

Discussion Post

Local Government Interagency Emergency Management (EM)

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Due Date

Local Government Interagency Emergency Management (EM)

The Mutual Aid System Including Purpose, Types, and Protocol in Interagency EM

The mutual aid system creates the terms determining the provision of aid between different parties or jurisdictions within and beyond state borders. The resources shared among EM agencies include supplies, equipment, facilities, teams, and personnel (Federal Emergency Management Agency [FEMA], 2017). The mutual aid system, therefore, ensures that various agencies access vital resources when demand for emergency management arises.

Varied mutual aid systems facilitate the provision of resources when uneventful incidents emerge. The varied mutual aid categories include local mutual aid and local automatic mutual aid. Other types of mutual aid agreements include regional, intrastate, statewide mutual aid, and interstate mutual aid.

Execution of the mutual aid systems relies on a set of core protocols outlined within the operational plans. These include implementation and training exercises, identification of mutual aid resources, resource cataloging, resource mobilization, and establishing performance metrics and criteria (FEMA, 2017). Other relevant protocols include stipulating effective coordination and management and setting rules of engagement during resource dispatch and distribution.

Major Roles of Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) in Local Interagency EM

CERT enhances the awareness of communities regarding how to prepare before and during disaster occurrences. To accomplish this feat, CERT imparts various disaster management skills to community members. These include how to conduct search and rescue for missing persons and perform medical emergency services (FEMA, 2023.). CERT also disseminates information to members of the public and supports centers of emergency operations. It also manages crowds and traffic during emergencies (disasters). Nonetheless, CERT members also perform fire safety precautions and neighborly checks in their communities during emergencies.

Major Roles of Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) in Local Interagency EM

VOAD performs varied roles in local interagency EM, including disaster preparedness and planning. They liaise with diverse members of the community before a disaster occurs to assist them in undertaking measures geared towards reducing the effects of the disaster. VOAD trains volunteers from communities on how to assist different members of communities before, during, and after the occurrence of a disaster (FEMA, 2013). They also set up and provide facilities to shelter community members and their pets. Additionally, VOAD provides feeding services and fiscal assistance to families and individuals when an emergency occurs. VOAD also offers family reunification services and medical attention to the

community after a disaster occurs.

Major roles and responsibilities of the Local EM, the community, and individuals, families, and households in EM in accordance with the National Response Framework (NRF)

The NRF outlines the roles undertaken by different stakeholders during emergencies to reduce the effects of disasters and promote public safety. Communities play a crucial role in emergency management. They comprise neighborhood partnerships, faith-based organizations, advocacy groups, VOAD, and community groups (FEMA, 2018). Communities provide spiritual and emotional assistance to affected individuals after a disaster. They also provide food, emergency medical services, emergency hygiene services, and shelters. Nonetheless, households, families, and individuals can minimize emergency response needs in their homes by securing objects that are unanchored against high winds (FEMA, 2018). Households, families, and individuals are also encouraged to create emergency plans on how to safeguard themselves against disasters before the arrival of rescue services. Additionally, the NRF urges households, families, and individuals to monitor and heed the instructions issued by emergency communications during a disaster.

Discuss obstacles that might inhibit interagency cooperation at the local level, and what are the consequences of the lack of interagency cooperation on emergency management. Provide recent examples.

Challenges that might hamper cooperation during EM include ineffective communication among government agencies. Additionally, the slow reimbursement process and complex assistance programs created by the FEMA cause delays during EM recovery efforts (Oversight and Government Reform, 2018). The lack of cooperation during EM harbors varied consequences, including increased mortality rates due to the slow process of rescuing missing persons. It can also result in a reduced rate of allocating and distributing vital resources during emergencies. Recent examples where a lack of cooperation plagued recovery efforts include the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the H1N1 swine flu (Eckart, 2021). The lack of cooperation among EM agencies during the two pandemics led to increased mortality.

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