Trident University International

Module 3: SLP#3 Disaster Preparedness

MHE503: Survey of Emergency and Disaster Management

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**Introduction**

Over the past couple few years, China has had so many developmental changes which have led to it growing rapidly and even rise within the super countries. Unfortunately, even with all that technology, they cannot avoid natural disasters, which cause different effects on the economy and social growth. Given the high seismic network nature of china, it is prone to earthquakes now and then. The only difference in the earthquakes is the magnitude that each of them possesses. Over the years, China has suffered devastating earthquakes like the 1556 Shaanxi earthquake, the Haiyan earthquake, which happened in 1920, the Tangshan earthquake, and the Sichuan earthquake in 2008. The above earthquakes were all above the 7-point magnitude, and due to that, they fit the country in an economic wrangle due to the significant damage that it caused (Lu, & Xu, 2014). Due to this, the country has taken to implement measures that help in the mitigation and prevention, and handling of earthquakes so that they can minimize the damages as much as possible in the coming years. Given the current technological advancements, they are in a better position to predict an earthquake, which can help prepare for it to even manage its occurrence (Lu, & Xu, 2014). Earthquakes can last for a short duration, but the damage caused depends on the quake's magnitude. That is why the emergency action plan is crucial for its management. Given the significant developments within china like the roads, the infrastructure, and the structures like buildings, an earthquake with a big magnitude has the potential of causing much damage to the property and a possible loss of lives. That is where the emergency and mitigation plan comes in. The efforts that they have put in place in the last few years combined with the current technology. Therefore, they can work on managing the earthquakes before they happen.

**Earthquake Scenario**

Notably, when an earthquake hits, it does not choose what to hit or destroy. Anything within the area that it hits is affected, depending on its magnitude and duration. In the case of an earthquake with a magnitude of 6 and above, it can cause so much damage. Given that it is an instantaneous event, it has the potential of causing so much damage to property, infrastructure, and anything that it comes across. For better analysis on how to handle n earthquake, there will be a provision of a scenario that will help paint a complete picture of what can happen and the best way to respond in such a case. The earthquake will occur in the area that has faulty systems, and due to that, it will be a bit more severe, unlike other regions. Located in southwest China, these fault systems make the area more susceptible to an earthquake. The general earthquake effects that will be felt will include shaking and damages, landslides, rock falling, among others. This will also involve surface faulting due to the magnitude of the earthquake. These effects will mainly be felt in the neighboring areas, which can cause more damage than this (On Health, 2008). Within this scenario, the earthquake will last for about eight minutes and will spread over a long mile radius, given its magnitude.

**Buildings and Structures**

Over the years, given the propensity for earthquakes, the country has taken to pushing for modern buildings and structures that are well established within the ground and reinforced, which means that unless the earthquake is very severe, they can withstand the tremors. Even then, the traditional structures have not been reinforced and will acquire some cracks due to the pressures of the shaking. In this typical case, there is an important requirement to have an evacuation plan for the people who live in this building (On Health, 2008). If the foundation of the structures is affected, there is no saying how long it will remain erect. While the shaking may not cause significant causalities, their situations will worsen if they continue living in the structures. That is why, after it has settled, they should all be moved to secure places.

**Indoor Safety**

There is a need to know the necessary actions to take while the earthquake is happening. That is, people should stay away from windows and glass to avoid injuries that may occur if the glass breaks. Immediately that the earthquake starts, the people within the building should take cover under strong structures and drop to the ground. Hold on to it until it is over, and if possible, move when it moves do not let go. Avoid any structures that can fall, like the lighting, the walls, and the decor in the house to avoid as much injury as possible. In the case that one is in their bedroom, they should protect their hands with the pillow and avoid being under any lights or anything that can fall on them (On Health, 2008). In the case of lights out, avoid the usage of candles. The best alternative is a battery-charged flashlight which cannot cause much damage. Staying together is necessary during a disaster occurrence. In the case of a crowded area, stay away from the shelves and avoid running to the doorway, find a place that you can support yourself with a strong structure, and avoid any falling down an object that can cause harm or damage.

Observably, if one is outdoors, they must avoid being near any of the buildings or streetlights if they can find a place with no structures to avoid any damage by falling objects or utility wires (Lu, & Xu, 2014). Once one has found an opening, they should stay there until the shaking stops. This is because the significant damages in an earthquake are caused by falling buildings, structures, or landslides, which means that an open area is safer in terms of the falling objects and structures which can cause harm.

**After the Earthquake**

Move to a more secure place of possible carry the care kit so that the injured people can be helped. Take account of the people who are there and make sure that everyone is accounted for from every area. With this, it becomes easier to help those who may be trapped as they can easily be identified (Wegscheider et al., 2013). At the same time, those with injuries can be attended to and evacuated to safer places before they are offered a more permanent solution due to the damages. In the case that one is in an automobile, they must avoid driving off the have to. They have to be very careful as the roads could be fragile or filled with cracks.

At the same time, the community should provide a program that will offer support for the affected as being involved in an earthquake can be traumatizing and life-changing. That is why and psychological help is crucial (Wu, Xu, & He, 2014). For the better mental health of the community, it should provide programs that will help the people on the psychological level. With these programs, they can manage to handle the event that they went through and find a healthier way to cope with the losses and trauma.

**Conclusion**

A significant portion of natural disasters cannot be prevented, but that does not mean that they cannot be managed. With the right preparation and predictions, it is possible to manage the damage they can cause and avoid much havoc. Natural disasters like earthquakes depend on a larger aspect like the fault systems, which require a lot of effort to streamline; that is why having a preparedness and emergency action plan is necessary. In addition, it can help minimize the damages and casualties that it causes in case of an outbreak.

**References**

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