Chapter - XXI

EMERGENCY PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

During emergencies the most dangerous impact is witnessed on local public health systems, which if not properly organized may lead to further loss of lives. Apart from epidemics, improper sanitation will also give rise to serious repercussions on the functioning of C.D. Services and the morale of the people as a whole.

Functions

- Participate in hazard vulnerability and risk assessments of the area(s).
- Conduct a capacity assessment defining the resources of the public health system in the community and those available through mutual-aid agreements.
- Acquire resources and build capacity necessary to perform the basic missions assigned to public health.
- Develop plans, procedures, and guidelines that are consistent with those used by other emergency services and organizations in the community.
- Develop operational objectives for public health emergency response.
- Develop basic systems for morbidity, mortality, syndromic, and mental / behavioral surveillance and registries for affected populations with appropriate data archiving systems.
- Provide orientation and training to public health response personnel, including volunteers on the emergency operations plans, procedures, guidelines, command & Incident management systems practiced by authorities.
- Maintenance or restoration of sanitation standards in the disposal of sewage and solid waste. This may have to be accomplished despite the loss or diminishing of water supply.
- Regulation of sanitation in shelters and emergency camps.
- Control of rodents and insects which aid in transmission of disease pathogen.
- Prevention of epidemics by mass inoculation.

Organization

The Local Public Health authorities will head the service and will be assisted by volunteer specialists to strengthen & expand the system.

Chief Manager Public Health
Assistant Manager Public Health
Public Health Survey team (2 Health workers)
Volunteer Health Assistants
1(per 3 lakh)
4 (per 3 lakh)

Local Public Health Authorities will also seek assistance of local private medical practitioners to regularly & promptly report on any outbreaks. The local LPHA will hold adequate reserves of equipment and PPE for emergency requirements in addition to antidotes/vaccines. Pre-planning for procedures of isolation and quarantine of affected population must be carried out by the LPHA.