

Introduction to Disaster Management

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS (Part 2)



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ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE FOR DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

- Roles and responsibilities:
- Arrange, coordinate and implement the plans, thus, minimizes impact of disaster to a great extent.
- Prepare national, state and local agencies.
Organisational structure: The committee should contain members of the government and representatives from local communities, military forces, medical, media and non-governmental organisations.
- Generate public awareness, facilitating training and providing technical and financial support

Disaster Preparedness Division/Unit

There are 5 distinct units in a Disaster Preparedness Division

1. Emergency operations and preparedness unit:

divided into 2 wings, each headed by 2 Deputy Directors.

- i) 1st wing: should take an account of preparedness during normal times
- ii) 2nd wing: should be crucial time wing, respond in the event of emergency situations. Rescue and recovery is to ensure coordination among various agencies
 - The two wings are further divided into regional centres, which are headed by regional coordinators. The regional centres are further divided into zonal centres, head by zonal heads

2. Logistical Unit: Headed by Additional Director, coordinate with Railways, Military and Aviation Departments

- provide relief and rescue activities is responsible rescue camps, ensure an incessant supply of basic food items, medicines, utensils, temporary shelters.

3. Communications Unit: Headed by Additional Director, supported by a Public Information Officer.

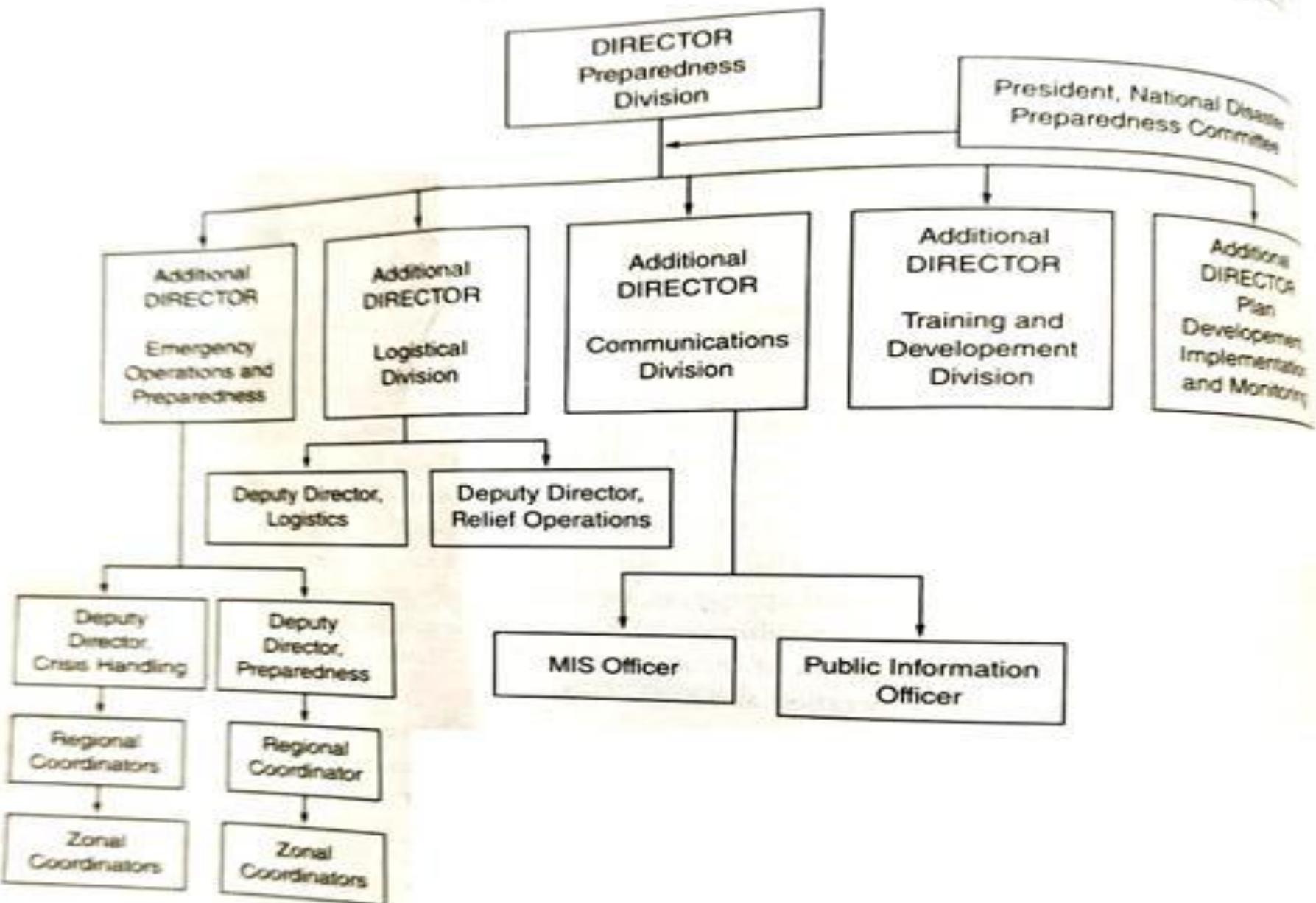
Disseminate of information to the public through (i) news. ii) arranges press conference, iii) press briefings, iv) promote preparedness policies.

4. Training and Development Unit:

- Headed by Additional Director: responsible for providing **training and development activities** in areas of public education and awareness on disasters.
- The team organizes workshops and lectures on aspects of disaster preparedness.

5. Plan Development, Implementations and Monitoring Unit:

- The duty of this unit is the development, execution and monitoring of **preparedness** plans.



ESSENTIAL SERVICES PREPAREDNESS AND LOGISTICAL READINESS

- It is the task of both the **logistical division** as well as the **emergency operations and preparedness division** to effectively manage disasters and reducing the quantum of losses
- Logical readiness should be implement and **control the flow of goods and services** between the point of origin and the point of utilization.
- Stock should be sufficient to meet the needs of the affected community.
- The transportation, stock collection and piling, inventorying, managing supplies, all are covered under the scope of logistics management.

- Preparedness teams have to be trained and equipped to operate under hazardous, difficult, vague and grave conditions. Trained to carry supplies under demanding conditions.
- A fleet of emergency vehicles and trucks should be maintained and should be strategically located.
- Warehouses should be created and make shift distribution centres for
 - i) medical and healthcare services
 - ii) To provide clean drinking water.
 - iii) An emergency supply of electricity and telecommunications.
- For this, the local administration may need the help of military or specialists.

CONTINGENCY PLANNING

- Plan show us the direction and help us use the resources in the best possible way.
- Sometime strict compliance with the plans may prove to be disastrous in itself. In time of drought, flood and tsunami, well-made plans may fail became of the sudden turn of events.
- Contingency planning entails making a plan B to deal with situational changes.
- All the problems arising out of all possible situations need to be addressed,
 - There is no need of any other plan
- Second, they feel that if, any problem arises, it will be addressed as and when it props up.

- The aim of the plan should be to ensure a minimum level of functionality of all the resources, and the **focus should be on providing prompt service in the event** of a disaster.
- Issues relating to **airport clearance and logistical coordination** for providing solutions to problems have to be addressed.
- The **plan should provide the role and responsibility** of each agency at every stage both human and material should be clearly stated.
- The method for **updating people about the changes in the plan should** be clearly mentioned.
- Copies of the plans should be made accessible to the community.

- The judgement of experts about the limits and extremities of situations is important. The judgement is mostly based on a review of past disasters that may have affected the area.
- Contingency planning has three stages:
 - (a) Readiness
 - (b) Standby
 - (c) Activation.
- The plan should first have a detailed account of all the possible scenarios and then should list all the constraints, both human and material.
- With limited human capacity to respond and limited means available, a realistic plan should be made.
- All the members of the team should be communicated about the roles and responsibilities.

Importance of building team and community relations for environmental and emergency managers.

- Team comprises: different communities, groups, gender, environmentalists and government authority.
- The whole team need to be worked together in one direction, more lives and property could be saved. The teams consist of experts who are dedicated to their work and committed to the job they are entitled to do.
- Working individuals not fruitful to save lives.
- Also, it provides a sense of direction to use limited resources wisely and judiciously.
- Team building is one of the strategic steps of preparedness that enables an effective response in crisis situations.
- The team is to support and help the community members to defend themselves from future disasters.
- The team members gain the requisite skills in rescue and relief operations.

- The team-building involving four stages, namely forming, storming, norming and performing.
 - (a) **The forming stage:** the team defines the problem, decides the goals and commits to tackle the problem by making strategies.
- During this stage, the leader should stress the importance of attitude and behavior of team members, the efforts should be to create a positive relationship among the team members.
- **The storming stage:** the members discuss and try to build skills in assessing the situation. The team members realize that the task is more difficult than they imagined.

- (c) The norming stage:** (i)the members accept their team, their roles in the team rules and procedures.
- ii) They accept the team members with their weaknesses and strengths.
- iii) They understand the urgency and need of the preparedness team and start helping each other.
- iv) They try to resolve differences and conflicts and develop a close attachment to the team.
- (d) The last stage is that of performing:**
- where each member of the team tries to meet the objective of the team by giving his or her best.
 - The aim is to provide all help to people who are caught in the disaster.

- By building a team, emergency managers are able to delegate responsibility effectively.
- It generates higher levels of trust and support.
- Team building leads to the creation of a transparent work culture where the policies and procedures are simple and easy to follow.
- Many a time, it is seen that the preparedness exercise does not yield good results as the plan does not meet the needs of the stakeholders.
- Good community relations are a guide for better action.
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- People caught in disastrous situations go through many emotional phases.
- **Acute state:** where individuals try to save their own life and that of their near and dear ones.
- **Reaction stage:** where individuals involve in search and rescue work and help in providing medical care to those injured.
- **Recovery phase:** where disaster management teams swing into action to take control.
- **Reorientation phase:** where survivors come to terms (real situation) with the real situation. It is normally seen that it is in the third phase that the team of disaster management experts start acting.