

Protection of the population in emergency situations

What are the safety precautions during emergencies?

During an emergency, you may not have time to make alternative plans.

Shelter-in-place:

- ❖ Close and lock all windows and exterior doors
- ❖ Turn off all fans, heating and air-conditioning systems to avoid drawing in air from the outside
- ❖ Close the fireplace damper
- ❖ Get your emergency kit and make sure the radio is working

What is the most important rule to remember in an emergency?

As in any emergency situation, the most important rule is to always think SAFETY. Following basic safety precautions helps to keep you and other bystanders safe, and assists the trained first responders in identifying and controlling the release.

What is the importance of emergency preparedness?

There are real benefits to being prepared:

Being prepared can reduce fear, anxiety, and losses that accompany disasters. Communities, families, and individuals should know what to do in the event of a fire and where to seek shelter during a powerful storm.

Protection of population in emergency situations of peace and war time is the most important task for the Russian Unified Emergency Rescue Service, governmental and local authority of all levels, heads of enterprises, institutions and organizations. The leading role in addressing this problem is going to be given to the Ministry for Civil Defence, Emergency Management and Natural Disaster Response.

The need for measures of public protection is relevant due to the increasing number of technogenic accidents and disasters, expanding of areas of natural calamities, and also due to the risk of military threats and terrorism, and spread of mass annihilation weapons. Russia, with its peculiar territorial, natural and technological arrangements, is experiencing exacerbation of these problems. The main objectives of public protection are stated in the Federal Law of the year 1994 On Protection of Population and Land from Environmental and Man-made Emergencies. According to this piece of legislation, citizens have the right for:

- ▶ protection of life and health, protection of personal belongings;
- ▶ use of collective and individual protection equipment;
- ▶ information about possible risk and safety measures in emergencies.

They are to observe the rules of safety, not to violate workplace and technological discipline, comply with requirements for environmental safety; they are to know the means of protection and rendering first aid, operating collective and individual protection equipment, take active part in events for public protection in case of emergencies.

What are your responsibilities when responding in emergency situations?

Taking action quickly in the event of an emergency must involve clear communication and properly planned procedures. Personnel, equipment and procedures must be in place and an effective plan must be communicated.

What is the most important phase of emergency management?

Recovery operations are an extremely important phase in the Emergency Management continuum and yet one that is often overlooked. The Incident Command System team is responsible for the implementation of the Recovery phase.

Why is prevention important in disaster?

The objective of prevention is to reduce the risk of being affected by a disaster. Even if the hazard cannot be removed, vulnerability can be decreased and in case of an impact, the capacity to withstand, to respond and to recover will be stronger.

How can we prevent disasters from happening?

Awareness, education, preparedness, and prediction and warning systems can reduce the disruptive impacts of a natural disaster on communities. Mitigation measures such as adoption of zoning, land-use practices, and building codes are needed, however, to prevent or reduce actual damage from hazards.