

STANDING ORDER NO. Spl.Cell/03/2022

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE POLICE IN ANY DISASTER/CRISIS (NATURAL OR MAN WADE) AND TERRORIST ATTACKS BY USING CHEMICAL WEAPONS/BIOLOGICAL AGENTS/RADIO ACTIVE MATERIALS AS WELL AS AFTERMATH OF A NUCLEAR ATTACK

1. INTRODUCTION:

A disaster is a tragic event, be it natural or man-made, which brings sudden and immense agony to humanity and disrupts normal human life. It causes large-scale human suffering due to loss of life, loss of livelihood, damages to property and persons and also brings untold hardships. It may also cause destruction to infrastructure, buildings, communication channels essential services, etc.

The effect of any disaster spread over wider areas in N.C.T. of Delhi will be of substantial consequence as Delhi is spread over an area of 1,483 sq. kms. with a population of over 32 million. About two-thirds of the total area of Delhi is urban and thickly populated. Delhi, being the Capital of India, houses the Rashtrapati Bhawan, the Vice-President's House, the Prime Minister's House and their offices, offices and residences of other VVIPs, VIPs, Protected Persons, and prominent leaders and dignitaries, including Members of Parliament, Embassies and High Commissions of various countries, Important Vital Installations, the Headquarters of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and C.P.M.Fs., as well as important places of tourist interest in the N.C.T. of Delhi.

Therefore, there is an urgent need to provide an efficient Disaster Management System that should not only be able to control the immediate fall-out of the disaster but also to provide immediate relief and rehabilitation and take other mitigating measures.

2. ASSESSMENT

The recent years have witnessed a paradigm shift in the strategy of terrorists and militant groups which are using sophisticated and unconventional methods to target national symbols, symbols of democracy, religious monuments VVIPs, the general public and vital installations. The unabated violence by Pak based and foreign terrorist outfits in J&K and other parts of the country (including Delhi) for the last few years reflects their agenda of a proxy war against India. The 'Fidayeen' attacks at religious places, army camps and against innocent people are with a view to create the fear psychosis that they can spread terror anywhere. The attack on the Parliament House on 13th December, 2001 was a conspiracy to create a political vacuum in India by assassinating important national leaders and taking some of them as hostages. After the suicide attack on the World Trade Centre, New York and Pentagon in Washington, USA on 11th September 2001, the world-wide perception of terrorism has undergone a drastic change. More recently, the events in Afghanistan have emboldened terror groups across the world. At the same time, a number of battle-hardened terrorists along with large quantities of equipment left behind by NATO forces in Afghanistan could become a potential threat in the near future.

In view of above, Delhi and its satellite towns are potential targets of terrorist attacks because of their political, administrative and economic importance, aside from the propaganda value.

3. OBJECTS

The object of this Standing Order is to lay down the guidelines, frame the police response and render immediate assistance to the general public and dignitaries during such occurrence or terrorist attacks and to reduce the casualties to the minimum possible by providing immediate police assistance and hospitalization of the affected persons so that proper relief and medical assistance could be provided.

The main objects of the S.O. can be enumerated as under:—

- (i) To ensure smooth handling of a crisis or disaster situation from the law and order point of view.
- (ii) To ensure the required diversions and traffic control.
- (iii) To ensure crowd control and secure the property of the victims and other affected people.
- (iv) To undertake immediate evacuation of injured persons to nearby hospitals on priority.
- (v) To ensure crowd control at the affected places, and also at concerned hospitals.
- (vi) To prevent riots, looting and other crimes within the affected area and the periphery.
- (vii) To ensure all possible assistance to the Fire Service, medical and other para-medical personnel in reaching the area and carrying out their functions of rescue and relief.
- (viii) To cordon off the area to restrict movement of onlookers and other vehicular & pedestrian movement and the accumulation of crowds.
- (ix) To collect intelligence regarding the incidents and effects connected with the disaster or crisis.
- (x) To ensure liaison and coordination with officials of Apex/Civic Bodies and other Expert Teams handling the disaster.
- (xi) To ensure accurate identification of the dead and injured.
- (xii) To ensure information to the relatives, speedy inquests and disposal of the deceased.
- (xiii) To ensure adequate mobile patrolling in and around the affected area.
- (xiv) To provide adequate safety, physical protection and security to dignitaries as well as the general public.
- (xv) To divert the caravans of dignitaries to contingency routes and safe houses.
- (xvi) To contain the destructive effects of a Chemical weapon/Biological/Radioactive or Nuclear attack and minimize the repercussion on the morale of the affected population.
- (xvii) To ensure that all officials who are responsible to deal with the situation

advance. It is important that these officials and workers are adequately trained in anticipation to avoid any kind of confusion and chaos at the time of the actual situation and to enable them to discharge their responsibilities with alertness and promptness.

- (xviii) The aim of any terrorist action is not only to destroy or damage life and property, but to cause widespread panic by such an action amongst the public. Hence the police must ensure that this attempt of spreading panic is duly countered by giving assurances to the public and allaying their fears and apprehensions by the quickest possible means.

4. TYPES OF DISASTERS AND VARIOUS TERRORIST ATTACKS

(A) DISASTERS

Disasters can be classified into two broad categories, i.e. "Natural" and "Man-made".

(a) Natural disasters

- (i) Water Related: Floods, Cloud bursts, Cyclones, Droughts etc.
- (ii) Earth Related: Earthquakes, Landslides, Fissures and Volcanic eruptions.

(b) Man-made disasters

- (i) Railway Accidents
- (ii) Aircraft Crashes
- (iii) Industrial accidents involving spread of toxic chemicals, gas leaks or release of toxic gases.
- (iv) Epidemics of disease, infection, poisoning, radioactivity etc.
- (v) Bomb blasts.
- (vi) Fires in high rise buildings, jhuggi clusters, chemical factories, power stations, petrol pumps, forests etc.

(B) TERRORIST ATTACKS (Nuclear, Biological or Chemical)

These attacks can be classified as follows:—

(I) ATTACKS USING CHEMICAL WEAPONS (CW)

Chemical agents are easily disseminated, rapid in action, highly toxic, easy to procure, prepare and recognize. These agents could be nerve agents (such as Sarin), choking agents (such as Chlorine and Phosgene), or blood agents (such as Hydrogen cyanide). Toxins, i.e. poisons produced by living organisms, are also classified as chemical weapons. Chemical weapons or agents are only exceptionally in gas form. As a rule, they take the form of liquids or solid substances. Both solid substances and liquids can be dispersed in the air as aerosols. These aerosol substances can enter the body via the respiratory organs in the same way as a gas. Chemicals are potential hazards not only to human beings but also to flora and fauna and all forms of property and the environment as a whole.

Chemical agents are often classified with reference to the mechanism of action on the organism. However, Chemical warfare agents are as under:—

1. Lethal agents
 - (i) Nerve agents.
 - (ii) General poisons.

2. Incapacitating
 - (i) Blistering agents.
 - (ii) Tear gases.
 - (iii) Psychotomimetic agents.
3. Herbicides
 - (i) Defoliants.
 - (ii) Plant extermination agents.
4. Other Industrial Chemicals
 - (i) Lung damaging.

(II) ATTACK USING BIOLOGICAL AGENTS

Bacteriological (biological) agents are living organisms, whatever their nature, or infective material derived from them, which are intended to cause disease or death in humans, animals or plants, and depend for their effects on their ability to multiply in the human, animal or plant attacked.

(III) ATTACK USING RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS

An attack with the use of radioactive materials would in all likelihood be in the form of the explosion of a "dirty" bomb. A "dirty" bomb is a radioactive dispersal device (RDD). The radioactive material is spread by use of conventional explosives. Such an explosion in a thickly populated area, may lead to a large number of casualties on account of the explosive material itself. Secondly, the people in the surrounding area will also suffer doses of radiation both externally and internally.

(IV) NUCLEAR ATTACK

When a nuclear strike is launched by the adversary nation or a terrorist, it will seek to be so overwhelming as to minimize the possibility of a retaliatory strike. The preparedness measures should take into account a contingency plan to deal with a sudden nuclear attack without warning at any time whatsoever.

5. STANDING OPERATING PROCEDURES (SOP)

The Ministry of Home Affairs, which is the designated nodal agency for coordinating the response and relief measures in the aftermath of an attack involving the use of Chemical weapons, Biological agents, Radioactive or Nuclear materials has issued the following Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for responding to such contingencies:—

- (i) Attack involving use of Chemical Weapons (issued vide No. 31-2/2006-NDM-II dated 30/03/2006 by MHA).
- (ii) Attack using Biological Agents (issued vide No. 31-30/2006- NDM-II dated 19/12/2006 by MHA).
- (iii) Attack involving use of Radioactive Materials (issued vide No. 31-3/2006- NDM-II dated 03/04/2006 by MHA).
- (iv) Dealing with the aftermath of a Nuclear Attack (issued vide No. 31-9/2004-NDM-1 dated 22/12/2006 by MHA).

These SOPs have been circulated to all Districts and Units separately for specific action to be taken by them in their respective areas of responsibility. In the event of the occurrence of any disaster in the Capital, the concerned District and Units, as per the drill specified in the respective S.O.P., in coordination and consultation with the agencies concerned will take immediate action for handling of the disaster situation.

to secure the life and property of the public affected by the disaster. While it is not possible to lay down set drills for each and every contingency, nevertheless the provisions of the respective S.O.Ps should be strictly followed and acted upon in consultation with other agencies.

6. COMMAND AND CONTROL:

(A) COMMAND & CONTROL AT THE NATIONAL, STATE AND DISTRICT LEVEL.

(1) National Level Committee

At the National level, the Command and Control and Coordination of the emergency responses will be overseen by the National Crisis/ Disaster Management Committee/ Authority (NCMC) under the Cabinet Secretary, consisting of the following members:—

- (i) The Secretary/ Principal Secretary to the PM;
- (ii) The Secretary MHA;
- (iii) The Secretary MOD;
- (iv) The Director IB;
- (v) The Secretary R & AW;
- (vi) The Deputy NSA.

The Secretary (Security), Cabinet Secretariat will be the Convener of the NCMC. This Committee will issue guidelines from time to time for response to terrorist attacks. The names, Telephone numbers, mobile phone numbers and address of NCMC members and Alternate Members will be kept available in the Control Rooms as given at ANNEXURE-'A'.

Similarly, a list of Central Nodal Officers of the Central Nodal Ministries/ Departments is at ANNEXURE-'B'.

(II) State Level Committee

The command, control and coordination of the emergency response at the state level will be vested in the State Department of Disaster Management (SDDM)/ State Disaster Management Authorities, (SDMA)/ State Emergency Management Authority (SEMA), as the case may be. Where the SDDM/ SDMA/ SEMA is not headed by the Chief Minister, it will function under the directions of the Chief Minister to be conveyed through the Chief Secretary.

(III) The District Level Committee

At the District level, the Command and Control functions in Delhi will be with the Unified Commander i.e. the Divisional Commissioner-cum-Secretary Revenue, Delhi duly designated by the State Government. All departments and agencies of the Central and State Governments in the city will work in accordance with the directions of the Unified Commander. The Commissioner of Police will constitute the Incident Command Team under the District DCP, who would be the Incident Commander in case of terror attacks at the time of disaster/crisis.

(B) COMMAND & CONTROL IN THE DELHI POLICE

Command and control over such a crisis or disaster situation for maintenance

Commissioner of Police of the District, supervised by the concerned Joint CsP and Special CsP, under the over-all command of the Commissioner of Police. The Divisional Commissioner Delhi shall be the over all in-charge for relief, rescue and rehabilitation operations. The administrative control of the three disaster management units will be with DCP/Ist Bn. DAP under the supervision of Addl. CP/Joint CP Armed Police, whereas the operational control will be with the Districts DCsP where they are deployed at the time of disaster/crisis.

7. REVISION OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN

(A) Formation/Updating of Plan and Appendices

All the District DCsP (Incident Commanders) as well as the concerned DCsP of operational units such as the Crime, IGI, Railways, Metro, PCR, Communication, Traffic, Special Branch, Spl. Cell, Security, Security(PM), R.P. Bhawan, Provisioning and Logistics, 1st Bn. DAP, Delhi etc. shall revise their Disaster Management Plan to be called the Disaster/Crisis Management Plan' by including all aspects of this revised Standing Order. They should update the lists of members of the Crisis Management Committees at the National/State/District level along with telephone numbers etc. The organization chart of Command Control at the National and State level may be seen at ANNEXURE-'C'.

In Addition, all the concerned DCsP should maintain a list of Technical Experts/ Institutions, Designated Laboratories having diagnostic capabilities, International Organizations engaged in Disaster Management activities, Hospitals/Nursing Homes/Schools/Colleges/Committee Halls, etc. with telephone numbers and other details in the Disaster/Crisis Management Plan of the respective Distt./Unit. A list of the Experts/Institutions in N.C.T. of Delhi is at ANNEXURE-'D'. A list of Designated Laboratories having the diagnostic capabilities may be seen at ANNEXURE-'E'. Similarly, a list of International Organizations engaged in Disaster/Crisis Management activities is at ANNEXURE-'F'. Besides, a list of Hospitals/Nursing Homes/ Schools/ Colleges/ Committee Halls/ Open safe places etc. with telephone numbers and other details should be updated and placed with the Plan.

(B) Setting up of Special Response Teams & Response Teams, Search and rescue teams and sub teams alongwith Dog Squad and BDS Teams

Special Response Teams headed by ACsP, Response Teams headed by Inspectors and Sub-Response Teams headed by SIs or ASIs should be set up with local personnel and outside force, fully equipped with all essential equipments in their vehicles such as first aid boxes, loud hailers, gas masks, breathing apparatus, disposable gloves, helmets, halogen lights, torches, stretcher ropes/nets etc. The Dog Squad/BDS should also be sent along with these Teams to help the civic agencies in searching for victims buried under debris. The organization structure of search and rescue team is at ANNEXURE- 'G'.

(C) Showing specific Roles/Duties in the Plan

The Incident Commander (Distt./ Units DCP) should specify a complete list of duties of the Special Response Teams, Response Teams, Search and Rescue Teams as per situation on ground. Similarly, the specific procedures for Special Response Teams in emergency response and incident report form may be seen at ANNEXURE-'H'.

(D) Mock Drills

Mock Drills will be being organized by the DCsP/Districts and Units from time to time in the respective jurisdictions in which officials from various civic bodies should participate to make the drills meaningful. All Special Response Teams and Response/Search and Rescue Teams should always be ready along with all essential equipments so that they could be moved to the spot quickly as and when any information of crisis is received.

8. DUTIES OF INCIDENT COMMANDER

The Incident Commander will take all decisions regarding the management of the situation and the deployment of manpower. All relevant agencies including the Quick Response Teams (QRTs) and the Quick Medical Response Teams (QMRTs) of the Ministry of Defence will provide manpower and material resources required by the Incident Commander. The Incident Commander will:—

- (a) Cordon off the area and restrict entry into the cordoned area except to designated response personnel.
- (b) Strengthen law and order arrangements.
- (c) Arrange to provide directions and instructions to the public on the public address system.
- (d) Set up the Command Post.
- (e) Designate a Staging Area where all resources will report.
- (f) Designate sites for setting up of decontamination centres.
- (g) Evacuate victims and arrange immediate first-aid.
- (h) Transport casualties to the designated hospitals.
- (i) Request additional assistance, if required.
- (j) Make arrangements for the removal of dead bodies.
- (k) Collect evidence and ensure proper investigation.

9 DISASTER/CRISIS MANAGEMENT CENTRES INCLUDING INFRASTRUCTURE, TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT:

The Delhi Police has set up three Disaster/ Crisis Management Centres at Laxmi Nagar (East District), Nehru Place (South-East District) and Rohini (Rohini District) in collaboration with the Delhi Fire Service. Three 'Hazmat' Vans available with Delhi Fire Service have been attached to these three Centers. The Delhi Police not only maintains law and order duties during any disaster or crisis but also gives immediate help in relief and rescue operations to victims, in coordination with Delhi Fire Service and other civic agencies. A Team of one company strength called the C.P's Special Response Team will be attached to each Disaster/Crisis Management Centre, duly equipped and fully trained in collaboration with the help of Delhi Fire Service.

This Company is commanded by an A.C.P./ Inspector rank officer and each one of the three Platoons is commanded by Sub-Inspector of Police. The strength of the Special Response Group is ACP/Inspectors, 03 Sub-Inspectors, 09 Head-Constables