

EMERGENCY REPAIR AND DEMOLITION SERVICE

The large scale destruction of public property will make it necessary to arrange for quick repairs so as to facilitate rapid response and expedite recovery in the affected zone. This will also assist in ensuring maintenance of public morale.

Generally it will be the responsibility of the appropriate authorities to undertake repairs for which they are normally responsible in peace time. They should augment and equip their repair personnel to deal with added risks of emergencies.

Repairs to property

After a disaster, large number of buildings may become damaged, rendering residents of these buildings homeless. While these people will find temporary shelter in rest Centers the solution lies in rebuilding and repairing the houses that are damaged or destroyed. Whilst it is not possible during emergencies to undertake the reconstruction of buildings which had been destroyed or to undertake extensive repairs to buildings which have been badly damaged. There would be a large number of building the whole or parts of which could be made habitable after minor repairs. These buildings after they are restored to habitable condition would provide permanent accommodation to a number of homeless families. It is therefore desirable that-

- Privately owned premises which have been slightly damaged by the event should be rendered habitable as soon as possible after the damage has occurred. Urgent repair would also be required for shops dealing in essential commodities, emergency catering establishments, Rest centers, Hospitals, etc. In many cases public will be willing to undertake their own minor repairs and assistance in the form of building material can be provided. State Governments should undertake repairs only when the premises are required to house the homeless and the owner himself is unable to affect the repairs.
- Such repairs should not extend beyond which it is necessary to render the building fit for habitation. This would not include interior decoration and replacement of fittings, etc.
- Arrangements should be made for the early inspection of slightly damaged premises by a person authorized to decide on the extent of the repairs necessary and a record should be kept of approved cost.
- Repairs would only be undertaken by the state Government if
 - There is a real need for the building to be made habitable.
 - That it will in fact be inhabited as soon as the repairs are done.
 - That the expenditure is restricted to the minimum necessary for making the building habitable.
 - That relief is afforded only to those who are unable to carry out the repairs without it.
- Repairs to property of industrial and commercial under-takings, business premises, public utility undertakings, transport services and government buildings should be carried out by the authority responsible in peace time for such repairs.

Arrangements must be made with local P.W.D authorities, who should organize Repair and Demolition Squads for this purpose under their control, to ensure that the necessary stock of material and implements are available for repairs. These squads will also undertake demolition work. Special arrangements must be made for public utilities viz. electricity, gas, water, etc. to restore the essential services in the damaged buildings as quickly as possible.

Due to paucity of manpower in the affected zone, it will be necessary to organize volunteer members to assist the PWD officers in the repair and demolition work.

Repairs to Docks, Harbours, Canals, Ferries, Railway's, etc. will also be carried out by the respective authorities themselves.

Repairs to Road and Clearance of Debris

Roads, culverts and bridges are likely to be damaged by devastating events and if they are not quickly repaired they would badly affect communications between several parts of a district resulting in lowering the morale of people as well as severely affect movement of C.D. Emergency Services. The roads may also be blocked by debris or falling masonry requiring organization of groups / teams for the clearance of debris. Repairs to the roads should be undertaken by the Municipal Authorities/P.W.D/Corporations concerned on priority so that they are put into operable condition as soon as possible.

Repairs to Essential Services

The services like water supply, sewerage, electricity, telephones / cellular phones and gas works usually maintain their own repair teams. The essential service organizations must prepare additional teams for emergency purposes for rapid restoration of their services.

Demolitions

Some buildings damaged during emergencies might be standing in a dangerous condition and might pose potential danger to the public. Their presence near road side might endanger lives and traffic on the roads. Hence it will be necessary to get these building dismantled as quickly as possible to remove the source of danger and also to restore traffic along the roads. Demolition of some building may necessitate the use of explosives. This work should therefore be undertaken with the help of the military authorities where possible.

Organization

- Chief Officer Repair & Demolition - 1 upto 6 lakh population.
- Public Works Repair Team - 1 per 3 lakh
 - Jr. Civil Engineer - 1
 - Masons - 2
 - Labourers - 5
- Demolition Team - 1 per 3 lakh
 - Jr.Civil Engineer - 1
 - Assistants - 4

(Equipment and vehicles to be arranged as per requirement by PWD)