Overview of Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF)

Background of Civil Emergency

Definition of Civil Emergency

Incident Management System

Conclusion

Scope of Presentation

Main roles of SCDF

- Provide fire fighting, rescue and emergency ambulance services
- Formulate, implement and enforce regulations on fire safety and civil defence shelter matters.

SCDF is the National Authority for fire fighting, rescue and emergency ambulance services, during peacetime and wartime.

MISSION

To Protect & Save Lives and Property for a Safe and Secure Singapore
Manpower

- 2,000 Regular Officers
- 3,300 National Servicemen (NSF)
- 9,800 ORNSmen (Reservists)

Singapore is fortunate to be spared from natural disasters. However, accidents can occur, despite all efforts and preventive measures. More concerned with man-made disaster

SCENARIOS

**Major Fires**
- In Chemical Plants

**Collapsed Buildings and Structures**
- Eg: Collapse of subway construction site

**Major Transport Accidents**
- Mass Rapid Transit
- Transportation hubs
- Underground Road Tunnel Incidents

**Major Industrial Accidents**
- Toxic Industrial Chemical Release
- Acts of Terrorism Involving The Use of Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Explosives (CBRE)

Eg. Collapse of subway construction site

- Date - Tues, 20 Apr 04
- Time - 1535 hrs
- SCDF received many calls
  “At the construction site there is an explosion and fire……”
- Incident involved Underground Subway Worksite (31m deep tunnel) & 100m of Nicoll Highway

BILLBOARD

IMMEDIATE SCENE

- Massive gas leak
- Sea water gushing into cavity
- Ruptured water mains
- Ruptured electrical mains
- Power failure at nearby buildings
- Occupants of nearby building self-evacuated
- Unstable area of operations
- 4 persons unaccounted for
INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

...in the event of a Civil Emergency

Ops Civil Emergency Plan (Ops CE)

Why National Civil Emergency?
- Sudden incidents involving large-scale loss of lives or damage to property
- Major incident with potential to escalate in scale
- Grave national, diplomatic or political implications
- Require multi-agency response to manage the entire spectrum of events arising from the incident

Concept of Operations
- SCDF, as the Incident Manager (IM), will command, control and co-ordinate the entire operations through the Tactical Headquarters (TACT HQ)
- Related Agencies from various government bodies will adopt a multi-agency approach where SCDF is the IM, assisted by a group of specialists from various government agencies known as the Joint Planning Staff
- Related Agencies’s ground forces will be under Operational Command (Opcon) to the IM
- IM will be guided by the Homefront Crisis Executive Group (HCEG) at Ministry of Home Affairs Headquarters. This group will provide policy guidance to the IM.

PHASES OF OPERATIONS

Commissioner SCDF as Incident Manager (IM)...

...overall in-charge of multi-agency response

IM directs all response forces - supported by a Joint Planning Staff...

JPS role is to provide specialist advice to IM as well as ensure the proper execution of the orders by their respective ground forces
Related Agencies involved during Civil Emergencies

- Singapore Police Force (SPF)
- Ministry of Health (MOH)
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)
- Ministry of Community Development, Young & Sports (MCYS)
- National Environment Agency (NEA)
- Singapore Power (PowerGrid)
- Public Utilities Board (PUB)
- Singapore Armed Forces (SAF)
- Housing Development Board (HDB)
- Building Control Authority (BCA)
- Immigration & Checkpoint Authority (ICA)
- Singapore Armed Forces (SAF)
- Civil Aviation Authority of S’pore (CAAS)
- Land Transport Authority (LTA)
- S’pore Mass Rapid Transit (SMRT)
- S’pore Bus Service Transit (SBST)
- Maritime Port Authority (MPA)
- Info-Communications Development Authority (IDA)
- Singapore Tourism Board (STB)
- Health Sciences Authority (HSA)
- Defence Science Organisation (DSO-NL)
- Ministry of Education (MOE)
- Singapore Police Force (SPF)
- Ministry of Health (MOH)
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)
- Ministry of Community Development, Young & Sports (MCYS)
- National Environment Agency (NEA)
- Singapore Power (PowerGas)
- Public Utilities Board (PUB)
- Singapore Armed Forces (SAF)
- Housing Development Board (HDB)
- Building Control Authority (BCA)
- Immigration & Checkpoint Authority (ICA)

Main Tasks of IM
- Conduct of Fire Fighting and Rescue Operations
- Medical Triage and Treatment of Injured and Medical Evacuation to Hospitals
- Decontamination of Contaminated Personnel
- Identification of the Casualties (Live and Dead)
- Collation of Casualty Information/Figures
- Management of Next-of-Kins
- Management of the Affected Population
- Management of Volunteer Resources
- Recovery of Incident Site

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

Policy Layer
- HCEG Secretariat

Strategic Layer
- IM (SCDF)
- Joint Planning Staff

Tactical Layer
- INFO MGMT TEAM (IMT)
- SCDF (DIV)
- SPF (DIV)
- SPF (CID)
- MOH
- MCYS
- MICA

Typical Organisation of an Incident Site

Underground subway construction site collapse

- Lasted 5 days
- “Round the Clock” search and rescue operations
- Joint Planning to mitigate hazards and coordinate evacuation operations

Nicoll Highway Collapse

- Close coordination between SCDF Rescuers and Engineering Specialists from many agencies (Building Control Authority, Land Transport Authority, etc)
Media agencies engaged to support information dissemination and management
Media provided useful feedback and helped to quell rumours

Next-of-Kin Management by community agencies
- Provide emotional and logistical needs to NOKs
- Visits to incident site were arranged
- Assisted in funeral rites

SUMMARY
The National Response to major incidents in Singapore is governed by the Ops Civil Emergency Plan, where SCDF is the Incident Manager.

The plan lays out the command & control structure to coordinate the efforts of individual agencies as they work towards the common goal of stabilising the incident and protecting life and property.

Thank you