



# Prepper Acronym Encyclopedia:

## A-Z Field Reference for When Every Letter Counts

Language matters — especially when communication can be the difference between order and chaos. In preparedness, acronyms aren't just shorthand; they're part of the culture. Whether you're studying emergency medicine, setting up a comms network, or talking tactics around a campfire, these bite-sized codes carry big meaning.

This isn't your average acronym list. It's built for real-world preppers, shooters, and resilience-minded Americans — spanning medical, tactical, communications, logistics, and survival applications. Bookmark it, print it, or stash it in your go-bag: this is your field reference when every letter counts.

**On a computer? Press Ctrl + F, to search and find an acronym.**

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### #

- **2A:** Second Amendment — constitutional right protecting private firearm ownership and self-defense.
- **3%:** Three Percenter — term for those believing a small, determined minority can defend liberty against tyranny.

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### A

- **AAR:** After-Action Report — structured review of an event to capture lessons, refine tactics, and improve future performance.
- **ABC:** Airway, Breathing, Circulation — the foundational first-aid sequence.
- **ACE:** Assess, Communicate, Execute — simple action plan for decision-making under stress.
- **ACP:** Automatic Colt Pistol — cartridge type developed for Colt semi-auto handguns
- **AE:** Action Express — high-power cartridge type designed for semi-automatic pistols.
- **AFAK:** Advanced First Aid Kit — expanded kit with trauma and airway components.

- **ALICE:** All-Purpose Lightweight Individual Carrying Equipment — classic U.S. military load-bearing gear.
  - **AMPLE:** Allergies, Medications, Past history, Last meal, Events — mnemonic for patient history taking.
  - **AO:** Area of Operations — your defined working or defensive space.
  - **AR:** Armalite Rifle — most commonly referencing the AR-15 platform.
  - **ARC:** Advanced Rifle Cartridge — modern .22-caliber round built for high ballistic performance.
  - **ATC:** Air Traffic Control — useful when monitoring aviation during emergencies.
  - **AWOL:** Absent Without Leave — used when someone unexpectedly disappears from a group or retreat.
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## B

- **BATNA:** Best Alternative to a Negotiated Agreement — critical in barter or post-collapse trade.
  - **BFE:** Bum F\*ck Egypt — slang for remote or isolated areas.
  - **BLS:** Basic Life Support — CPR-level emergency care and stabilization.
  - **BMG:** Browning Machine Gun round (long-range heavy rifle/machine-gun cartridge).
  - **BOB:** Bug-Out Bag — your pre-packed kit for immediate evacuation.
  - **BOL:** Bug-Out Location — the fallback site you plan to retreat to.
  - **BOV:** Bug-Out Vehicle — the transport that gets you there.
  - **BOVC:** Bug-Out Vehicle Cache — pre-staged gear or fuel for the vehicle.
  - **BSA:** Base of Sustained Activity — your operational home base for longer-term stays.
  - **BVM:** Bag-Valve-Mask — manual ventilation device for respiratory support.
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## C

- **C2:** Command and Control — leadership structure for group operations.

- **CB:** Citizen Band (Radio) — a short-distance amateur radio communication band.
- **CBRNE:** Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosive — major threat categories.
- **CCW:** Concealed Carry Weapon — firearm legally carried in a concealed manner.
- **CDC:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention — a federal agency intended to prevent the spread of infectious diseases and pathogens.
- **CERT:** Community Emergency Response Team — local Citizens Corps groups trained by FEMA to assist with local and regional disasters.
- **CME:** Coronal Mass Ejection — a naturally occurring solar flare with the potential to create an EMP event.
- **COG:** Continuity of Government — planning for government function during crisis.
- **COMMS:** Communications — the backbone of coordination and intel in emergencies.
- **COO:** Continuity of Operations — planning for business function during crisis.
- **CPR:** Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation — life-saving chest compressions and rescue breaths.
- **CQB:** Close-Quarters Battle — fighting tactics used in confined spaces.
- **CQC:** Close-Quarters Combat — similar to CQB, often used interchangeably.
- **CSAR:** Combat Search and Rescue — recovery of personnel in hostile or remote environments.

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## D

- **DCI:** Data, Comms, Intelligence — foundational prepper triad for situational awareness.
- **DEFCON:** Defense Readiness Condition — U.S. military alert scale ranging from peacetime to imminent conflict.
- **DGU:** Defensive Gun Use — lawful firearm use for self-defense.
- **DHS:** Department of Homeland Security — a cabinet of the federal government.
- **DIY:** Do It Yourself — the prepper’s mentality of independence.

- **DLP:** Defense of Life and Property — a core principle of lawful armed response.
  - **DMZ:** Demilitarized Zone — used metaphorically for buffer areas or boundaries.
  - **DOPE:** Data On Previous Engagements — shooting data for distance corrections.
  - **DOT:** Department of Transportation — reference for hazmat labeling, fuel storage, and transport regulations.
  - **DRT:** Dead Right There — grim shorthand for immediate incapacitation in defensive use.
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## E

- **E&E:** Escape and Evasion — survival and movement tactics when avoiding capture or contact.
  - **EARS:** Emergency Alert Response System — part of emergency communications for mass notifications.
  - **EDC:** Everyday Carry — the essential gear you keep on hand for readiness, defense, and daily function.
  - **EOD:** Explosive Ordnance Disposal — safe handling and neutralization of explosives.
  - **EOC:** Emergency Operations Center — coordination hub for disaster management.
  - **EOTW:** End of the World — tongue-in-cheek slang for total societal collapse.
  - **EMP:** Electromagnetic Pulse — burst that can disable unshielded electronics.
  - **ETA:** Estimated Time of Arrival — time tracking for rendezvous or movement.
  - **ETR:** Estimated Time to Repair/Restore — critical in power, comms, or logistics operations.
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## F

- **FAK:** First Aid Kit — your base medical loadout for basic injuries.
- **FEMA:** Federal Emergency Management Agency — U.S. disaster response coordination body.

- **FIFO:** First In, First Out — the golden rule of food and ammo rotation.
  - **FFL:** Federal Firearms License — authorizes firearm sales and manufacturing.
  - **FM:** Field Manual — military publications covering standardized procedures.
  - **FOB:** Forward Operating Base — a secured hub for operations or supply staging.
  - **FOPA:** Firearm Owners Protection Act — U.S. law covering lawful firearm transport.
  - **FRS:** Family Radio Service – designated frequencies for short-distance radio.
  - **FSM:** Fixed-Site Medical — stationary treatment post or field clinic.
  - **FTX:** Field Training Exercise — practical skills training in simulated real conditions.
  - **FUBAR:** F\*cked up Beyond All Recognition – a term for bad situations.
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## G

- **GHB:** Get-Home Bag — compact kit for reaching home from work or travel during disruption.
  - **GMRS:** General Mobile Radio Service – a licensed radio service similar to CB.
  - **GOA:** Gun Owners of America — major Second Amendment advocacy group.
  - **GPS:** Global Positioning System — critical navigation aid; should always be paired with map and compass.
  - **GPM:** Gallons Per Minute — flow rate reference for pumps and filtration systems.
  - **GRID:** Often shorthand for the power infrastructure — e.g., “off-grid” living.
  - **GRID-DOWN:** Refers to loss of electrical and digital infrastructure.
  - **GSW:** Gunshot Wound — injury caused by a discharged projectile; often used shorthand in medical, tactical, or field reports.
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## H

- **HAM:** Amateur Radio Operator — licensed radio operator for long-range comms.
- **HEMTT:** Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck — military logistics vehicle; used as slang for serious BOVs.

- **HSA:** Health Savings Account — potential pre-collapse medical fund or supply resource.
  - **HTH:** Hand-to-Hand — unarmed combat reference.
  - **HVAC:** Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning — vital for controlled shelter environments.
  - **H2O:** Water — shorthand universally recognized in survival and logistics notes.
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## I

- **IAW:** In Accordance With — procedural shorthand used in documentation.
  - **IC:** Incident Commander — Lead coordinator in ICS structure.
  - **ICS:** Incident Command System — standardized framework for managing incidents.
  - **IFAK:** Individual First Aid Kit — personal trauma kit, smaller than an AFAK.
  - **INCH:** I'm Never Coming Home — prepper jargon for intent to leave homebase for their bug out location, or beyond.
  - **IOU:** I Owe You — the oldest barter-based credit system still in play.
  - **IR:** Infrared — spectrum used for night vision and thermal optics.
  - **IV:** Intravenous — direct fluid or medication delivery method.
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## J

- **JIC:** Just in Case — classic prepper shorthand for redundancy mindset.
  - **JOC:** Joint Operations Center — centralized coordination point for multi-group defense or logistics.
  - **JOP:** Jump-Off Point — designated location for starting a patrol, bug-out, or route.
  - **JTTF:** Joint Terrorism Task Force — referenced in federal response discussions.
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## K

- **K9:** Dog or canine unit — often used when discussing perimeter defense or tracking.

- **KIA:** Killed In Action — fatality designation, typically military usage.
  - **KISS:** Keep It Simple, Stupid — the mantra for efficient, reliable prepping systems.
  - **KWH:** Kilowatt-Hour — key metric for solar, generator, or battery systems.
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## L

- **LED:** Light-Emitting Diode — standard for efficient, low-draw lighting.
  - **LEO:** Law Enforcement Officer — general reference to local or federal police.
  - **LNT:** Leave No Trace — outdoor ethic for minimal environmental impact.
  - **LOS:** Line of Sight — key factor for radio, optics, and defense planning.
  - **LP/OP:** Listening Post / Observation Post — covert or defensive watch positions.
  - **LPTA:** Lowest Price Technically Acceptable — common government procurement method.
  - **LR:** Long Rifle — rimfire cartridge designation used in small-caliber firearms.
  - **LTE:** Long-Term Emergency — sustained disruption requiring extended planning.
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## M

- **MAG:** Mutual Assistance Group — trusted network of preppers sharing skills and resources.
- **MARCH:** Massive Hemorrhage, Airway, Respiration, Circulation, Hypothermia — trauma care sequence for prioritizing life-saving treatment.
- **MED:** Medical — often shorthand in loadouts or radio chatter.
- **MIST:** Mechanism of Injury, Injuries, Symptoms, Treatment — standard medical handoff format used to relay trauma patient details during evacuation or transfer.
- **MOLLE:** Modular Lightweight Load-Carrying Equipment — webbing system for modular gear.
- **MOS:** Military Occupational Specialty — repurposed in prepper circles to identify skill sets.
- **MRE:** Meal, Ready-to-Eat — shelf-stable individual ration.

- **MURS:** Multi-Use Radio Service — license-free comms channel band in the U.S.
  - **MVP:** Most Valuable Prep — tongue-in-cheek term for a game-changing piece of gear.
  - **MVFR:** Marginal Visual Flight Rules — reference for visibility conditions (aviation/scouting).
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## N

- **NATO:** North Atlantic Treaty Organization — multinational military alliance; often referenced in standardized gear, calibers, and protocols.
  - **NAV:** Navigation — movement by map, compass, or GPS.
  - **NBC:** Nuclear, Biological, Chemical — pre-CBRNE hazard classification.
  - **NIMS:** National Incident Management System — U.S. standard for coordinated response.
  - **NFA:** National Firearms Act — key law regulating certain weapon types.
  - **NODs:** Night Observation Devices — night vision optics category.
  - **NSA:** National Security Agency — shorthand for federal signals-intel context; used jokingly in prepper circles.
  - **NVG:** Night Vision Goggles — allows low-light operations.
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## O

- **OC:** Oleoresin Capsicum — the active ingredient in pepper spray.
- **OODA Loop:** Observe, Orient, Decide, Act — situational decision-making framework.
- **OPSEC:** Operational Security — protecting sensitive information and actions from exposure.
- **OSHA:** Occupational Safety and Health Administration — dictates safe fuel and chemical storage standards.
- **OTC:** Over-the-Counter — describes medications available without prescription.

- **OTG:** Off The Grid — lifestyle of energy independence and self-sufficiency.
  - **OTM:** On The Move — radio shorthand during travel or convoy operations.
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## P

- **PACE:** Primary, Alternate, Contingency, Emergency — layered comms or planning method.
  - **PB:** Patrol Base — temporary secure location for overnight operations.
  - **PBW:** Pounds of Body Weight — used in nutrition and caloric planning.
  - **PCC:** Pre-Combat Check — an individual soldier’s self-check.
  - **PCI:** Pre-Combat Inspection — a formal inspection conducted by a leader to verify equipment and readiness.
  - **POI:** Point of Impact — for ballistic and sighting discussions.
  - **POL:** Petroleum, Oil, and Lubricants — generally used by the U.S. military for labeling purposes
  - **PPE:** Personal Protective Equipment — gloves, masks, eyewear, and other safety gear.
  - **PRC:** Precision Rifle Cartridge — Hornady-designed round for long-range accuracy and consistent performance.
  - **PRC:** Portable Radio, Combat — designation for tactical radio systems.
  - **PSK:** Personal Survival Kit — compact essentials carried daily or in vehicles.
  - **PVS:** Portable Visual Search (Night Vision Monocular) — term used for AN/PVS series optics.
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## Q

- **QA/QC:** Quality Assurance / Quality Control — ensuring reliability of stored gear or ammo.
- **QRF:** Quick Reaction Force — standby security team ready for immediate deployment.

- **QRZ:** “Who is calling me?” — HAM radio shorthand for identifying callers.
  - **QRM:** Radio Interference — code for comms disruption.
  - **QSY:** Change Frequency — ham radio shorthand for switching channels
  - **QTY:** Quantity — supply tracking or resupply notation.
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## R

- **RFI:** Request For Information — used in contracting or procurement.
  - **RFP:** Request For Proposal — formal solicitation for services or goods.
  - **RFP:** Request for Quotation — a buyer’s call for vendor pricing and terms before awarding a contract.
  - **ROE:** Rules of Engagement — parameters defining defensive action.
  - **ROI:** Return on Investment — relevant when budgeting preparedness spending.
  - **RSAUM:** Remington Short Action Ultra Magnum — short-action magnum with efficient case design and high velocity.
  - **RTO:** Radio Telephone Operator — comms specialist role.
  - **RUM:** Remington Ultra Magnum — full-length magnum cartridge built for maximum power and long-range capability.
  - **RV:** Rendezvous — planned meeting location.
  - **RZ:** Recovery Zone — designated area for regroup or extraction.
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## S

- **S&W:** Smith & Wesson — firearms manufacturer name and cartridge designation
- **SALT:** Sort, Assess, Life-Saving Interventions, Treatment/Transport — triage process for mass-casualty response.
- **SAR:** Search and Rescue — organized efforts to locate missing or trapped individuals.
- **SHTF:** Shit Hits The Fan — shorthand for major crisis or collapse.

- **SIGINT:** Signals Intelligence — gathering information through communications intercepts.
  - **SITREP:** Situation Report — concise update on conditions or progress.
  - **SOP:** Standard Operating Procedure — documented, repeatable process for consistency.
  - **SOCOM:** Special Operations Command / cartridge designation — used both for the U.S. military command and for specialized cartridges
  - **SPC:** Special Purpose Cartridge — mid-caliber rifle cartridge designed for improved terminal performance.
  - **SPF:** Sun Protection Factor — vital for long-term exposure environments.
  - **SWR:** Standing Wave Ratio — radio performance measure for antenna efficiency.
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## T

- **TCCC:** Tactical Combat Casualty Care — trauma care in hostile environments.
  - **TECC:** Tactical Emergency Casualty Care — civilian adaptation of TCCC for first responders and public safety environments.
  - **TEOTWAWKI:** The End of the World As We Know It — long-term societal collapse scenario.
  - **TOC:** Tactical Operations Center — command node for group coordination.
  - **TOR:** The Onion Router — privacy network used for secure digital comms.
  - **TOT:** Time on Target — coordination concept for simultaneous strikes or actions.
  - **TOTC:** Turd on the Carpet — early-stage trouble; a clear sign things are going wrong but not full SHTF... yet.
  - **TTP:** Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures — doctrine for consistent operations.
  - **TVM:** Target Value Matrix — prioritization tool for defending or securing assets.
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## U

- **UHF:** Ultra High Frequency — common radio band for local communications.

- **USAR:** Urban Search and Rescue — professional disaster-recovery units.
  - **UV:** Ultraviolet — relevant for sanitation (UV purifiers) and light filtering.
  - **UXO:** Unexploded Ordnance — leftover explosive munitions hazard.
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## V

- **VHF:** Very High Frequency — common for handheld two-way radios.
  - **VOAD:** Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster — coordination of civilian response groups.
  - **VOX:** Voice-Operated Exchange — hands-free radio mode.
  - **VPN:** Virtual Private Network — encryption for secure online activity.
  - **VPO:** Volunteer Preparedness Organization — local or regional mutual-aid group term.
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## W

- **WAG:** Wild-Ass Guess — informal planning estimate.
- **WCF:** Winchester Center Fire — early Winchester cartridge naming for lever-action rifle calibers.
- **WFA:** Wilderness First Aid — medical training level for remote response.
- **WMD:** Weapons of Mass Destruction — strategic-threat classification.
- **WPA:** Works Progress Administration — historic reference to public works, often invoked in grid-down rebuilding discussions.
- **WROL:** Without Rule of Law — environment lacking formal enforcement.
- **WROL-COM:** Comms plan tailored for total system failure.
- **WSM:** Winchester Short Magnum — compact magnum cartridge offering high velocity in shorter actions.
- **WSSM:** Winchester Super Short Magnum — compact, high-velocity rifle cartridge family.
- **WTSHTF:** When The Stuff Hits The Fan — escalation of SHTF event.

- **WWL:** Weekly Water Log — habit-tracking for water rotation and resupply.
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## X, Y, Z

- **XFER:** Transfer — used in logistics or comms (signal or supply).
  - **XMRE:** Extended Meal, Ready-to-Eat — commercial variant of military MRE.
  - **YMMV:** Your Mileage May Vary — nod to experience-based flexibility.
  - **ZBB:** Zero-Base Budgeting — starting each cycle from scratch for resource efficiency.
  - **ZEL:** Zero-Elevation Line — reference for shooting or mapping.
  - **ZOM:** Zone of Movement — military term adapted for patrol and security planning.
  - **ZOMBIE:** (Slang) Pop-culture shorthand for unprepared civilians during collapse scenarios.
  - **ZULU:** Coordinated Universal Time — essential for comms and operations synchronization.
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Preparedness isn't just about stockpiles — it's about fluency. The more you understand the language of survival, the faster and clearer your decisions become. Keep this list handy, expand it as you grow, and remember: self-reliance starts with knowledge, and clarity builds confidence.

**Find more resources like this at [www.midatlanticmunition.blog](http://www.midatlanticmunition.blog).**