Role of Civil Defence and First Responders

by

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Disaster Facts
Disasters will Happen
(also in the developed countries)

Disasters can be accidental or intentional

Disasters kill People

Disasters are harmful for the Environment

Disasters don’t know Borders

Disasters give bad Publicity

Disasters impact the Economy
Disaster Preparedness

PREVENTION!
PREVENTION!
PREVENTION!

Prevention has the potential to fail!
WHEN PREVENTION FAILS

or

YOU MUST BE PREPARED TO RESPOND

ACCIDENTAL (human, technical, natural)

INTENTIONAL (e.g. terrorism)

Awareness

- Awareness of the risks and characteristics of a Chemical Incident is the foundation of a safe and effective preparedness program.
- All government field forces and responders, along with planners, need to be aware of the characteristics of a TIC.
- Awareness is maintained by constant Training.
We Believe

- First Response to be successful in an Incident, Time will be Critical.
  - Rescue of Victims Must Occur in the First Hours
  - Don’t Expect Outside Support
- First Responder Training primarily addresses those actions necessary in the First Hours.

We Believe

- Industrial Chemical Incident may fundamentally be a Local Event
- Most Likely Scenario
  - Relatively Small
  - Scaleable and Flexible
- Skills of Responder are more important than Equipment
- Can’t “Handle” Without Partnerships
First Responder Requirements

- Understand What Hazards persist in an Area.
- Know Risks from the Hazards.
- Understand Outcomes.
- Recognize the damage potential of the Hazard.
- Identify the consequential secondary Hazards.
- Respond with local resources and equipment.
- Determine Need for Additional Resources.
- Prepare the grounds for Tech-Responders.
- Understand his worth as back-up Tech-Responder.

First Responder’s Capacity

- Recognize Signs, Symptoms, and Indicators
- Know What to Tell
- Recognize Trends
- Know Whom to Contact
- Notify Technical Responders
- Provide Safety Guidance
The Need to be Ready...

**In 95% of all emergencies,** bystanders or victims themselves are the first to provide emergency assistance or to perform a rescue.

Civil Defence

Civil Defence all over the world and in India has been a government program that provides guidance and assistance in preparing for, responding to and recovering from public emergencies that result from conflict or natural disasters.
(1) "Civil defence" means the performance of some or all of the under-mentioned humanitarian tasks intended to protect the civilian population against the dangers, and to help it to recover from the immediate effects, of hostilities or disasters and also to provide the conditions necessary for its survival. These tasks are:

(a) warning;
(b) evacuation;
(c) management of shelters;
(d) management of blackout measures;
(e) rescue;
(f) medical services, including first aid, and religious assistance;
(g) fire-fighting;
(h) detection and marking of danger areas;
(i) decontamination and similar protective measures;
(j) provision of emergency accommodation and supplies;
(k) emergency assistance in the restoration and maintenance of order in distressed areas;
(l) emergency repair of indispensable public utilities;
(m) emergency disposal of the dead;
(n) assistance in the preservation of objects essential for survival;
(o) complementary activities necessary to carry out any of the tasks mentioned above, including, but not limited to, planning and organization;

**Article 15**

**International Distinctive Sign**

- The international distinctive sign of Civil Defence provided for in Article 66, paragraph 4, of the Protocol is an equilateral blue triangle on an orange ground.

- It is recommended that:
  - if the blue triangle is on a flag or armlet or tabard, the ground to the triangle be the orange flag, armlet or tabard;
  - one of the angles of the triangle be pointed vertically upwards;
  - no angle of the triangle touch the edge of the orange ground.
Why Civil Defence?

“the Response of a person closest to the place of Emergency will be the fastest and most effective, provided he is well trained.”

Civil Defence in India

The Civil Defence program in India relies on the individual, building his capacity for doing that which is necessary to increase his chances of survival, to minimize damage and to recover quickly.
National Civil Defence College

The NCDC was founded on 1 March 1957 at Nagpur as Central Emergency Relief Training Institute (CERTI) to offer advanced & specialist training for efficient conduct of Response & Relief operations after any disaster including industrial incidents.

Training Programs for Industries at NCDC

• Industrial Disaster Management - 2 Weeks
• Chemical Disaster First Responders - 2 Weeks
• Disaster Management for Senior Executives - 1 Week
• Basic Life Support - 2 Weeks
Chemical Disaster First Responders

Program Content

- Threat from hazardous chemicals.
- Principles of toxicology.
- Identification of hazardous chemicals.
- Health effects of hazardous chemicals.
- Response planning.
- Safety in handling & transportation of chemicals.
- Confinement & containment of hazardous chemicals.
- Medical intervention.
- Use of PPE.
- Chemical detection instruments.
- Decontamination Procedures.
- Incident command and control.
- Evacuation Planning.

Industrial Disaster Management

Program Content

- Concept of Industrial Civil Defence.
- Conventional weapons & its effects.
- Impact of Weapons of Mass Destruction.
- Industrial CD Organization.
- Communications and Warning system.
- Fire prevention and safety.
- Principles of Disaster Management
- Response, Mitigation and Preparedness.
- Incident Management system.
- Chemical Hazard Incident Response Planning
- Disaster On-site Planning in an industry.
- Off-site Emergency Planning
- Legal aspects of CD & DM in India.
- Civil Defence in hazardous industry.
- Evacuation Planning
Conclusion

Preparedness Is the Key to Effective Event Command

• Awareness
• Training
• Equipment
• Resources
• Planning
• Exercises

Conclusion

Research into Human reactions to disaster has overwhelmingly recognized that Resilience to disasters is much more commonly displayed by individuals having Pre-knowledge and Training to withstand the consequences.
Preparedness will always help us to Survive

To survive in our cities, one needs to cultivate a 3D mindset!

Any Questions?
Thank you