

agencies to disasters.

Data from the Ministries and Departments of Union and State Governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), CBOs, and the reports and recommendations of the Committees and Commissions were collected and analysed. Reports and data pertaining to responses to major disasters that took place in India, for example, the Gujarat earthquake, and web based information from other countries were reviewed.

The government responses to natural disasters has improved progressively, due chiefly to administrative function; the presence of relief manuals at district levels; pre-determined allocation of duties; and recently emerged public-private partnerships. However, there is no coordinated or integrated approach to an effective response. An integrated policy at the national level will address the vital aspects of disaster management in India. The presence of such a policy will help to define the government's approach on a continuous basis, and will aid in streamlining the coordination and functioning of various agencies.

Lack of command, coordination, civil administration involvement, civil resources, and apathy are illustrated repeatedly whenever and wherever disaster strikes in India. This remains true despite the fact that 24 states have been identified as being vulnerable to natural disasters. A simple identification of disaster-prone areas followed by designation of essential and specialist assets and contingency planning are required, all of which should come into motion automatically at the time of a crisis.

Keywords: disaster response; disaster risk analysis; India
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Planning for Passenger Ship Emergencies in Isolated Areas

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Objective: The aim of the process was to produce a coordinated plan involving all agencies likely to respond to a passenger ship in difficulties in Fiordland.

Background: Fiordland is situated at the South Western corner of New Zealand's South Island. It is a rugged isolated area with very few facilities or resources. A worldwide growth in ship cruising and Eco-tourism has seen cruises to this area increase dramatically both in frequency and size of the ships. All organisations involved (ship owners, national search and rescue, emergency services, and environmental authorities) had individual plans or ideas for responding to potential problems.

Methods: A meeting was called and presentations on each organization's preparation and planning were given. Presenters included: ship owners, pilots, national and local rescue organisations, emergency services, Fiordland business interests, and central and local government organisations serving the area. A small sub-group was formed to prepare plans for approval.

Results: A plan for the management of incidents on passenger ships was prepared and approved within five months of the first meeting. This plan coordinates the response required, the location, and the links to the resources of all

agencies likely to be involved.

Conclusions: While individual organisations may have existing plans (and ideas) regarding emergency response, these may not correspond with those of other agencies or with reality. A coordinated plan requires input from all agencies likely to be involved.

Keywords: agencies; coordination; cruising; emergency services; links; management; New Zealand; plans; search and rescue; ships; tourism
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Task Force Session: Response to Psychosocial Aspects of Disasters

Chair: Professor Derrick Silove

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A Psychosocial View of Marmara Earthquake in Turkey

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On 17 August 1999, a devastating earthquake of magnitude 7.4 on the Richter scale, struck the Marmara Region in the northwest of Turkey, which is the most intensely populated and industrially developed part of the country. The impact on human psychology of social and economic losses caused by the quake was immeasurable, since the region's national income per person was twice the national income per person on the overall. This study examines the presence of an anxiety disorder observed after an earthquake in the people who live in the Marmara region of Turkey.

The study was implemented two and one-half months after the earthquake. At that time, it is expected that the symptoms of acute stress disorder that typically occur during the first four weeks after the quake, should have disappeared. Disorder and over-alertness often have been encountered by the people in the quake area who have applied to be evaluated in the Anxiety Disorders Polyclinic of the Department of Psychiatry at Cerrahpa_a Medical Faculty, Istanbul University. This research was carried out in collaboration with the Department of Earthquake Engineering, the Kandilli Observatory, and Earthquake Research Institute, Bogazici University. Diagnoses were determined according to the DSM-4 diagnostic criteria as a result of psychiatric examinations by the same psychiatrist. After this initial step, the same psychologist performed some psychological tests on each patient, and the scores obtained were analyzed. After scoring was completed, psychiatric treatments were established for the patients.

In this study, major depression, obsessive-compulsive disorder, generalized anxiety disorder, panic attack, social