

THE MACEDON DIGEST



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Produced by the Australian Natural Disasters Organisation

PROBLEMS OF EVACUATION

The State Coroner of Victoria, Mr Hal Hallenstein, recently addressed an ACDC course on legal and ethical issues in evacuation during emergencies. He suggested that these issues presented "deep and awesome problems" to philosophers and coroners - the problems faced by the managers of emergency evacuations were clearly no less "deep and awesome", but were made more complex and demanding by the constraints of time.

The task of evacuation, Mr Hallenstein maintained, required consideration of a variety of factors, including the law, ethics, morals, commonsense and the difficulties of crisis decision-making in real time. However, an underlying issue must be that in the end we live in a free society, in which the individual has a right to make decisions affecting or likely to affect his or her own future. Effective emergency evacuation assumes a human response which values life more highly than property or pecuniary interest.

The power of combat authorities to enforce evacuation can be quite limited, he said. Taking the Victorian situation, and noting that Victorian legislation on emergency management and coronial responsibilities differs from that in other States, Mr Hallenstein demonstrated the severe limitations which are imposed on authorities charged with the responsibility of conducting an emergency evacuation. A provision such as that in Victorian legislation, which allows those who can demonstrate a "pecuniary interest" in the property at risk to refuse to be evacuated even after the declaration of a "state of disaster", simply highlights the dilemma faced by evacuation managers. It could be argued that even children can have a "pecuniary interest" in some property - can they thus refuse to be evacuated? Legislation and disaster planning establishes a requirement to provide evacuation services to those who wish to avail themselves of those services, but cannot in practice demand conformity or exact a penalty from those who refuse to avail themselves of those services.

What do you do when faced, when the door is opened to your knock, with a flat statement to the effect that "I've lived here for 85 years, and I'm not leaving now?" If the person making this statement is mentally alert and is capable of making an informed decision, that choice must surely be theirs. There is no lawful power of forceful evacuation, even though that may be physically easy with a frail and elderly person.

And at a practical level, let us assume that your judgement is that the person who has made that statement isn't mentally alert or informed enough to make such a decision - do you spend half-an-hour "arguing the toss", knowing that in that time a number of other families could have been warned of the risk, advised of your services and made choices relative to their needs?

The practitioner's dilemma is highlighted in the case of situations involving children whose parents refuse to evacuate. Clearly, the practitioner can present the perceived situation, can argue and can attempt to convince of the need to evacuate, but again there is a need to recognise that there are areas of choice concerned and there are the interests of the wider community involved. From the practitioner's viewpoint, there could be no harder choice than that of walking away from that situation if the advice is not heeded, but the test of "reasonableness" demands that the practitioner weighs his concern with an individual situation against his responsibilities for the wider community.

The essence of disaster management, Mr Hallenstein suggested, is that, in the pressure of emergency situations, a manager must often have to "bite the bullet" - make decisions on scanty information, and live by those decisions. Coroners, and others who might subsequently be required to examine those decisions, can be expected to recognise the realities of making those decisions under the pressure of events and with limited information; they must simply ask whether such decisions were rational and reasonable, under the known circumstances.

If evacuation decisions can be shown to be rational and reasonable in the circumstances of the time, post-event analysis will support them. However, there may be circumstances where post-event analysis shows such decisions to have been unreasonable, incorrect or flawed in execution - what then? Mr. Hallenstein suggested that organisations with control or co-ordination responsibilities in regard to evacuation, have a responsibilities to ensure training and preparedness programs and an appropriate level of expertise appropriate to such responsibilities within their own organisations.

Mr Hallenstein concluded by emphasising that large-scale evacuation is a highly complex operation, surrounded by quite awesome issues and requiring hard decisions.

TMD FORMAT CHANGE

The Macedon Digest is now into its third year of publication; circulation has doubled and content has increased in scope. As part of this evolutionary process, TMD has, with this edition, adopted a new format.

TMD has now become a "desk-top" publication, using the Xerox "Ventura Publisher" software package. This package is a professional page layout system. It allows the creation of typeset documents, by automatically combining text from wordprocessors, with pictures from various software packages. "Ventura Publisher" will enable expeditious typesetting to be undertaken at the College and provides for much more flexibility in design and layout. It is also more cost-effective, eliminating the costly process of external typesetting and amendment.

Following a sample survey of TMD readers, we have chosen a 10 point Helvetica typeface with 12 point spacing, set in a two column layout. Readers are welcome to provide any comments on this new format.

TMD relies on its readership for feedback and contributions in general; members of the counter-disaster community are invited to send any articles, items of interest and information on events, publications and personalities.

It is your newsletter; please regard it as a resource which can help to spread the counter-disaster message.

Tony Davis, Editor

EDUCATION

ACDC Program - 3 July to 30 September 1988

Introduction to Disaster

Management (1116) 3-8 July

Disaster Response

Management (1118) 17-22 July

CD Planning (1122) 21-26 August

Comprehensive Disaster

Management (1124) 4-16 September

During this period, Introduction to Disaster Management courses will be held in several of the states. Details about these activities are contained in the 1988/89 ACDC Handbook; or contact the College direct on (054) 261205.

Inaugural World Congress of Environmental Health

This Congress to be held in Sydney from 26-30 September 1988, is being organised by the Australian Institute of Health Surveyors, New South Wales Division, under the auspices of the International Federation of Environmental Health. The program will cover three major strands of environmental health - the natural environment, the social environment and the built environment. The impact of these on the health and well-being of people as individuals or communities, will be considered.

With the epidemic killers having been largely eradicated by better hygiene and improved health facilities, modern society faces other threats such as

those caused by pollution, new technologies and industrial processes.

The Congress will be of professional interest to environmental health officers, health surveyors, health inspectors, sanitarians and public health officials, in both developed and emerging nations.

Further information and enquiries about the activity, should be directed to:

Inaugural World Congress of Environmental Health,
Congress Secretariat,
PO Box 97,
Camperdown, 2050,
NSW, Australia.
Phone: (02) 560 0499

National Conference on Aspects of Disaster Management

This Conference, which is being presented by the South Australian Postgraduate Medical Education Association Inc (SAPMEA), will be held at the Royal Adelaide Hospital, from 31 August to 2 September 1988. The main objectives of the Conference are an information disseminating exercise, recommendations, communication and co-ordination, and resources. Medical, administrative and psychological aspects will be discussed, during concurrent workshops. The program will also include a "Hypothetical" session, which will be directed to the medical, administration, police, emergency service and nursing professions; it is envisaged that certain problems for each of the specialist areas involved in disaster management, will be addressed.

The Keynote Speaker will be Dr Sapal Tachakra, from the Accident and Emergency Department, Central Middlesex Hospital, London. He was a principal at the scene of the Bhopal disaster.

For further information, contact:

SAPMEA, Inc.,
GPO Box 498,
Adelaide, 5001,
South Australia

CD PUBLIC AWARENESS

In early February this year, coinciding with the start of the 1988 school year, a good quality glossy school magazine called "Project Help for Students of All Ages", went on sale nationally through newsagencies. The publication contains an 8 page feature article, jointly produced by NDO Canberra and Defence Public Relations Directorate; it was funded by the latter organisation.

The article, entitled "Disasters - A Role for Defence", briefly explains the NDO and the Defence Force roles in disaster management in Australia, PNG and the South West Pacific. It gives simple, practical examples, supported by colour photographs and cartoon illustrations, of counter-disaster operations.

Additional copies of the article itself have been produced and distributed to the State and Territory Emergency Services and ACDC. Further copies may be obtained from NDO Canberra at the following address:

Executive Officer (Liaison and Public Awareness),
Natural Disasters Organisation,
PO Box E33,
Queen Victoria Terrace,
Canberra, ACT, 2600.
Phone: (062) 466600

INTERNATIONAL

"Disaster Management" - A Journal for Emergency Contingency Planning

A new journal titled "Disaster Management", has just commenced publication. "Disaster Management" is an international journal, designed to embrace all aspects of contingency planning for large-scale emergencies. Its launch coincides with a time of increasing concern at the all-too-apparent problems of dealing with major incidents such as nuclear power station accidents, mine disasters and high-rise building fires. Readership is expected to come from government departments, civil defence agencies, police authorities, fire departments and local government, amongst others.

The Journal provides a broad spectrum of authoritative papers, reviews and articles which include aspects of planning related to the following subjects:

Air-crashes, transport accidents, industrial explosions, nuclear accidents, chemical spillage, pollution, mine accidents, civil defence planning, earthquake, animal disease and many other related topics.

The technical and scientific presentations cover factors like evacuation, rescue, victim identification, fire fighting and emergency and disaster containment.

For further information contact:

Editorial Director,
F & M,
Scientific and Technical Division
Queensway House,
2 Queensway,
Redhill, Surrey RH1 1QS,
England.

The Australian representative is:

Air Vice-Marshal W Nick Carter,
International Disaster Consultant,
Blue Range, Macedon, Victoria 3440
Australia.

Phone No (054) 261611

Civil Defence and Counter Disaster Equipment Fair - 5/9 September, Rio de Janeiro.

The first Civil Defence and Counter Disaster Equipment Fair and International Seminar on Civil Defence and Counter Disaster Services, is to be held in Brazil in early September 1988. The Fair and Seminar, to be known as "DEFENCIL '88", are being jointly sponsored by the Brazilian Ministry of the Interior and Municipal Government of Rio de Janeiro.

The aim of these events, is to display products and services used by large municipalities throughout the world, to combat disasters and urban calamities. The Fair and Seminar will encourage an integrated

approach to the topic, drawing together expertise from the international counter-disaster community. Counter-disaster organisations and manufacturers are invited to take part in these events. Further information from the Brazilian Embassy in your country.

The Australian address is:

Embassy of Brazil,
GPO Box 1540,
Canberra ACT 2601
Phone: (062) 73 2372

OZONE

According to the US Environment Protection Agency, the following eight halocarbons with Ozone depleting potential have the following atmospheric lifetimes:

	Years	Main Uses
CFC-11	75	Foam, refrigeration, airconditioning.
CFC-12	111	Rigid polyurethane refrigeration, aerosols.
CFC-113	90	Solvent.
CFC-114	185	Rigid nonurethane foam, refrigeration, air-conditioning.
CFC-115	380	Refrigeration, air conditioning.
Halon-1211	25	Portable fire extinguishers.
Halon-1301	110	Total flooding fire-extinguishing systems.
Halon-2402	na	Fire extinguishers.

All of these products are to be controlled under the Montreal Protocol.

SUPERMAP

A valuable tool for the community CD Planner at any level, is *Supermap*. This system, also known as CDATA 86, provides a very powerful micro-computer based capability, which allows for the tabulation of map summary data at various geographic levels. Tables may also be produced and can be ranked and/or scanned, to isolate interesting areas. Tabulated information can be transferred into a spread sheet program. Maps can be printed in either colour or monochrome.

The software enables the user with no programming skills, to retrieve, manipulate and display graphically stored data, using only a personal computer. An example of the application of *Supermap*, is the tabulation and mapping of census data at various geographic levels down to their collection districts, by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Hardware requirements are an IBM PC/XT or AT, with hard disk (or compatible/clone), and a suitable CD-ROM drive.

Further information about this system from:

Space-Time Research Pty. Ltd.,
668 Burwood Road,
Hawthorn East, Victoria, 3123,
Australia.

Phone: (03) 813 3211

FEATURE

**COMMUNITY RESPONSES TO
NATURAL DISASTER**

This is the eighth article in a series on Human Responses to Natural Disasters, by Ruth Wraith and Rob Gordon from the Department of Child and Family Psychiatry, at the Melbourne Royal Children's Hospital. In this article, community responses to natural disasters are examined.

This article outlines a theory of community response to disaster, based on observations of both natural and man made disasters. The theory has provided the basis for developing interventions and designing disaster and recovery plans, and is orientated towards the psycho-social impact of disaster on the lives of those people whom it touches.

A disaster, by definition, is something that occurs to a community of people. However, it is not always clear of whom this community consists. In order to understand the disaster and to plan and undertake recovery successfully, the community needs to be identified. This may appear relatively straight forward in an "area" disaster, such as a bushfire or flood which sweeps through a town. It may also be relatively clear in the case of an "event" disaster such as a terrorist attack in an office building. But in the case of a plane crash, it becomes a more complex question. The community obviously involves "victims" and their families but should it also include workers, relatives, witnesses, colleagues, friends; where should the line be drawn?

We believe this is a crucial question for several reasons. First, personal responses to a disaster occur in the context of the individual's community. The community provides the support and resources which are often most acceptable in aiding their recovery. Informal relationships and interactions become particularly potent sources of help. The community is also the only agency that can really undertake very long term support of affected people. Secondly, observations indicate that there is a definable community response to disaster which involves dynamic processes that have both constructive and destructive aspects. Understanding these can enable recovery efforts to be synchronised with the constructive processes, and community interventions can be aimed at minimising the destructive effects. However, community-based recovery activities lead us back to the issue of identifying the community.

A number of characteristics can be listed to aid in defining a community.

1. It includes a more or less stable group of people with some common basis for a relationship with each other. This may be spatial, because they live or work in the same area; it may be historical, because they share common antecedents; or it may be because of a common experience they have all

endured. There are always some who come and go around this one.

2. A community implies a group of people with a structure (including leaders, spokesmen, or elected representatives), services, caretakers, sub-groups and interest groups. The larger or older the community, the more complex the social structure is likely to be. It will embody conflicts and tensions as well as co-operation and support.

3. The members of a community are linked to each other by a complex series of bonds. Some will be emotional as in family and friends, some based on co-operation and common interest such as neighbours and work-mates, some based on power and others on simple familiarity. These bonds provide stability, predictability and security as well as playing on essential parts in people's sense of their own identity.

4. The members of a community are all participants in a complex web of need-satisfying relationships. In other words, they can all be said to be doing something for each other. They also all need each other.

5. The members of the community have some sense of the boundary of the community. In other words they know who is in and who is outside it. Their experience of the community - its strength or vulnerability, its intactness or fragmentation, its isolation or support - is mediated by the relationship the community has with surrounding communities (such as other towns or suburbs) and with the wider community of which it is a sub-system, (such as city, state, nation, geographic region).

These factors (among others) become crucial in defining, assessing and understanding a community with a view to assisting its recovery from disaster.

To understand the impact of disaster on the community, it is first necessary to distinguish the "physical" disaster, which denotes the actual "physical event" - fire, flood, shooting etc., from the "social" disaster, which refers to the disruptive processes initiated within the social fabric by that event.

These are in the nature of a rolling series of disruptions of the social fabric resulting from the implications and effects of the disaster. This is sometimes called the "second disaster". Perhaps a more descriptive term is "*Repercussion Disaster*". That is, a situation which consists of a sequence of disruptions as the effects of the original disaster filter through to different aspects of the community life. This process is illustrated by Figure 1.

Although any attempt to simplify a complex multi-dimensional process fails to do justice to it, experience in disaster affected communities does suggest that it is valid to expect a series of crises which involve different dimensions of the social fabric, during the recovery process.

The social fabric itself, however, consists essentially in the bonds that hold members of a community together. It is here that the disaster strikes, though

our observations suggest it is in a way which is different from that portrayed in the popular literature, and in common myths about human behaviour in extreme situations. The process of the repercussion disaster can be traced as it evolves through the various stages of impact, response and recovery.

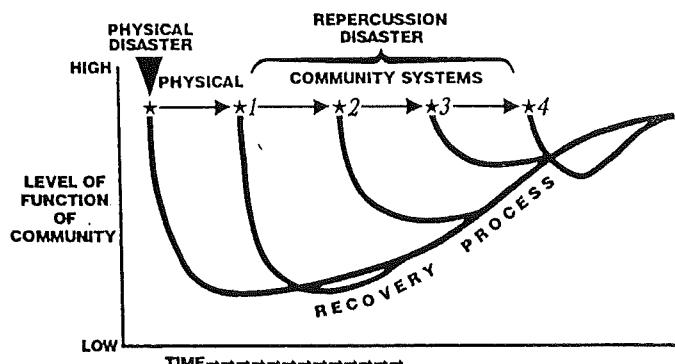


Fig 1. Successive impacts on the community systems following disaster: The Repercussion Disaster.

Impact. The network of relations and bonds that exist before the disaster, provide the infrastructure for absorbing and responding to warnings. The first effect is an *intensification* of bonds. This can be seen in the research finding that people tend to turn to those they know for confirmation of warning irrespective of whether the latter are in any better position to know than themselves. The co-operation and mutual concern that is observed in the face of impending disaster, also indicates strengthening of bonds.

When the disaster strikes, however, this usually gives way to simple survival. It is those who are nearest to one who become of concern, while the disaster is occurring. The relationships that existed before, disappear momentarily and are replaced with efforts to survive, with relationships that are not responsive to the situation. In this sense, the relationships and interactions are indiscriminate. People who have been trapped together in a fire or other threat, describe a sense of anonymity. One person may save another's life and not even know each other's name.

The prevailing order of relationships maybe suspended. For example, children may control and issue instructions to their parents. The suspension of authority relations is illustrated in an incident on an office building adjacent to a terrorist-style attack, when a supervisor told a worker at the window trying to ascertain where shots were coming from, to return to work. He replied, "You aren't in charge of my life." This statement signifies that the worker sees himself as beyond the existing relationship in these circumstances.

From the point of view of the complex network of interrelated bonds of each person with every other, this moment of impact involves a generalised suspension of bonds, or in other words, there is a short period in which a process of *de-bonding* occurs.

Response. Almost immediately, however, the community fabric reasserts itself. Human beings

need to bond to each other. Without this they lose their identity and become prey to serious social and psychological problems. Hence, as soon as de-bonding is experienced, the response is a massive drive to re-establish bonds. This occurs as soon as the crisis is passed and is evident in the search, rescue and clean-up phase. As the community re-groups, bonding intensifies indiscriminantly. Because everyone has been through the same experience, they all have something in common that they previously did not have. Intense cameraderie develops.

Anyone who comes into a disaster scene after the event, becomes aware of it. Often it leads to such a strong sense of community that outsiders are rejected. The bonds, however, do not recognise pre-existing differences and are based solely on the intensity of the disaster experience. This indiscriminate and intense bonding process can be likened to a psycho-social *fusion*. It has been variously described as euphoria, a high or honeymoon phase. Many people describe this as a unique event in their life. Never have they felt so close to so many people.

Fusion can be seen as a response to the state of de-bonding. It would be a mistake to see them as discrete phases - although they involve the whole community they may be experienced by individuals at different rates. They also seem to overlap yet both experiences are clearly in people's accounts of disaster.

A fused community is a powerful and energetic one and well suited to the so-called "heroic" phase of the initial reconstruction. But it is also unreal, based as it is on a highly artificial situation. There comes with it the feeling "we are all one, we work together, we are supported by each other". Unfortunately this does not take account of pre-disaster history, where many people neither liked, respected nor cared for each other. In fact, the fusion only lasts a few hours or a few days at most, and then the natural requirement for all human groups to structure themselves as a set of complex sub-systems asserts itself. This can be called a process of *differentiation* since it involves the break-up of the previously undifferentiated group.

Recovery. The process of differentiation indicates the onset of the recovery phase proper. The community is no longer functioning on an emergency basis. It is often a period of turmoil and confusion, and people readily admit a sense of disorientation. Several distinct processes can be observed, which tend to conflict.

Firstly, once the fusion begins to weaken and break down, the pre-disaster community structures naturally reassert themselves. Local services and agencies pick up their work, social networks re-form, old habits and customs reappear. However the situation is radically changed by the disaster. Every element of the community is challenged with the task of adaptation to the new circumstances. Some will be well-suited, others not. Hence a variety of new tensions will arise.

Parallel with this, the differentiation process in the fused community proceeds along quite different lines. People tend to bond more closely to those who have had similar experiences and feel somewhat alienated from those who have not. For example, people who have lost their homes in a fire, feel that those who did not are unable to understand them. The others feel their needs are not recognised, and so on, in relation to many different issues. Everyone has a great need for recognition and understanding and at the same time, they have strong feelings of anger at the destruction which needs to be projected onto some available object, person or circumstance.

The need for people to differentiate from each other is served by negative emotions such as anger, envy, resentment, competition, and these can all be seen in the post-disaster community. They appear a short time after the "honeymoon" of the fusion and are sometimes referred to as the low, disenchantment, disillusionment, or depression stage. However these feelings can be seen as serving the essential purpose of differentiation leading to reorganisation of community structures.

The issues that form the basis of the differentiation and restructuring are not consistent with the pre-disaster community structures. Hence a conflict develops between old structures reasserting themselves and new structures developing. Sometimes they are incompatible and the result can lead to old structures being destroyed. For example, after a bushfire, friendships between people who lost their houses and those who did not tended to break down, sometimes amid acrimony and resentment. In fact, widespread alterations in social networks occurred. Hence the community recovery process can be seen to be working at cross purposes with itself. Emerging structures cut across or compete with established ones. This then becomes fertile ground for political tensions, competition for resources, and opportunism.

However, it is possible to understand the process as one which is constructive in its intent, but destructive where it is not co-ordinated and integrated with pre-disaster structures and the recovery processes based on them. Since differentiation occurs around differences between people or sub-systems, it is possible to anticipate some differences and to recognise others as they begin to occur. These differences can be likened to "cleavage planes", as in the pre-established planes where a crystal will break under pressure. Community cleavage planes are issues or differences around which groups and systems are likely to separate and this will often be through conflict, competition or rivalry.

Understanding these dynamics, and identifying cleavage planes, provides a basis for recovery planning and intervention adopted to support constructive differentiation and minimise conflict with the pre-existing structure. The successful integration of these two dimensions, aids the

community to re-form itself so the disaster can be integrated into its history.

The dynamics of disaster response indicate the powerful internal drive that communities have to recover, and why effective recovery cannot be imposed from outside. Rather, this process must be accepted and worked out by supporting the community's own activity. However, outside help is needed to enable people to gain an overview of their situations and an understanding that goes beyond their own personal circumstances. Recovery can be facilitated if interventions are designed to foster appropriate bonding and differentiation, and to anticipate and defuse cleavages and conflicts.

Recovery Strategies

A number of general strategies follow from the theory of community response, and have proved helpful in guiding recovery activities.

1. Reducing Isolation. A sense of isolation throws the community in on itself and intensifies destructive tendencies. The provision of resources, personnel and information from the surroundings can be a powerful means of reducing this experience. However, this only happens if assistance is provided appropriately and tactfully with maximum participation of the community. Recognition of the situation and understanding of the community also provide moral support that reduces the sense of tension and aloneness after disaster. This has a direct impact on emotional tone and efficiency. Media and politicians have great power to convey these attitudes or alternatively to intensify tensions.

2. Sense of Control. The community needs to feel it is able to control its own destiny. However this feeling may conflict with their own need for outside help. Local workers have expressed this by saying "we need all the help we can get, but do not know what" or "we want to do it but we don't know how; or what to ask for," hence precipitative or poorly planned aid may have a counter-productive effect. The sense of control is supported if the community is given information that will help it understand its needs, the process it is engaged in and the kind of help available. Over-enthusiastic interventions that cannot be sustained are the source of unnecessary splitting and conflict. Much value can be gained by the use of consultants to the community, who are experienced in disaster work and can help to identify or anticipate needs and plan interventions that can utilise or be based on existing or emerging community structures and resources.

3. Group and Network Formations. If the recovery managers take the initiative and promote the formation of groups and networks whenever possible, it provides a constructive, co-ordinated framework for the differentiation process. It gives positive reasons for people to identify with each other, and helps break down the misunderstandings that create cleavages. Networks also serve to disseminate information on recovery processes, and provide care and support. Planning groups, street meetings, support groups, interest groups,

public meetings and educational sessions, can all be helpful.

4. Communication and Information. New, disaster-specific communication channels may be necessary such as newsletters, meetings, special segments on the media. Exchange of experiences and understanding others' predicaments; helps enlist feelings of mutual care and compassion and combats envy and competition. It bridges the cleavage planes and assists people to gain a perspective beyond their own situation and facilitates the crucial process of re-identifying with each other, as part of a new community with the disaster as part of its history. The information that is transmitted becomes the medium and agent for community integration and identity formation. Lack of information is a major stress in post-disaster situations.

5. Community Development. The appointment of people whose brief is to identify, support and co-ordinate community development initiatives, is the concrete evidence that the recovery system is serious about helping the community undertake its own recovery. These people can be appointed from the community so they have access to detailed local knowledge. They can provide a trusted intermediary between formal recovery systems and the informal efforts that will spring up throughout the community.

6. Symbolic Events. Much community tradition and identity is vested in symbols and symbolic events of a historical nature. Artistic, dramatic, religious or other ceremonial events serve to express tangibly and confirm the sense of belonging and optimism for the future. Examples can be memorial services, dedications, artistic performances or objects, designation of places or buildings with symbolic meaning, or undertaking specific community development projects of a symbolic nature, such as treeplanting or landscaping. Symbolic events go beyond the lives and circumstances of the participants and become history, and in this way resemble to a degree the disaster itself and go some way towards healing its effects on the community as a whole.

Continued in September 1988 TMD - "Principles for support and recovery for human services".

PUBLICATIONS

Red Cross Catering Publications

Red Cross is responsible for the co-ordination of catering requirements, during an emergency. In addition, Red Cross has responsibility for the development and review of regional catering plans, the formulation of policies which are then conveyed to the relevant catering committees, and the convening of debriefs following operations. Red Cross also provides training which includes guidelines on a range of aspects relating to bulk catering, setting up a catering base, and use of resources, such as the Red Cross catering modules and caravan.

Three useful publications have been produced to compliment this catering task. They are:

- * "Catering Module Guidelines and Contents" (detailed notes on mobile disaster relief);
- * "Emergency Catering" (notes which provide an outline of points that need to be considered in respect to emergency catering, when writing disaster plans); and
- * "Emergency Catering Slide Script" (an educational aid for those involved in training emergency caterers).

Further information about these publications and other aspects of the Red Cross involvement in emergency catering, can be obtained from :

Australian Red Cross Society, Victorian Division, Counter Disaster Planning Department, 171 City Road South Melbourne 3205, Victoria.

Phone: (03) 616 9911

ACDC 1988/89 Handbook

The ACDC Handbook to cover the instructional period July 1988 to June 1989, is now available. It lists and describes the studies and activities which will be conducted by the College in the year commencing July 1988. The program of studies and activities is developed annually, in close consultation with State and Territory authorities. This process ensures that the College continues to cater for the changing needs of the Australian counter-disaster community. The new program shows that the College is becoming increasingly involved in external activities, conducted within the States and Territories to meet their identified requirements.

Specifically, the Handbook includes detailed information about disaster management, programs such as the Counter Disaster Training and Education Program and National Counter Disaster Studies Program, College facilities and services, nomination policy and related administrative information.

Copies of the Handbook can be obtained by contacting Marilyn Summers at the College, on (054) 261205.

Report by the Advisory Committee on the International Decade for Natural Hazard Reduction

This report outlines the concept of an International Decade for Natural Hazard Reduction (IDNHR). It considers the need for such an effort, the benefits it might confer, the kinds of projects it might include, and how it might be organised. The report, which was sponsored by the US National Research Council, is intended not only for those now in the hazard reduction field, but also for the broader audience of policy makers and the interested public who will provide the motive force behind any successful attempt to reduce hazard-related losses.

Frank Press, President of the US National Academy of Sciences, says that IDNHR would be a potent first step in reducing the impact of natural hazards through co-ordinated research, data gathering, and information sharing. The thrust of the report, he says, is that much that is already known is not universally applied, and that there is vast opportunity to advance our knowledge of hazard reduction if we pool resources.

The report titled "Confronting Natural Disasters: An International Decade for Natural Hazard Reduction", has an accompanying booklet which is excerpted from Chapter 1 of the report. For copies of the full report or booklet, write to :

Advisory Committee on the International Decade for Natural Hazard Reduction,
National Research Council,
2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W.,
Washington DC 20418, USA

ACDC Publications

During the past 12 years, the Australian Counter Disaster College has produced and published over 40 reports, directories and information booklets on a variety of counter-disaster topics, events and issues. Copies of many are still available for interested people. Some of the more recent ACDC Publications which can be obtained from the College include:

- * Report of Proceedings of a Study on Protection of the Australian Public from Ionising Radiation 1982.
- * Report of Proceedings of the Tourist Accommodation Safety Study 1983.
- * Australian Disaster Research Directory 1985.
- * Report of Proceedings of the Communications Study 1983.
- * Report of Proceedings of the Mass Casualty Management Study 1983.
- * Report of Proceedings of a Study on Animal Health Emergency 1985.
- * Report of Proceedings of a Study on Remote Area Disasters.
- * Report of Proceedings of a Major Urban Disaster/Civil Defence Study.
- * Cyclone Winifred Impact Study Report.
- * Air Disasters in Remote Areas of Australia Report of Problem Solving Clinic 1986.

CD PLANNING

The Victorian State Disaster Response Plan (DISPLAN), identifies the roles and responsibilities of many government and non-government agencies.

Under DISPLAN, Red Cross has accepted specific responsibilities, mainly in the areas of catering, registration and first aid. In order to effectively co-ordinate these commitments, Red Cross has introduced four voluntary positions within each DISPLAN region. A Counter Disaster Liaison Officer, Catering Officer, Registration Officer and First Aid Co-ordinator have been appointed. These officers, assisted by their respective deputies, co-ordinate counter-disaster training and operations of the units, within the regions and municipalities. These officers are available to offer advice and assistance to other interested parties.

During emergencies, Red Cross, upon request, co-ordinates the catering requirements of the combat authorities and disaster affected persons. Red Cross has the responsibility to bring together, all agencies involved or prepared to be involved in catering. These agencies included the Salvation Army, Seventh Day Adventists, Country Fire Authority Auxiliary, Australian Institute of Health Surveyors, Country Women's Association, William Angliss College and the Victorian Police Field Catering Unit. Details of Red Cross produced booklets and information on catering, are outlined in this edition of TMD, under "Publications".

N.R.I.S.

The March 1988 edition of TMD, included an article on the background and operational aspects of the National Registration and Inquiry System (N.R.I.S.). The N.R.I.S. is a system where personal details of disaster affected people, are recorded on registration cards and stored on the Federal Department of Health's mainframe computer.

In Victoria, the Police are the responsible authority for N.R.I.S., whilst Red Cross provide support in the completion of registration cards and the handling of inquiries. Red Cross, in conjunction with the Police, provides training to ensure effective and efficient resources are available, when required. This trained resource, including nominated contact personnel, are then listed in the municipal plan, as well as on the regional level.

Additional copies of TMD or changes of address; please complete and return the following to the College

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ADDRESS.....

Contributions are welcomed and should be addressed to:
The Editor, "The Macedon Digest", Australian Counter Disaster College, Mt. Macedon 3441, Victoria, Australia. They should reach the College at least 1 month prior to the date of publication which is the first day of each quarter. Material published in TMD may be reproduced, providing the source is acknowledged.



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