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The Operation of the Management System of Fire Brigades During the Performance of the Tasks of Damage Elimination – Part 2.

Attila Kozák, László Komjáthy

Abstract

Today it is the age of rearrangements in Hungary. Rearrangements can have various causes. In Hungary's present situation the primary aspect for organisations managing from state norms is generally the expectable cost savings. These days, integrated disaster relief is one of such areas, too. Since 1 January 2012 the fire protection management of Hungary has been performed by a central organ, the National General Directorate for Disaster Relief. During the reorganisation the management system of the rescue fire protection has also changed. In Hungary during the reorganisation we have managed to avoid disasters in plenty of cases thanks to the professional fire-fighting interventions. It can clearly be seen that the introduction of and research into the professional management system of the fire-fighters is required at each organisational and management level, because this activity is rather complex and its development increases the sense of security of the Hungarian citizens in the future. In my article I present the management and the management system of the fire brigade. I aim to study the organisational management process of the fire brigades, to demonstrate the new elements of today's fire brigade as well as the tasks and activities of the organs involved in the performance.

Keywords: Disaster relief, Professional Fire Fighters' Captaincy organisational management levels, reorganisation, public administration.

JEL classification: H40, H49

Introduction

The organisations managing the public administration are periodically required to determine the main directions and methods of the necessary changes in separate programs. In certain cases it may be necessary that the established culture of the organisation is changed consciously. This program served as the framework among others for launching the centralisation, reconsideration and reform of our public administration system, including the prosecution administration, which affects the whole system of the disaster relief organisation [1]. Besides many other things, this required a new constitution. Thanks to this and plenty of other influences, the new Basic Act in Hungary highlights and emphasises the significance of the disaster relief area both directly and indirectly. This Act makes the protection, maintenance and preservation of natural resources compulsory to the state and every citizen and states that Hungary acknowledges and enforces everyone's right to a healthy environment [1].

In today's Hungary the protection against disasters is one of the most current national issues. By today it has become clear that safety and security is not simply a technical problem but a complex social issue, not simply a local or a professional problem but a global issue, and we can expect lengthy, long-term challenges rather than solutions to the problems in the short term.

"Disaster relief (the prevention and protection against disasters) is a national issue, and the fulfilment of the role expected by the society requires the performance of corrections adjusting to the various natural and other changes, the increase of the

state participation and the realisation of the necessary developments [2]."

Considering disasters, the industrial facilities producing hazardous materials and the transportation of materials resulted in disasters owing to the violation of the technological requirements. The multidirectional risk of the critical infrastructure and the deficiencies in the protection systems have caused supply problems in Europe affecting half the Globe several times. Some serious accidents occurred at facilities used for crowds of people and at outside events have called our attention on serious problems. The term "risk situation" has been introduced owing to the emergence of such problems.

1. The System of National Protection

The national protection system can be divided into four parts.

1.1 The Elements of the Government-level Management

- Government,
- governmental co-ordination body,
- the minister (internal minister) in charge of protection against disasters,
- sectoral ministers,
- a central public administrative organs.

The Government carries out the supreme organisation and management of the protection against disasters. It is responsible for the governmental level performance of planning and the co-ordination of tasks related to disaster relief between

the portfolios. Considering the disaster relief tasks, the Government has decision-making and acting competences. For the preparation of its decisions related to disaster relief and the sectoral co-ordination and management of the protection-related tasks, the Government operates a governmental co-ordination organ. The detailed tasks of the Governmental co-ordination organ are specified in Governmental Resolution no. 1515/2011. (XII. 29.) concerning the establishment of the Co-ordination Governmental Committee for Disaster Relief as well as the determination of the organisational and functional order thereof. The Chairperson of the Co-ordination Governmental Committee for Disaster Relief is the Prime Minister, the Deputy Chairperson is the interior minister, and the Members are the Ministers. It operates the Academic Council for the scientific promotion of the activities carried out by the Co-ordination Governmental Committee for Disaster Relief and the professionally well-founded preparation for decision-making, and the National Centre for Risk Situation Management for the support of its operative activity as an operative work organ.

1.2 The Elements of the Territorial Level Administration

- the county, metropolitan protection committees,
- the local protection committees.

The intended purpose of the territorial level is to co-ordinate and manage the county and local level tasks of prevention, preparation and protection in its areas of competence, with the participation of the territorial organ of the professional disaster relief organ. The key duties include the tasks related to the mutual assistance, notice-giving, alarm and information-supply between the settlements, other counties and the capital city, and its activities focusing on the organising of territorial-level co-operation between the public administrative organs, the Hungarian Army, the public order protection organs and the social organisations. The Chairperson of the county, metropolitan protection committee is the governmental commissioner. There are two Deputy Chairpersons (one in charge of national defence and another one in charge of disaster relief), of which the position of the Deputy Chairperson for Disaster Relief is fulfilled by the Head of the Territorial Organ of the Professional Organ for Disaster Relief.

During the prevention period:

- It provides for the preparation of the county and local organisation within its authority related to disaster relief.
- It manages the drills organised by MBV (FVB) for the organs and organisations involved in the protection against disasters and supervises the efficiency of the preparations.
- It ensures the involvement of the social and charity organisations in the tasks of preparation.
- It is responsible for the preparation for and performance of alarm and information supply; it ensures the operation of the tools required for the alarm and information supply for the population and business organisations.
- In an annual schedule of duties it specifies the tasks related to the preparation of mayors.

- It may initiate the elaboration of mutual assistance plans based upon agreements concluded with other counties and the capital city.
- It exercises the right of agreement in relation to proposals made by the competent professional disaster relief organ concerning the structure and staff of local civil protection organisations.
- It submits the proposals made by the mayors of locally competent settlements to the minister in charge of protection against disasters concerning the disaster relief classification of settlements.
- It organises the co-operation between the public administrative organs and the civil protection organisations
- It is responsible for the maintenance of the management system and the provision of its functionality.

During the protection period:

- It organises the performance of the territorial protection tasks specified by the Government.
- It manages the protection.
- It may integrate the management of protection if according to the its own or the given Mayor's situation evaluation the protection against disasters is beyond the facilities of the local protection committee.
- In cases that may not be delayed, it orders the evacuation of citizens from the areas at danger to the extent required for the protection of life and material assets in the locally usual manner, for a temporary period.
- It orders, based upon the measure by the internal minister, or in cases that cannot be delayed, informing them subsequently, the application of civil protection organisations.
- It co-ordinates the evacuation, rescue, receipt and supply of the population and the material assets as well as the organisation of the local protection.

1.3 The Elements of the Local-level Management

The local-level management is realised through the mayor. During the prevention period:

- It is responsible for the preparation of the settlement risk elimination plans and, with consideration of the local opportunities, for ensuring the conditions for protection.
- It manages the preparation for protection.
- It exercises the first-instance civil protection official authority in disaster relief affairs.
- It sends citizens under civil protection obligation to the regional, settlement, district and workplace civil protection organisation for training and drill.
- It is responsible for the set-up of a settlement civil protection organisation based upon the civil protection obligation.
- It provides for the operation of technical equipment in its public administrative area serving the alarming of the population.

- It participates in the preparations organised by the professional disaster relief organs for the fulfilment of its tasks.
- It appoints a public security rapporteur involved in the tasks related to the protection against disasters.

The tasks of protection management:

- It manages the local disaster relief activity on the settlement under the professional guidance of the professional disaster relief organ.
- In cases that cannot be delayed, it orders measures needed for the protection of life and material assets for a temporary period.
- It organises and manages the protection, evacuation, rescue, reception and repatriation of the population.
- It obliges any citizen under civil protection obligation for civil protection service through a resolution.
- It organises and manages the protection, evacuation, rescue, reception and repatriation of the population.
- It organises and manages the protection of material assets and the provision of the population with material assets required for their living.
- It orders the application of civil protection organisations for the settlement.
- It co-operates with the mayors of other settlements and other organisations involved in the protection.

Other agents involved:

- business organisations,
- participating organisations,
- natural entities.

For the fulfilment of protection tasks, business organisations are also involved based upon official resolutions.

The social and charity organisations participate in the fulfilment of tasks related to the protection against disasters based upon agreements with the professional disaster relief organs [3].

2. A New Alarm System

The lines that used to directly connect at the fire brigades have been redirected to the newly established county operations management centres. The rapporteurs on duty take the signals, determine the alarm degree under the management of the operations management officials and the chief officials on duty and select the appropriate equipment of the fire brigade according to the operational area for the elimination of the case.

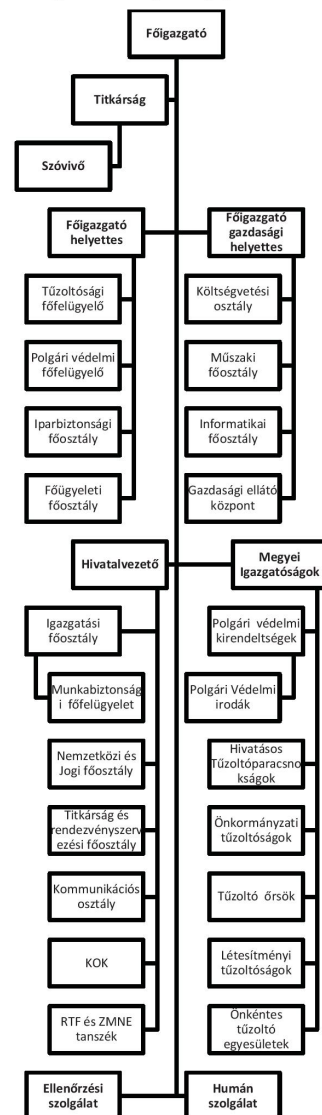
The establishment of the operations management system is one of the elements of the renewal of the whole system. PAJZS, the central IT system supported with geographic information system has a damage case handling and alarm module, with which fire-extinguishing agents can be designated to the damage cases; with a county-level equipment rearrangement module, which serves the force- and tool management, and with a map module.

The map module is capable of a series of things, for instance, it presents the key data of each settlement in Hungary in fire-

extinguishing and technical rescue terms (operational and competence areas, accessibility, etc.); and it automatically makes a suggestion for an alarm order. The point of it is that it determines the recommended route of the units to be alarmed depending upon availability, broken down to settlements; it displays operations management map objects.

The fire-fighting-headquarters keep uploading the various data including the water-taking sites, the facilities having a fire-extinguishing and technical rescue plan, the bridges and overpasses (indicating any potential restrictions, too), the fire brigades, police stations, hospitals, educational institutions, etc. into the system. Besides, PAJZS shows how many inhabitants are involved in the event, demonstrates the current fire-extinguishing, technical rescue events on a surface and will be able to follow the fire-extinguishing vehicles on a GPS basis [4].

Table 1. The new organization system [4]



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The establishment of the operations management is one of the elements of the renewal of the whole duty system. PAJZS, the central IT system supported with geographic information system has a damage case handling and alarm module, with which fire-extinguishing agents can be designated to the damage cases; with a county-level equipment rearrangement module, which serves the force- and tool management, and with a map module. The map module is capable of a series of things, for instance, it presents the key data of each settlement in Hungary in fire-extinguishing and technical rescue terms (operational and competence areas, accessibility, etc.); and it automatically makes a suggestion for an alarm order. The point of it is that it determines the recommended route of the units to be alarmed depending upon availability, broken down to settlements; it displays operations management map objects. The fire-fighting-headquarters keep uploading the various data including the water-taking sites, the facilities having a fire-extinguishing and technical rescue plan, the bridges and overpasses (indicating any potential restrictions, too), the fire brigades, police stations, hospitals, educational institutions, etc. into the system. Besides, PAJZS shows how many inhabitants are involved in the event, demonstrates the current fire-extinguishing, technical rescue events on a surface and will be able to follow the fire-extinguishing vehicles on a GPS basis [5].

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etc. into the system. Besides, PAJZS shows how many inhabitants are involved in the event, demonstrates the current fire-extinguishing, technical rescue events on a surface and will be able to follow the fire-extinguishing vehicles on a GPS basis

2.1 The Management and Organisation of Fire-extinguishing

A fire-extinguishing organisation consists of leaders and performers appointed from the members of the fire brigade for the performance of tasks related to fire-extinguishing, in accordance with the effective decrees.

Depending upon the types of the tasks, other organisations and individuals may also be involved at the fire-extinguishing organisation.

The fire-extinguishing organisation is managed by the leader of the fire-extinguishing. The management of the staff performing the fire-extinguishing shall take place as follows:

- With basic management, if the intervening forces are led by the leader of the fire-extinguishing on his/her own.
- With group management, if the performers of the fire-extinguishing and their assistants can be directed only distributively.
- With a leading team, if the size, complication of the case, the arrangement of the scene, the number of persons in the intervening forces or other conditions require a higher level of distribution of the tasks.

2.2 The Hand-over and Take-over of the Leading of Fire-extinguishing

Having arrived at the scene, the high-rank person authorised to lead fire-extinguishing shall decide on the basis of the situation assessment about the take-over of the leading of fire-extinguishing.

The take-over or the failure of take-over of the leading of fire-extinguishing shall be told clearly to the leader of the fire-extinguishing, reported to the news duty service according to the functional area as well as to the individuals involved in the organisation of leading the fire-extinguishing.

Without the take-over of the leading of fire-extinguishing, neither the individual authorised to the take-over nor an individual outside the fire-extinguishing organisation may give commands or orders to the persons involved in the fire-extinguishing.

The hand-over and take-over of the leading of fire-extinguishing has the following order:

The leading may be taken over from the not full-time institutional fire brigade by the local governmental fire brigade, and from the local governmental fire brigade to the professional disaster relief organ,

The leading may be taken over from the full-time institutional fire brigade by the professional disaster relief organ,

The leading may be taken from the local governmental fire brigade by the professional disaster relief organ.

The individual authorised to lead fire-extinguishing, upon the situation assessment, shall be responsible even without taking over the leading of fire-extinguishing for everything that happens at the scene in relation to the elimination of the case, except for the functional area of the full-time institutional fire brigade.

The leader of the fire-extinguishing may reject the leading of the fire-extinguishing on the basis of the situation assessment to the person entitled.

A professional fire brigade is responsible for the leading of fire-extinguishing within its functional area.

If the fire brigade unit according to the functional area is not at the scene, then the individual authorised to lead fire-extinguishing who is the first to arrive at the scene shall be responsible for the leading of the fire-extinguishing.

If then the individual authorised to lead fire-extinguishing comes from a lower-level organisation, then the leading can be taken over to him/her.

If the fire brigade responsible for the leading of the fire-extinguishing sends a member authorised to lead fire-extinguishing from the same or higher level organisation, then he/she will be handed over and will accept the leading of the fire-extinguishing.

The leading of the fire-extinguishing shall be taken over by the higher-ranked individual authorised to lead fire-extinguishing at the scene if the fire-extinguishing leader is unable to fulfil his/her task.

If there is no individual authorised to lead fire-extinguishing who has a higher position than the individual leading the fire-extinguishing at the scene and the fire-extinguishing leader is unable to fulfil his/her task, then the individual authorised to lead fire-extinguishing who has a lower position is obliged to take over the leading of the fire-extinguishing [6].

Conclusion

This article clearly shows that the management system of the fire brigade has considerably changed. Thanks to this process, any process of the management can be supervised and managed by the general director – director at central and regional levels any time at any level. With the central management system established in this way, the operation of the system has become more transparent and quickly reorganisable rather than slower. One of the problems to be solved in the short term is the covering of blank spots with disaster relief stations and the supporting of voluntary fire brigades that operate efficiently on the blank spots at present.

The transformation of the operations management is not perfect yet; however, the introduction of emergency number 112 will result in one single system where several operations

can be carried out simultaneously and the elimination of various cases of damage will take less time. Also, it will make the service organisation and the stock management easier, and it will be easier to create harmony both in the rescue and in the provision of assistance.

I can experience the advantages of multi-level management personally because the tasks for each level are specified accurately. My professional experience also shows that central management can be the basis for a system that functions well.

I suppose it is a reasonable idea to involve the civil protection in the various types of protection to a larger extent. Today civil protection is changing rapidly. The classification of the settlement to disaster relief risk is being prepared, various plans are being drafted and updated by the disaster relief commissioner and the settlement public security rapporteurs, which are new positions, under the co-ordination of the professional fire-fighting-commandant. This field requires the harmonisation of the civil protection disaster relief and army plans, whose opportunity can be provided by the new protection administration at district level. This process will largely depend upon the co-operation between the two deputy chairpersons of HVB.

Citizens should be made aware of the fact that to a certain extent they are also responsible for prevention and protection. This issue will also be solved after a while with proper preparations, with various population information systems through presentations held at schools, kindergartens and at the events of business and non-profit organisations. The students were introduced to the performance of fire-fighting works during community services organised for them at the fire brigades.

Practically, the system has become entirely clear. However, through the elimination of problems in the meantime, the management system of disaster relief will soon be able to always pass the best measures possible for the elimination of any damage case.

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