The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides two resource management tools to assist emergency managers, the Incident Resource Inventory System (IRIS) and the Resource Typing Library Tool (RTLT). Both tools are no cost, user-friendly, and designed to assist communities in inventorying resources.

RTLT is an online catalogue of national resource typing definitions and job titles/position qualifications. National resource definitions are easily searchable and discoverable through RTLT. Resource definition data in RTLT can be viewed directly on the Web page, downloaded in PDF format and directly used by third party software applications.

**Benefits of RTLT**
Nationally typed resources provide substantial value to preparedness efforts by:

- Supporting a common language for the mobilization of resources (equipment, teams, units, and personnel) prior to, during, and after major incidents
- Providing users at all levels with access to an easily searchable database of typed definitions to identify resources for planning, and incident operations, including mutual aid coordination.

**RTLT Categories of Information**
Information within the RTLT is divided into two categories.

**Resource Typing Definitions** are provided for equipment, teams, and units. They are used to categorize, by capability, the resources requested, deployed, and used in incidents. Measurable standards identifying resource capabilities and performance levels serve as the basis for this categorization.

**Job Titles and Position Qualifications** are used in the inventorying and credentialing of personnel. Job titles for many personnel are cross-referenced and support the capabilities contained in resource typing definitions for teams and units.

Credentialing ensures and validates the identity and attributes of individuals or members of emergency management teams through standards.


“FEMA’s mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a Nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.”
Efficient and effective deployment of resources requires that resource management concepts and principles be used in all phases of emergency management and incident response. IRIS is a distributed software tool, designed by FEMA. It allows users to identify & inventory their resources for mutual aid operations based on mission requirements and each resource’s capabilities, availability and response time, and share information with other agencies. IRIS, version 5.0 was released in December 2013 and is available online, and at no cost.

**New IRIS 5.0 Features**
The new IRIS 5.0 has the following features:

- Connects to the RTLT, which provides access to new and updated national resource typing definitions
- Offers a more user-friendly interface and enhanced search functions
- Allows users to manage and view resource information across related organizations within their planning community
- Generates notifications to indicate whether a user’s version of IRIS is current or requires an update.

**IRIS is a Locally Stored System**
IRIS stores data locally on the user's computer or on a network if configured during installation. It should be noted that IRIS is not a database centrally managed by FEMA. Users and their respective agencies are responsible for their own data. External users, including the IRIS Help Desk, do not have access to manage or restore IRIS data and cannot perform administrative functions, including resetting user accounts and passwords.

**Benefits of IRIS**
IRIS provides substantial value to resource inventory efforts by:

- Assisting communities in inventorying, typing and estimating capabilities of resources in accordance with NIMS concepts/principles
- Providing quick access to resources to support emergency operations
- Improving the Nation’s capability to identify and acquire a typed resource.


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