van or pick-up truck type chassis

BOX - street side alarm transmitting device

BOX RESPONSE - units predetermined to respond to a

particular location

BRUSH BUGGY - slang for brush truck

BRUSH RAKE - rake with strong, sharp steel teeth for clearing brush in brush fire operations

BRUSH TRUCK - a vehicle specially designed or modified for fighting woods/field/forest fires, usually in remote areas

BUCKET - bucket seat, usually rear facing, on apparatus where firefighter rides

BUCKET - working platform at the end of an aerial device

BUCKET - short for blood bucket

BUFF - fire/fire department fan or enthusiast, often organized into clubs to provide support services, collect and maintain memorabilia, raise funds, provide refreshments and other support services, etc.

BUGLES - used in collar insignia, badges, etc. to denote rank in the department; usually 5 for chief down to one for lieutenant

BUTT (A LADDER) - hold the bottom (butt) of a ladder to prevent it from moving while others climb or descend

BUMPER PUMPER - engine with the pump and related controls mounted on the front bumper

BUNKERS/BUNKER GEAR - protective clothing ensemble worn by firefighters

C.E.U. (CONTINUED EDUCATION UNIT) - credit for classes/training needed to retain certification/license

C.M.E. (CONTINUED MEDICAL EDUCATION) - same as above

C.P.R. - cardiopulmonary resuscitation, i.e., manually provide circulation and respiration for a person in full cardiac arrest

C.R.T. (CARDIAC RESCUE TECHNICIAN) - EMS personnel with limited training in A.L.S.

C-COLLAR - device placed on trauma patients to immobilize cervical spine

CARDIAC ARREST - absence of sufficient heart activity

to sustain life

CAREER - fire and/or EMS personnel employed full time

CAREER DEPARTMENT/STATION - department or station utilizing only paid personnel

CATCH A HYDRANT - slang for attaching a hose line to a street side fire hydrant

CATCH A PIECE - phrase used by volunteers meaning to arrive at the station in time to ride a piece of apparatus to the scene

CALL - request for response of emergency equipment and personnel

CALL (OFF) A CODE - discontinue resuscitative efforts

CAN - slang for fire extinguisher

CAN JOB - slang for a small fire that can be handled with an extinguisher

CAN OPENER - metal cutting tool; often used in auto extrication

CASCADE TRUCK/SYSTEM - permanent or portable system of air storage tanks and compressor for refilling S.C.B.A.

CHARGE A LINE - fill hose with water and apply sufficient pressure to force water out the end

CHASE CAR/SYSTEM - vehicle with special equipment and/or personnel that responds to assist first due unit; a system that uses same

CHERRY PICKER - slang for an apparatus with an elevating platform

CODE - patient in full cardiac arrest

COMBINATION DEPARTMENT - department composed of a mixture of career and volunteer members

COMMAND POST - central location at incident scene for directing operations

CRASH - vehicle accident

(TO) CRASH - deteriorate; usually patient's condition

CRISPY CRITTER - slang for burned patient, usually fatally

DECK GUN - large diameter pipe mounted on top deck of engine for directing large streams of water

DEFIB - short for defibrillation

DEFIBRILLATION - ALS technique of administering electrical shock to patient to correct cardiac dysrhythmia

DELUGE GUN - same as a deck gun, may be portable

D.O.A. (DEAD ON ARRIVAL) - a patient in full cardiac arrest with little or no chance of resuscitation when personnel arrive

DRUG BOX - container used by A.L.S. providers to carry medications and related equipment

DUALS/DUAL LINE(S) - hose lines, usually supply lines, laid parallel and simultaneously

DUECE/DUECE AND A HALF - 2 or 2 1/2 inch diameter hose line

DUMP TANK - slang for port-a-tank

EAT SMOKE - slang for entering and/or tolerating smoke-filled atmosphere

EKG - short for electrocardiogram, an A.L.S. technique to determine cardiac dysrhythmia or the equipment for same

E.D./E.R. - short for emergency department/room of hospital

E.M.T. (EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN) - EMS personnel certified in B.L.S. skills

E.M.T.-P. (EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN-PARAMEDIC) - the highest level of pre-hospital training and certification, fully trained in A.L.S. skills

E.O.A. (ESOPHAGEAL OBTURATOR AIRWAY) - device for establishing airway and improving ventilation in non-breathing patient a B.L.S. skill

ENGINE - apparatus equipped with pump and carrying hose, water and other tools and personnel for firefighting

ENGINE ASSIST - see Ambulance Assist

EMPTY THE DRUG BOX - slang meaning to use all the available drugs, fluids, etc.

EXTRICATE/EXTRICATION - process of removing trapped victims;

usually refers to vehicle accidents.

FILL IN - relocate to another station and cover that area while regularly assigned crew/apparatus is unavailable

F.C.F.F. (FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN FIREFIGHTERS) - national organization of emergency personnel of Christian faiths

FIRE BOARD - in some areas a slang term for the dispatch/communications center

FIRE BOARD - in some areas a governmental body overseeing fire and/or EMS activities

FIRE LINE - 1) line marked around fire scene to control access 2) a cleared area around a brush fire limit fire's progress

FIRE MARSHALL - specially trained personnel designated to investigate fire cause and enforce fire codes; may have limited police power

FIRST DUE - unit(s) scheduled to respond on first alarm

FIRST IN - first unit(s) to actually arrive on the scene

FLASHOVER - phenomenon where an entire room/building ignites at once, often with little or no warning

FLY CAR - see Chase Car

FOAM - chemical mixed with water to provide soapy type film often used to prevent or extinguish flammable liquid fires - application of same

FOG - application of water in a wide, thin spray

FORCE/FORCIBLE ENTRY - break into structure/vehicle to gain access to patients and/or fire

FRY - slang for defibrillate

FULL ARREST - see Cardiac Arrest

FULLY INVOLVED - structure with flames showing from every opening

GEAR - short for bunker gear

GO TEAM - hospital based team of doctors, nurses, et.al. that respond to the scene of emergencies to assist with medical care

GUN - short for Deck/Deluge Gun

GUT - slang for Hose

GUTTER LINE - slang for a hose line laid in the gutter of a street, usually a supply line

HALF AND HALF DEPARTMENT - slang for combination department

HALLIGAN TOOL - tool with multiple heads used in forcible entry and auto extrication

HAND LINE - small diameter hose line: see attack line

HANG HOSE - place used hose, after cleaning, in hose tower to dry

HARD SUC - slang for Hard Suction Hose

HARD SUCTION HOSE - rigid, large-diameter hose often used to connect engine to hydrant or another engine; also used for drafting water from a natural source

HAZ MAT - slang for any hazardous material or incident involving same

HEADER - column of smoke rising above fire, usually a good indication of size and type of fire

HIGH EX/EXPANSION FOAM - foam that expands rapidly and further than regular foam

H.I.T. (HAZ MAT INCIDENT TEAM) - personnel especially trained and equipped to handle Haz Mat incidents

H.I.R.T. (HAZ MAT INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAM) - same as above

HIT A HYDRANT - see Catch a Hydrant

HOOK AND LADDER - see Truck

HOSE - length of tube, usually 50 feet and made of rubber with a cloth jacket, for transporting or applying water; usually described by size or purpose

HOSE BED - area of engine that holds hose

HOSE CLAMP - device used to clamp off charged hose to allow repairs or connection of additional lengths or appliances

HOSE JACKET - watertight sleeve placed over damaged hose temporarily to keep hose in service

HOSE JUMPERS - wooden or metal ramps placed over hose to allow traffic to cross over without interfering with the water flow

HOSE TOWER - area in older stations for drying used hose; usually 50 feet tall to allow hose to be hung straight

HOSE WAGON - slang for engine; may also be a specially designed vehicle for transporting hose

HOT BOX - in some areas slang for an electrical transformer on fire

HOT BOX - in some areas slang for the wheel/axle assembly of railroad cars on fire

HOT SPOT - small, sometimes hidden, pocket of fire that remains when the bulk of fire is put out

HOUSE - short for firehouse

HOUSEWATCH - monitor radios and/or phones for alarms may also include some housekeeping duties

HURST TOOL - see jaws

HYDRANT - street side connection to underground water system

HYDRANT WRENCH - special wrench used to turn on or "open" hydrant

I.A.F.F. (INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS) - union representing most career personnel

INDIAN TANK - popular brand of backpack pump

IN SERVICE - 1) ready and available for call 2) training or maintenance done without taking crew or apparatus out of service

INCENDIARY DEVICE - device used by arsonist to start fire. Usually contains flammable liquid and some type of fuse or timing device. Often designed to self-destruct

INCIDENT COMMANDER - person at incident scene with ultimate authority for all operations; usually the highest ranking officer

I.V. (INTRAVENOUS) - catheter inserted into the venous system for administration of drugs and/or fluids

JAWS or JAWS OF LIFE - hydraulic or electrically powered tool for cutting or prying. Commonly used in auto extrication; often referred to by manufacturer's name, i.e., Hurst, Lucas, etc.

JOB - slang for working fire

JOLLY POP - slang for volunteer; usually used in a derogatory manner

JUMPERS - see Hose Jumpers

JUMP SEAT - see Bucket Seat

JUMP TEAM - see Go Team

K-12 - gas, electric, or water powered saw with special blades for cutting metal, concrete, etc.; used in forcible entry, ventilation, rescue, etc.

K.E.D. (KENDRICK EXTRICATION DEVICE) - device used to provide spinal immobilization and transport of trauma patients

KELLYS/KELLY DAYS - days off or "comp. time" given in lieu of overtime pay

KILL - slang for fatal accident or failure to resuscitate

L. Z. - slang for Landing Zone

LADIES AUXILARY - support group, often made up of wives, girlfriends, mothers, etc. of firefighters to assist firefighters, often helping with fundraising, providing refreshments, etc.

LADDER - short for hook and ladder

LANDING ZONE - area established for safe landing of aircraft; often near the incident

LAY IN - drop hose in street from water source to attack pumper

LAY DUALS/DUAL LINES - same as above laying two lines at once

LAY HOSE - same as Lay In

LEATHER LUNG - slang for veteran firefighter used to "eating smoke" prior to the advent of SCBA

LEG LOCK - maneuver of placing one leg through rungs of ladder to prevent falling

LIFE LINE - rope trailed behind those entering hazardous environment to guide those following and/or mark exit route

LIGHT DUTY - limited work assignments involving little or no physical effort; usually given those recovering from illness or injury

LINE, HOSE - see hose

LINE, I.V. - see I.V.

LONG BOARD - see Backboard

MASK - see S.C.B.A.

MASK UP - put on S.C.B.A.

M.A.S.T. (MEDICAL ANTI-SHOCK TROUSERS) specially designed garment used on patients with extremely low blood pressure or to prevent same also has several less common uses; application is a B.L.S. skill

MEAT WAGON - slang for ambulance or coroner's vehicle

MEDIC ASSIST - medic unit called to assist B.L.S. unit with a patient in critical condition

MEDIC/MEDICAL COMMAND - central receiving point for communications from field personnel; staffed by doctors familiar with field protocols and responsible for their implementation and/or variations from them; usually located in or near local emergency room

MEDIC UNIT - ambulance staffed and equipped to provide A.L.S.

METHYL ETHYL BAD SHIT - slang for hazardous material

M.F.R.I. (pronounced MIF-ree) - MARYLAND FIRE AND RESCUE INSTITUTE, division of Univ. of Maryland that provides fire and EMS training

M.I.E.M.S.S. (pronounced MIMZ) - MARYLAND INSTITUTE FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SYSTEMS, division of the Univ. of Maryland that provides training and certification of ALS personnel and squads

MONITOR - obtain an EKG reading or equipment for doing so an A.L.S. skill

MONITOR - see Deck/Deluge Gun .

MOVE UP - see Fill In

M.V.A. - slang for motor vehicle accident

NICKEL-DIME FIRE - small fire causing little or no damage

NO CODE - patient that desires no resuscitative efforts in the event of cardiac arrest; usually terminally ill and enrolled in a hospice program

NOZZLE - appliance that attaches to the end of attack line to control amount and pattern of water coming out

NOZZLEMAN - firefighter operating nozzle

NURSE TANKER - tanker, usually the first one on the scene, that supplies water to engines and is refilled as needed by other tankers.

O.I.C. - short for officer in charge/command; usually highest ranking officer on scene

OFFICER SEAT - right front seat of apparatus; usually occupied by highest ranking person on crew

OPEN UP - slang for ventilation

OUT OF SERVICE - unprepared for next assignment due to lack equipment, manpower, mechanical problems, etc.

OVERHAUL - last phase of structural firefighting; the practice of breaching walls, ceilings, etc. to locate and extinguish hidden flames

P.P.V. (POSITIVE PRESSURE VENTILATION) - relatively new practice of clearing a building of smoke and gases by forcing in fresh air

PARAMEDIC - see EMT-P

PASS/PAL DEVICE - electronic device that emits audible sound to assist rescuers in locating lost or injured personnel

PERIMETER - see Fireline

PHILADELPHIA (PHILLY) COLLAR - device similar in purpose to C-collar

PIKE POLE - pole, in a variety of lengths, with metal hook

on the end; used during overhaul to open walls and ceilings

PLUG - slang for hydrant

POMPIER LADDER - specially designed ladder used to climb from one story to the next on the outside of the building

PORT-A-POND/TANK - portable canvas or plastic reservoir for water; usually used in remote areas as part of tanker shuttle operation

PORTABLE PUMP - portable, gas powered, water pump often used in drafting operations

PRE-CONNECT - hose line carried on apparatus already connected to pump outlet

PRE-PLAN - predetermined strategy for handling emergencies at a given location

PROBIE - member of department still serving probationary period

PUKER - slang for ambulance

PULASKI TOOL - combination of axe and mattock used in fighting brush fires

PUMPER - see Engine

RAMP - see Apron

REHAB/REFURB (REHABILITATE/REFURBISH) - to rebuild or modify apparatus to extend its useful life and/or to meet current needs and/or regulations

REKINDLE - when fire breaks out again after being thought to be extinguished; usually due to "hot spots" missed during "overhaul"

RESCUE - remove patient/victim from danger

RESCUE - short for Rescue Truck

RESCUE TRUCK/SQUAD - apparatus carrying equipment and personnel for performing rescue

RESTART - see Rekindle

REVERSE LAY - laying hose from fire scene to water source

RIDE OFFICER - literally to ride in the officer's seat, i.e., assume the role and responsibility of an officer in his/her absence

ROLL HOSE - roll up length of hose for easier handling

RUNSHEET - formal document that details situation found and actions taken on a run; often reviewed by superiors and subject to subpoena

S.C.B.A. (SELF CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS) - system using tank of compressed breathable air and airtight mask to allow personnel to enter hazardous atmosphere

SAINT FLORIAN - patron saint of firefighters

SALVAGE - practice of protecting contents of building from fire, smoke, and water damage; may be done by removing contents from building, covering contents with canvas or plastic, or using special damage control techniques

SCRATCH - station, usually volunteer, failing to respond to alarm

SECOND ALARM or SECOND DUE - unit(s) predetermined to respond when first due unit(s) need assistance

SECOND ALERT - repeat of alert when station doesn't respond after a predetermined length of time

SHORT BOARD - 3 foot long back board, often used in auto extrication

SIAMESE - appliance for connecting two smaller hoselines into one larger one

SIT THE BOARD - see Housewatch

SIZE UP - assessment of situation

SLEEPER - see Hot Spot

SLIDE THE POLE - using brass pole to get from second floor living quarters to apparatus floor (in stations so equipped) upon receipt of alarm

SMOKE EJECTOR - high volume electric powered fan used in ventilation

SMOKE JUMPERS - firefighters that parachute into remote areas to combat forest fires

SOFT SUC - hose, usually large diameter and 10 feet long,

used to make connection between hydrant and engine

SPAGHETTI - slang for the pile of hoses behind the engine(s)

SPANNER (WRENCH) - specially designed tool used in making/breaking hose connections

SQUAD - see Rescue Squad

SQUIRREL - slang for volunteer

SQUIRREL CAGE - slang for volunteer station

STACK OF BRASS - adapters used to connect mismatched size or threaded hose and/or apparatus

STAGE - stand by near incident scene

STATION - building for housing fire and/or EMS personnel and vehicles

STICK - slang for establishing an IV line

STICK - slang for aerial ladder

STRAIGHT LAY - see Lay In

STRAIGHT STREAM - narrow, concentrated stream of water

STRETCH A LINE - advance hose line towards fire

STOKES BASKET - long, narrow wire or plastic frame used for moving patients up or down steep inclines

SUCTION HOSE - rigid hose, usually large diameter and 10 feet long, used for pulling water from a static source

SUPPLY LINE - hose, often large diameter, used to move water from source to attack pumper

SWOOP AND SCOOT - slang for spending minimal time at scene and expediting transport to hospital

TAKE A BLOW - slang for taking a break from the action

TAKE HEAT - get close enough to the fire to feel heat through protective clothing

10-7 - out of service

10-8 - in service, responding

10-10 - fight

10-22 - cancel, discontinue

10-50 - vehicle accident, often followed by P.D.(property damage), P.I.(personal injury), F.(fatal)

10-55 - intoxicated

10-96 - mental patient

NOTE: many jurisdictions and departments have their own ten code to cover their specific needs. These are some of the most common and universal.

TAKE UP - slang for picking up hose after a fire

TANKER - an apparatus especially designed for transporting large amounts of water and related equipment

TANKER - in some areas, mostly the West Coast, an airplane specially designed or modified for carrying large amounts of water or flame-retardant chemicals and dropping same on the fire

TAXPAYER - residence or business generating revenue

TICK - slang for volunteer

T.B.C. (Total Body Crunch) - slang for major trauma

THUMPER - air powered device for performing C.P.R.

TILLER (Man, Bucket, Seat) - operate rear controls of aerial apparatus so equipped

TIP - slang for nozzle

TONES - audible radio signals used to activate pagers and/or alert company

TORCH - slang for arsonist or setting a fire

TRACH TUBE - slang for endotracheal tube/intubation

TRASH LINE - slang for booster hose

TRIAGE - separate and categorize patients by severity of injury

TRUCK - apparatus with power operated ladder or elevating platform

TRUCKIE - firefighter assigned to ride truck and/or

perform truck company duties, i.e., rescue, salvage, ventilation, etc.

TRUMPETS - see Bugles

TUBE - slang for endotracheal tube/intubation; sometimes refers to E.O.A.

TURN OUTS - see Bunker Gear

VAN - van chassis converted into ambulance, rescue, or equipment vehicle

VITALS/VITAL SIGNS - collective name for pulse rate, blood pressure reading, and respiration rate (may also include temperature, level of consciousness, et.al.); usually a good indication of a patient's status

VENTILATION - opening structure to allow escape of smoke, heat, and gases

VOL, VOLLIE - slang for volunteer

VOLUNTEER - member of a fire department or rescue squad/ambulance service that receives no pay for services

WAGON, HOSE - see Hose Wagon

WAGON, MEAT - see Meat Wagon

WAGON - short for either of above

WALK A LINE - drain water from a length of hose

WATCH - short for housewatch

WATER HAMMER - force created when a flow of water is suddenly cut off; can cause damage to hoses, pumps, etc.

WATER TENDER - see Tanker

WETTING/WET DOWN - ceremony to dedicate a new apparatus; similar to christening a ship

WET WATER - chemical added to water to reduce friction loss and improve effectiveness in fighting fire

WHITE HAT/HELMET - chief officer

WORK A CODE - perform C.P.R. and/or A.L.S. treatment on cardiac arrest patient

WORKER - slang for working fire

WORKING FIRE - fire that will require some time and/or  
manpower to extinguish

WYE - appliance for connecting large hose to two smaller  
ones

Y'ALL COME PARTY - major incident requiring multiple  
companies

ZAP - slang for defibrilate

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would be remiss if I did not thank several people for their assistance with this project. First, thanks to WFRB Radio for the use of their word processor and to Robyn and Andrea for helping to get the glitches out of it. Thanks to Dr. Dennis Gartner of Frostburg State University for his suggestions and proofreading. Thanks to Linda for her patience for the hours I spent working on this. And last, but certainly not least, a big thank you to all my friends and co-workers that, sometimes unknowingly, suggested words to be included.

Al

## Glossary of Fire and EMS Terms

Almost every business, profession, or hobby has its own specialized language; fire and emergency medical services are no exception. Newcomers to these fields may be mystified by expressions such as backdraft, barnburner, beat-and-blow, blood bucket, and eat smoke. Al Ward, a firefighter/CRT for the City of Cumberland, developed a glossary of fire and EMS terms to make communication easier.

As a member of MIEMSS critical incident stress debriefing (CISD) team, Mr. Ward perceived that some mental health ~~counselors~~ <sup>professionals</sup> were struggling with the "sublanguage" of emergency services. With the help of colleagues locally and around the state, he collected terms and slang used every day by those in the field.

"I've had a lot of fun compiling this listing and I've learned a lot," he says. "I hope that media representatives or anyone else who needs to know these terms will find the glossary entertaining and informative. I welcome any submissions for inclusion in future editions." For further information about the glossary, call Al Ward at (301)777-3441, or write to him at 607 Lynn Street, Cumberland, MD 21502.

*approved by Marge Epperson*