

PRINCIPLES OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Emergency management is a dynamic process. Planning, though critical, is not the only component. Training, conducting disaster exercises, testing equipment, and coordinating activities with the community are other important functions.

The fundamental goal of Community Emergency Management (CEM) is to create and maintain an effective community organization to **Mitigate, Prepare For, Respond To, and Recover From** major threats to lives, livelihoods and property. A fundamental assumption of CEM is that plans alone are not effective unless they are supported by people and a process brought together by good management skills, and a **Public-Private Partnership In Planning Philosophy**.

It is important to remember that the entire community responds to, and is involved with disaster. There must be concern, interest, support, and participation by everyone in the community. Without that participation, there cannot be a true community emergency preparedness program. Obtaining and maintaining public support is one of the primary keys to good Community Emergency Management.

The process of people working together through CEM is the only way true emergency preparedness will become a reality at the local level where you live and work; your community.

Where does business and industry fit in to this picture? It's quite simple. Business and industry have facilities, plants, corporate headquarters, etc. The community they are located in becomes their community just as the citizen's of that community regard it as their own. As members of the community, business and industry have a moral duty to act as responsible members of that community.

Until recently, emergency and disaster planning and preparedness have been looked upon as being solely the responsibility of government. That has changed. What happened? Several things began to occur to force a closer look at how we all interact with the environment, our community, and our neighbors. One of those things was an emerging awareness of hazardous materials. Hazardous material issues in America have been the single biggest driving force that has brought emergency preparedness to the doorstep of virtually every citizen, every jurisdiction, and every community.

The implications of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (commonly known as SARA Title III) on CEM are profound. This federal legislation has suddenly brought a very powerful and capable resource in local communities into the emergency planning and coordination fold. Partly because of this legislation, and partly due to declining available dollars for government, business and industry are now expected to shoulder a greater part of the burden of emergency preparedness.

Business and industry have long been neglected in the networks of emergency management, preparedness and planning, despite their rich management potential and valuable resources. This is to say nothing of the prestige and influence generally wielded within the community by business and industry.

Unequivocally, the private sector now must be included in the community's planning processes. In essence, the initial issue of hazardous materials is forcing both sides to do what is really necessary for successful CEM. And, as a beneficial happenstance, the doors of opportunity have been opened to areas of business and industry other than just those involved with hazardous materials to become fully involved in preparedness and their community.

Community Emergency Management is not a one person job!

If community disaster response is to be successful, everyone in the community must be involved. Through involvement with the **Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)** and **Livingston County Emergency Management Advisory Council**, business and industry can be an active part of community involvement and concern for emergency planning and preparedness.

In this way, **Community Emergency Management** then becomes everyone's insurance policy.

The Livingston County Emergency Management Program has always endorsed the Principles of Community Emergency Management and the Public-Private Partnership In Planning Philosophy. Ideas, comments and suggestions are always welcomed.

For additional information regarding how to prepare for natural and technological disasters, or to arrange for a speaker to visit your facility and make a presentation to your employees on family and individual preparedness, call the Livingston County Emergency Program Manager:

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