

EMERGENCY ACTION PLANS

agencies are available to assist industries, these include the Office of Civil Defense, the U S Army Corps of Engineers, the Salvation Army, the American Red Cross, the U S. Public Health Service, and the U S. Weather Bureau. To be effective in coping with an industrial community disaster, the efforts of all of these groups must be coordinated and directed toward a common end. Therefore each plant should have an up-to-date listing of all cooperating agencies, the administrator's name, address, and telephone number, and the task assignment of the agency. If possible, these people should meet periodically to discuss mutual problems and disaster control techniques.

Plans for civilian defense are being made on a nationwide scale and are already in operation in many localities. In many states, the civilian defense director has been accorded broad authority, therefore, it is essential that plant protection plans be coordinated with those of the local Civil Defense organization.

Even if a particular area is not attacked, plants in the spared area may be requested to furnish transportation to evacuate the injured from damaged areas and to house and feed evacuees. Plant emergency squads may also be required to go to the assistance of stricken plants. In a major catastrophe there would probably not be enough hospital space available, making it necessary to hold the injured in temporary shelters for a considerable time. In such cases, employees with the proper training might be required to administer sedatives and plasma and provide treatment for minor and major injuries.

Under general plans of the civilian defense organizations, authorities in that group would handle the investigation of areas dangerously contaminated with radioactivity, if this were the cause of the trouble. However, it is advisable that plant personnel with responsibility for health and decontamination have some knowledge of this activity.

In wartime, the federal, state and local governments are responsible for relief measures to meet needs resulting from enemy attack. This relief is administered and directed by Civil Defense authorities and financed by the government. The Red Cross has offered to assist the government in providing food, clothing, and temporary shelter on a mass-care basis during the emergency period immediately following enemy attack. In many communities, local Civil Defense officials have requested Red Cross chapters to assume all or part of this responsibility, acting under Civil Defense authorities.

In natural disasters, the American Red Cross is responsible for assisting families and individuals to meet disaster-caused needs that cannot be met through their own resources. These relief operations are coordinated with the activities of the local, state, and federal governments. When a disaster occurs, the local chapter of the American Red Cross aids disaster sufferers. The resources of the national organization are available to supplement chapter assistance. In addition, every chapter is prepared to help neighboring chapters through a program of mutual aid, whereby assistance is offered immediately in accordance with the needs of the chapter in the stricken community.

References

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