



**THE PURPOSE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF TEACHING CIVIL DEFENSE IN MODERN
CONDITIONS**

Ibragimov Rustam Abdulhamidovich

Lecturer of the “Life Safety” Course,

Department of Surgical Diseases and Civil Defense, ASMI

Annotation: This article examines the system of civil defense in the Republic of Uzbekistan, its main tasks, and the organizational structure at the national and local levels. It highlights the role of civil defense in protecting the population, economic facilities, and cultural values during military operations and emergencies. The functions of emergency management bodies, the establishment of the Ministry of Emergency Situations, and the responsibilities of local authorities are discussed. The paper also emphasizes the importance of readiness, coordination, and proper training of civil defense personnel in preventing and mitigating emergency situations.

Keywords: Civil defense; emergency situations; population protection; Ministry of Emergency Situations; local authorities; evacuation; public safety; Uzbekistan.

The legal basis for protecting the population and territories from emergency situations is formed by the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Presidential Decrees, laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan, resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers, as well as directives of the Minister of Emergency Situations and other relevant regulatory documents.

As we know, the civil defense system has been operating since the 1960s. Its main task was to protect the population from the negative effects of weapons of mass destruction and other means of attack during peacetime and wartime, to ensure the stability of economic facilities during war, and to carry out rescue and restoration work in disaster zones in a timely and effective manner. However, the lives of the population are threatened not only by weapons of mass destruction but also by various other hazards, which cannot be overlooked. These include various natural disasters, accidents, and catastrophes. Several major incidents—such as the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant and the Spitak earthquake, which claimed the lives of 25,000 people—demonstrated the need to reconsider the role and functions of civil defense. It became clear that civil defense forces alone were not capable of combating such large-scale disasters, that their activities could not be limited only to wartime, and that the scope of their responsibilities needed to be expanded.

By the 1990s, the threat of using nuclear weapons had decreased, and the use of chemical and biological weapons had been restricted. New types of modern weapons were developed that posed dangers not only to people but were also aimed at disabling economic facilities. All of this proved that a new system needed to be established in place of the existing civil defense structure. At this point, it also became necessary to clarify an important issue: What exactly is an emergency situation, and what is meant by protecting the population and territories from it?



An emergency situation is a condition that arises in a specific area as a result of an accident, catastrophe, hazardous natural phenomenon, or other natural disaster, which has caused or may cause loss of life, harm to human health or the environment, significant material damage, and disruption of normal living conditions.

Thanks to the fair policy pursued by the President of our country, the interests and dignity of the individual are given top priority. The foundation of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan—our main legal framework—also places the individual, their dignity, and their health at its core. A person's life and right to live are protected by the Constitution.

In the event of an emergency (actual external threat, mass unrest, major catastrophe, natural disaster, epidemic), the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, in order to ensure the safety of citizens, may declare a state of emergency throughout the entire territory of the country or in certain areas. The decision adopted must be submitted to the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan for approval within three days. The conditions and procedures for declaring a state of emergency are determined by law. Among the powers of the Oliy Majlis is the approval of the President's decrees on declaring full or partial mobilization, introducing a state of emergency, extending its duration, or terminating it.

One of the main tasks of the Ministry of Emergency Situations, established after our country gained independence, is to protect the lives and health of the population, as well as their material and cultural assets, in emergency situations. To effectively fulfill this task, it is essential that we have legal, organizational, economic, social, engineering-technical, and specialized foundations of protection.

Every leader and every employee in the field of emergency protection must be able to assess the situation during technogenic, natural, and environmental emergencies, make prompt and profession-specific decisions, and manage search-and-rescue and emergency response operations. High professional competence is essential in this regard.

Protection of the population and territories from emergency situations refers to a system of measures, methods, means, and coordinated actions aimed at preventing the development of emergencies and eliminating their consequences.

Preventing emergency situations involves pre-emptive measures aimed at reducing the likelihood of emergencies as much as possible and, when they occur, at preserving human health, reducing damage to the environment, and minimizing material losses.

Eliminating emergency situations refers to a set of search-and-rescue and urgent operations carried out when emergencies occur, aimed at saving human lives and health, reducing damage to the environment and material losses, as well as localizing hazardous zones and eliminating the impact of dangerous factors.

One of the decisive steps taken in the field of protecting the population and territories from emergencies was the establishment of the Ministry of Emergency Situations. Initially, the Civil Defense and Emergency Situations Directorate functioned under the Ministry of Defense, and later, based on this structure, the Ministry of Emergency Situations was created by Presidential Decree No. PF-1378 dated March 4, 1996.

This decree defined the development and implementation of state policy in the elimination of emergencies, protection of the population's life and health, preservation of material and cultural



values, as well as the mitigation of consequences during peacetime and wartime emergencies as one of the ministry's main tasks.

Leadership in ensuring the protection of the population and economic facilities has been assigned to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The main tasks of the Civil Defense system of the Republic of Uzbekistan are as follows:

- to train the population in methods of protection against hazards arising during military operations or as a result of such actions;
- to train facilities and organizations in methods and actions for protection against dangers that may emerge during military operations or their consequences;
- to establish, develop, and maintain management, notification, and communication systems in constant readiness;
- to implement a set of necessary measures aimed at ensuring the stable functioning of economic facilities;
- to evacuate the population, as well as material and cultural assets, to safe locations;
- to ensure the readiness of civil defense military units;
- to provide the population with general and individual means of protection;
- to ensure the population's life-support conditions during military operations or their consequences;
- to regularly monitor and conduct laboratory analysis of radiation, chemical, and biological conditions;
- to organize and carry out rescue and other urgent operations;
- to establish and maintain public order in areas affected during military operations or as a result of such actions;
- to implement other measures aimed at protecting the population and territories.

In the Republic of Karakalpakstan, as well as in regions, cities, and districts, the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan and the respective regional governors (hokims) are appointed as heads responsible for the protection of the population and economic facilities. In ministries, agencies, associations, enterprises, institutions, and organizations, ministers, chairpersons of state committees and associations, as well as directors and managers of enterprises and production units, are designated as the officials responsible for ensuring the protection of the population and economic facilities.

Among the responsibilities assigned to local government bodies by our Constitution are the following:

- ensuring legality, legal awareness, and the safety of citizens;
- forming and executing the local budget, establishing local taxes and fees, and creating extra-budgetary funds.

The establishment of Emergency Situations Departments (Divisions) in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, regions, cities, and districts, as well as the appointment of deputies of department (division) heads as local deputies, has played an important role in strengthening the activities of protecting the population and territories from emergencies. Civil defense services



are organized at the republican, regional, district, and facility levels to ensure the implementation of special civil defense measures and to prepare the necessary forces and resources for these purposes.

The composition and structure of civil defense forces, as well as other issues related to the activities of civil defense structures, are determined by the Head of Civil Defense of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The activities of civil defense troops are carried out in accordance with current legislation.

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