Emergency response management

As support to the civil protection community the MSB works with the improvement of knowledge and methods for emergency response management. A great deal of focus is placed on knowledge about the type of management relevant to the civil protection community. The aim is to create flexibility for management based on needs and prerequisites. The term management contains traditional management, command & control, coordination, cooperation, leadership, tactics, organisation, communication etc.

The work is carried out in various ways via research, development projects, and the mediating of knowledge. The MSB produces text books, develops training courses for individuals working in the emergency management system, reports on research findings, and issues regulations etc.

From research to practical methods, an example:

Christian Uhr’s doctor’s thesis at Lund University: Multi-organizational Emergency Response Management – a framework for further development introduces a framework that increases understanding for the complex command structure that arises when many entities are involved and respond to the same incident. The research results have, among other things, led to a development project, in which the MSB in conjunction with the relevant entities is developing, testing and disseminating knowledge about methods for how a municipality or county administrative board should react to coordinate responses to major emergencies and disasters.

This project works with a model for the coordination of the entities involved during an emergency. Based on common values and regular discussion a joint standpoint it taken:

► What has happened?
► What assistance needs exist and what needs to be done?
► Who needs to cooperate?
► How do we achieve a joint response?

Another example of the MSB’s support is the text book, Tactics, Command, Leadership which is used during the training of fire service personnel. The book, which has been translated to English can be ordered from www.msbmyndigheten.se.

The MSB works with the entire emergency cycle, in other words, before, during and after the occurrence of emergencies, crises and disasters, which provides good opportunities to adopt a holistic perspective and to gain experience from incidents. Regardless of whether it is one person that is affected, for example, in an accident in the home, or if it is a serious emergency that could have consequences for the entire country or even other countries as well.

The objective of the Swedish Civil Contingency Agency (MSB) is to strengthen society’s ability to prevent and handle accidents and severe peacetime emergencies. Society can learn from past experience by evaluation and follow-up in a continuous process where experience is being used to organise and develop tasks for the actors in the civil emergency planning system. Evaluation and learning from accidents and disasters, supervision and monitoring, need for new research and support for civil emergency planning activities are important tasks in order to strengthen societal security and to support prevention, preparedness, response and recovery throughout the disaster management cycle.
To increase knowledge and the ability for the entities involved to coordinate and cooperate in the field of civil protection the MSB has recently developed its series of Central Cooperation Courses. This is a module-based training concept containing a basic course, and three continuation courses focusing on emergencies, extraordinary incidents, and international cooperation. The courses are aimed at civil protection professionals.

Another important area for development, and in which to guarantee quality, is involvement in the work of the ISO (International Organization for Standardization). One example of this is the MSB’s work on the ISO’s Technical Committee for societal security (TC223) on which we work with, among other things, standards for: Command and control, information, coordination and cooperation for emergency management.