Tools for initiatives strengthen societal safety

The MSB wants to ensure that the individual has the “tools” needed to take personal responsibility for his/her own safety when needed.

The MSB focuses on the safety of each person as an individual. It means that the individual’s expectations of societal support and response during emergencies are strongly connected to what society expects from the individual regarding response and action.

The perspective has shifted from earlier having communicated with the public to now, to a much greater degree, focusing on the public as a collection of individual people and their individual needs.

We work with the mapping and analysis of the individual’s safety to achieve an efficient accident and injury prevention programme. The programme focuses on the individual and the individual’s capacity for dealing with emergencies. The MSB develops routines and methods for systematic safety work such as emergency scenarios and educational platforms for communication.

The MSB also coordinates governmental support to Swedish civil protection non governmental organisations (NGOs), who hold training courses and provide support during emergency situations. Some religious groups are also involved with this societal support.

The MSB coordinates Swedish authorities and bodies in their work for child safety and injury prevention.

The target groups in focus are the compulsory schooling system and 16 to 19 year olds in school (the sixth form in the UK and senior high in the USA), voluntary emergency organisations, and the municipalities. We also work very closely with other government authorities

Our task include producing basic information material, developing educational platforms and websites, scenarios and role-plays, and arranging seminars, lectures, workshops etc.

Schools are important forums for reaching out to groups of children and youngsters. Through the school system we can spread information on a national level about societal safety in general with the objective being to strengthen the individual’s capacity and thereby increase safety throughout the entire emergency cycle. The central strategy of our work with schools is to link up with any given school’s syllabus and offering training for teachers and to develop teaching aids with a high pedagogical quality and relevant content.

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.