

# Disaster Management and Co-operation with Authorities



In various disaster situations, the importance of co-operation between different authorities is emphasized. In these situations patients' injuries are serious and the quantity of patients is large in relation to existing transport and treatment resources.

Time has also essential influence on the degree of injuries patients get from the accident. By education authorities and other operators can design action plans together and develop their abilities to operate and to cooperate in disaster situations. Authorities can learn each other's practices and get more familiar to work together in demanding situations. In addition participants will get tips on how to train a major accident

## CONTENT OF EDUCATION

This educational model consists of five different parts, which are carried out in lectures and exercises. All parts include approach to training opportunities. The theoretical part can be implemented in customer's country. The following practical part is implemented in Finland or in customer's country if needed.

### Part 1. Cooperation with authorities

- Fire department
- Police
- Hospitals and social services

### Part 2. Organization of paramedic units in disaster

- Triage on scene
- Acute care on scene
- Transportation of a patients to hospital

### Part 3. Organization of hospitals acute units in disaster

- Reception of patient at hospitals
- Arranging emergency care

### Part 4. Management of disaster and patients.

How different authorities act in multipatient situation. Mutual communication and understanding is crucial in order to coordinate action in the crisis area

### Part 5. Informing other authorities, media and citizens.

Taking into consideration all major operators and inform them in real time. Reported news help citizens to act in appropriate way and reduce false rumors for example in social media



### Example of the cooperation in crisis situation

Possible crisis situation could begin when crowded school bus rapidly takes fire. Taking control of this kind of horrible accident requires cooperation between fire department, police and emergency healthcare. Firemen burn out the fire and clear the accident area. Then paramedics and doctors are able to give acute treatment for the children. In this kind of situation police officers are needed to guide traffic and ensure the safety of accident site. Overall quick actions are needed to prepare all patients for transportation to hospital. Medical expertise and right treatment methods give patients the best possibilities to recover. Informing the authorities, media and citizens is very important in this kind of accident, especially collaboration with the parents. The role of social services and school staff is emphasized after the acute accident is handled.

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## Model of Developing the Operation and Cooperation in Disaster Exercise

**I Initial Mapping:** Appointing a potential disaster situation, which is typical for a region, and describing the accident scenario.

**II Action Plans:** Updating the operation and communication plans of each authority and operator, and planning the resources needed in the disaster situation.

### III Disaster Exercise Plan:

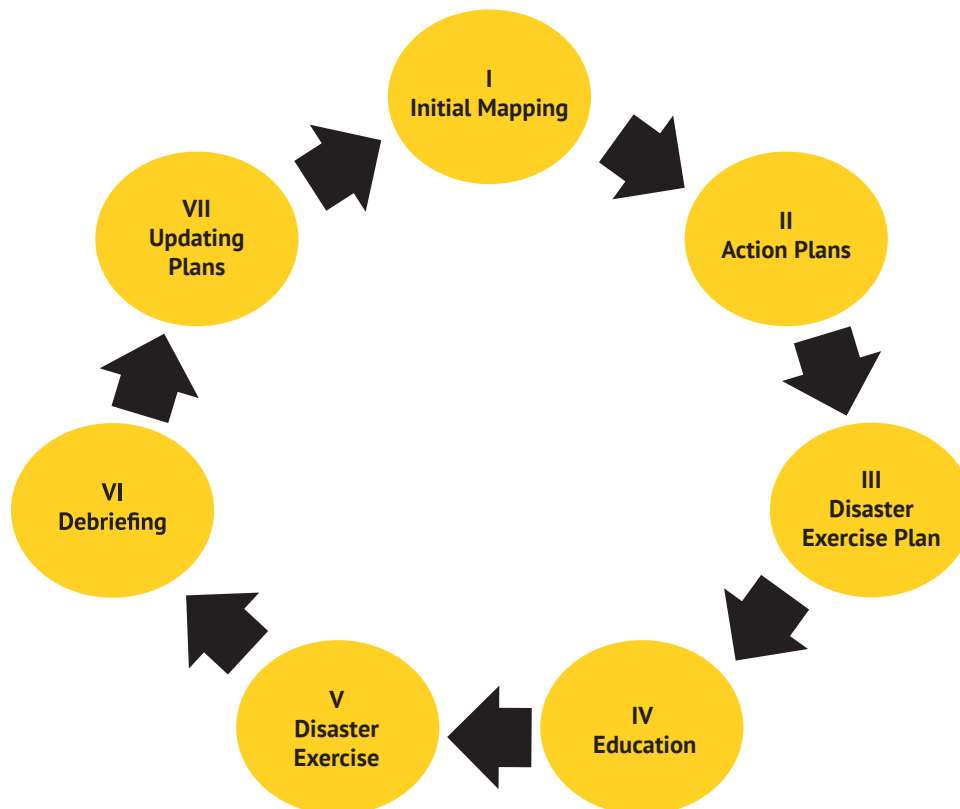
**1)** designating participants in the exercise, a group of expert who will guide the progression of exercise, observers to evaluate the success of the action in exercise, the authority which is responsible for the safety of the exercise, and the chief operating officer of the exercise, and **2)** establish a safety and communications plan to minimize the risks associated with exercise, and to inform citizens of the exercise.

**IV Education:** Organizing an education day, where the plan for operation and co-operation with authorities in the disaster situation will be presented to all persons involved in the exercise.

**V Disaster Exercise:** Informing the public of the disaster exercise, and organizing and implementing the disaster exercise in accordance with the accident scenario

**VI Debriefing:** Organizing a feedback day of disaster exercise, and establishing a report of successes and development needs. In order to develop crisis management it's essential to debrief exercise properly and make conclusions for developing plans.

**VII Updating plans:** Updating the operation and communication plans according to feedback and utilizing the feedback received in the planning the next accident scenario and the action in it.



The process for developing operation and co-operation skills between authorities and other operators.

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