

from man-made events. In addition, the level of arsenic contamination of the ground water needs urgent attention. Population density intensifies the impact of these events.

Presently, policy decision have been made by both national and state governments that are directed at enhancement of the local capacity to mitigate the impact of disasters, and shift emphasis from dependency upon relief to preparedness. The NGOs have been asked to strengthen preparedness. The concept of Community-Based Disaster Preparedness (CBDP) is to develop or strengthen local capacity, and not to depend on doles in the name of relief after disaster. The success of a CBDP program lies in attitudinal changes from dependency to preparedness. A CBDA helps local people develop their own capacity. A good CBDP plan helps effective utilization of relief articles.

Preparedness at the community level must be divided into three phases. (1) Pre disaster phase; (2) Emergency phase; and (3) Post-disaster phase. A brief action plan is described that includes:

1. Pre-Disaster Phase
  - (a) Historical assessment
  - (b) Task force development
  - (c) Involvement and coordination of all team members, especially women
2. Emergency
  - (a) Appropriate and timely response
  - (b) Rescue, relief, and temporary rehabilitation
  - (c) Shelter, food, and water in camps; sanitation, hygiene, and medical relief
3. Post-Disaster Phase
  - (a) Restoration of normal life
  - (b) Monitoring and surveillance

**Conclusions:** The CBDP is the successful aspiration of local people. It is their plan made by them, for them, and with them in an effort to mitigate local disaster through scientific process.

**Keywords:** community; Community-Based Disaster Preparedness; disaster; emergency; India; mitigation; phases; plans

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### Characteristics of the Disaster and Emergency Community-based Programmes in Rural East Africa

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The article highlights desirable characteristics of Disaster and Emergency Community-based programmes in East Africa. Most of our ideas, beliefs, attitudes, concepts of self, personality, philosophy of life, and images come from community experiences: destroy them then there will be a disaster.

When young people make application to enter college or to get an important job, they are asked to provide much information about themselves. To do this, they must draw upon several sources, and involve many persons besides themselves. They must call upon the community in which they live for help. They are asked to give their "permanent" address, the name of the school they attended, what courses they received, in what extra-curricular activities they

participated, what work experience they have had, and so on. They are asked to name three or more persons, not relatives or teachers, who will provide an independent judgment concerning their ability, character, personality, and their promise for the future. Their dependence upon people in the community is not confined to supplying data for application forms and the moral support of those willing to testify in one's behalf, but one "community experience", e.g., if we are asked about the place in which we live and are called upon to tell others what it is like, we are inclined to think we know a good deal about it. We have spent a part of our lives in it, our friendships have been formed among the people with whom we have associated. At one time or another, we nearly all have been over the place where we live.

If we are asked also how all these familiar things are made possible, we become vague and uncertain. We may not know just how far the community extends, and how many people live in it. How people live on the "other side of town". Or, those residing in some particular section may provide something we have not thought about.

The list of things we don't know about the place we live is likely to grow more extensive the longer we think about it. As a matter of fact, persons may talk about "our town". And "what a fine place we have here" until asked about details of police protection, taxation, health services, hazards, vulnerabilities, and so on.

When so confronted, the pronoun "we" often is shifted to "they", and references may be made to "the poor service they give" and "the heavy taxes they demand". Thus, at times, we may fail to identify ourselves with others who comprise the community, and refer to parts as if they were separate and independent. These and many other things about our dependences and knowledge of our community form the baseline of disaster manager.

These are the recommendation of Rural Development and Environmental Community based programmes:-

- The African community is a local society
- The African community is a subculture
- The African community exists on a geographical setting
- Community emergency management program
- Injury reduction program
- The community based disaster program mapping

**Keywords:** community; culture; disaster; emergency management; mapping

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### Remote Area Disaster Response in Australia

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Australia, with a land mass of 7,682,300 square kilometers, is approximately the size of the United States of America (excluding Alaska), 37 times the size of The United Kingdom of Great Britain, twice the size of Europe (excluding the Russian Federation) or three to four times the size of the European Community. Australia's population of almost 20 million is centered mostly in and around the capital cities that generally are situated peripherally on the island continent, and is divided into the Australian Capital Territory and seven other States and Territories. The tyranny of distance is a major factor in planning for

and response to remote mass casualty incidents. The Australian constitution makes the Commonwealth responsible for the defence of Australia, and for the protection of states against invasion. Each State or Territory is responsible for the protection of its citizens and property.

The Commonwealth provides National emergency management programmes including the cyclone warning system, the Commonwealth Search and Rescue Organisation for response to air and maritime incidents, and Space Debris Nuclear fallout to cope with threats affecting National interests, and ideally, is suited to coordinate assistance between States, if requested.

Aid to near Pacific neighbors in times of disaster also is managed at the Commonwealth level. Each State and Territory is responsible for emergency response and recovery plans within their respective jurisdictions. This presentation outlines the measures necessary to provide effective mass casualty management for remote area incidents, and for communities that may be remote from major treatment facilities. It addresses the medical coordination and organizational issues involved with the prehospital management and distribution of casualties to appropriate treatment facilities.

**Objectives:** (1) To outline Australia's geographical and demographical features and the consequential effects on emergency planning nationally and between States and Territories; (2) To provide an oversight of the levels of responsibility for emergency management planning in Australia; and (3) To discuss some of the measures necessary to provide effective prehospital management and distribution of casualties to treatment facilities.

**Keywords:** Australia; emergency management; planning; prehospital management of casualties; remote area casualties

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### Municipal Plans of Emergency in Disaster Prevention

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**Objective:** To promote the prevention and mitigation of the effects of natural and man-made disasters through knowledge about the phenomenon and by specific preparedness of the local authorities with action organizations, services, people, and resources available to respond to disasters. The aim of the Municipal Plans is to establish coordinational ties between civilians, volunteers, and local government.

During the last century, disaster prevention has become a focus of attention in emergency administration. One must understand clearly and accurately, the possible effects of a disaster, and, in case of emergency, who commands the responses. This can aid the civil defense authorities and the general population in developing specific mechanisms that reduce the impact of calamities. Municipal Plans of Emergency, also known as Municipal Plans of Contingency (MPC), develop community protection actions, and include the action organizations, services, people, and resources available to respond to disasters. It also includes the identification of specific risks, community preparedness, local response capacity, risk planning, and

establishment of the structural organization (authorities, agencies, offices, volunteers) that respond to emergencies. Each element understands its respective roles, what to do, what not to do, and how to participate in a team effort. The use of MPCs obliges decision-makers to make plans and execute preventative actions and emergency projects that provide effective formulas capable of improving stability factors and response mechanisms.

**Social Context:** In the rural communities of Oaxaca, long-standing governmental paternalism has created an attitude of dependence. Thus, it is important that mechanisms are created that increase the ability of local actors to respond to emergency situations on the basis of their own resources and organization. The risks faced in countries of the first world differ considerably from those faced in those of the third world. The socio-economic characteristics of the population in Mexico and Oaxaca, as in other underdeveloped countries, necessitate the development of an alternative model for disaster prevention. The infrastructural conditions in the south of Mexico call for social rather than technical responses to emergency situations. While in Europe and North America, where there exist technical emergency response teams, in Mexico, the response force must derive from strengthening of social links and the capacity of ordinary citizens. This program forms a contribution to the Mexican sense of solidarity and mutual help in the face of disaster.

**Keywords:** disaster prevention; Municipal Plans of Contingency (MPC)

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### Training in Emergency Ultrasound for Civilian and Military Use

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Until the introduction of truly portable high resolution ultrasound with colour Doppler, ultrasound examinations for emergency use were limited. The SonoSite 180, released in Australia in December 1999, permitted portable ultrasound examinations to be performed rapidly and easily in many emergency situations in hospital and military settings. Prior to this, a training course with accreditation and continuing assessment was formulated in 1998 by the late Dr. Marie Kuhn, Director of Emergency Medicine at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. This course was taught in the hospital, and was followed by an abbreviated course using the same teaching materials utilised in the military, both within Australia, and also during a six-month military deployment between February and August 2001.

More than 20 such courses were held in East Timor, and doctors, radiographers, and soldiers from many countries of the UN were trained to perform the FAST ultrasound scan. Since then, courses have been held for the military and civilian medical and paramedical staff in many parts of Australia. The effectiveness of the courses has been demonstrated by military medical staff deployed overseas, and in civilian hospitals by Radiology, Emergency Medicine, and Intensive Care (ICU) staff. Increased availability of portable ultrasound equipment in the Australian military setting, and its use in civilian life, including retrievals, will increase the skills of medical staff, and the use of the FAST scan as part of the initial assessment of