

## **DEAD DISPOSAL SERVICE**

Our country has been the victim of different types of disasters that have had significant, long-term consequences for the development of communities, intensifying the poverty and increasing obstacles to progress, particularly among populations with scarce economic resources.

Death does not end human suffering, especially when death is sudden, as the result of a disaster. The death of a loved one leaves an indelible mark on the survivors, and unfortunately, because of the lack of information, the families of the deceased suffer additional harm because of the inadequate way that the bodies of the dead are handled. These secondary injuries are unacceptable, particularly if they are the consequence of direct authorization or action on the part of the authorities or those responsible for humanitarian assistance.

Regrettably, we continue to be witness to the use of common graves and mass cremations for the rapid disposal of dead bodies owing to the myths and beliefs that Corpses pose a high risk for epidemics. The most serious aspect is that these measures are carried out without respecting identification processes or preserving the individuality of the deceased. Not only do these actions go against the cultural and religious practices of a population, but they have social, psychological, emotional, economic, and legal repercussions regarding the legacy of the deceased, which exacerbate the damage caused by the disaster.

The State has a critical role in standardizing and guiding the tasks of handling dead bodies (recovery, identification, transfer, and final disposal), ensuring that legal norms are followed, and guaranteeing that the dignity of the deceased and their families is respected in accordance with their cultural values and religious beliefs.

The maximum number of dead bodies likely needing disposal after an emergency/disaster must be estimated; arrangements must be such as to be able to deal with this number in a very short space of time. These arrangements should include disposal of all civilian corpses in urban & rural areas, military establishments, railway occupied areas, port areas and on ships in the ports. Provision is necessary for sending information of all deaths to the Civil Defence Information office.

The amount of casualties and extent of damage are shall not to be shared with any person after any emergency/disaster but to the authorities. This information will be issued only by the government designated spokesperson. This caution applies to all branches of Civil Defence Services in an area.

**Organization** - The Dead Disposal Service should be under the control of an officer of the Health Department of the Municipality or Corporation as the case may be.

- Chief Manager Dead Recovery - 1 (per district)
- Asst. Manager Dead Recovery - 1(per 2 lakhs)
- **Medico-legal Team** - 1(per 6 lakhs)
  - Forensic Specialist - 2
  - Pathologist - 1
  - Mortuary Attendants - 2
  - Volunteer Assistants - 3(can be from Red Cross)
- **Dead Disposal Teams** - 1(per 2 lakhs)
  - Leader - 1
  - Attendants - 4
  - Driver - 1

Some local voluntary organizations may be persuaded to join the Dead Disposal Service to form the squads for disposing of unclaimed bodies.

During an emergency, it will be the responsibility of the public to report all deaths occurring due to the emergency/disaster to the police who will make necessary enquiries under section 174 (Cr P.C.) and unclaimed dead bodies will then be disposed of by the Dead Disposal Squads. Dead bodies of Defence personnel should be handed over to the military authorities. The Assistant Manager Dead Recovery will select & designate areas as below for management of dead procedures -

- **Holding Area** - To facilitate identification of dead bodies, which is typically in an open space, set up to receive human remains following their removal from the disaster site. It is used while an initial description and classification are made, based on general features (race, sex, age, and stature) or other distinguishing features.
- **Viewing Area** – To be designated where family members and others will view photographs of the bodies, objects pertaining to the deceased, and finally, the bodies themselves.
- **Examination Area** - To conduct a more detailed exterior assessment of the body, provide a detailed description of the remains or fragments found, do an internal examination to confirm information received, take samples for laboratory studies or make a complete autopsy.

### Annexure to Chapter-XX

#### EQUIPMENT FOR DEAD DISPOSAL SERVICE

S.No.	Items	Quantity
1.	<b>Personal Equipment:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helmet (Fibre glass in blue colour)</li> <li>• Rechargeable Electric Torch (per Squad leader)</li> <li>• Nose Pad</li> <li>• Rubber Gloves (pairs)</li> </ul>	1 each 1 1 each 1 each
<b>Dead Disposal Squad Equipment</b>		
2.	Stretchers	2
3.	Spades	4
4.	Tarpaulin 12' X 12'	1
5.	20 ft length Nylon Ropes 10mm	2
6.	Bucket	1
7.	Disinfectant (litres)	5
8.	Duster Cloth (dozen)	1
9.	Basket	1
10.	Soap Bar	4
11.	Hand Towels	6
12.	Woven Gunny Bags, Plastic	6
13.	Body Bags	20
14.	Identification Label Tags	24