

SINGAPORE CIVIL DEFENCE FORCE



## Singapore's National Civil Emergency Management Structure

### *Scope of Presentation*

Overview of Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF)

Background of Civil Emergency

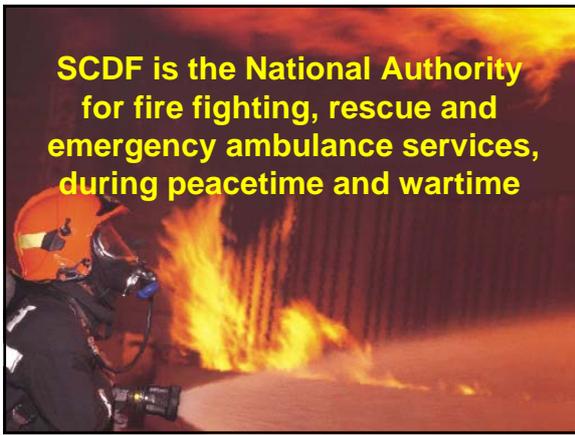
Definition of Civil Emergency

Incident Management System

Conclusion



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



### 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.



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

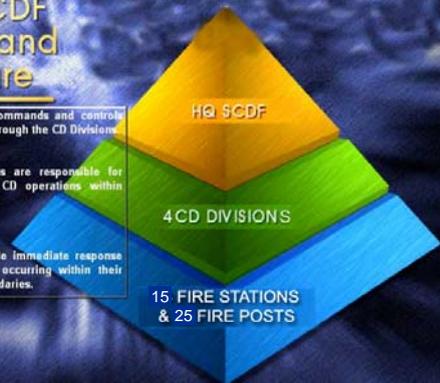


### The SCDF Command Structure

The HQ SCDF commands and controls the SCDF units through the CD Divisions

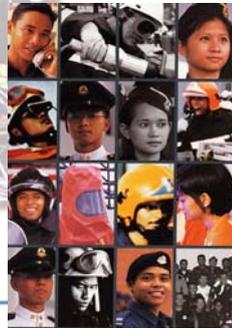
The CD Divisions are responsible for the conduct of CD operations within their boundaries.

Fire Stations provide immediate response to the incidents occurring within their operational boundaries.



## 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

- Eg: In Chemical Plants

### Collapsed Buildings and Structures

- Eg: Collapse of subway construction site

### Major Transport Accidents

- Mass Rapid Transit
- Transportation Hubs
- Air Crash (outside airports)
- 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



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## 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

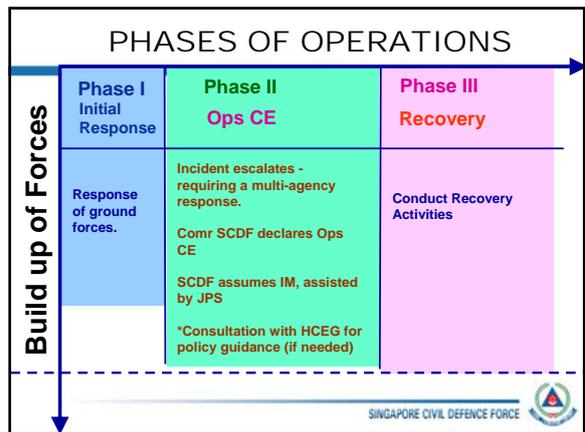




### Why National Civil Emergency?

- 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.



### 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*

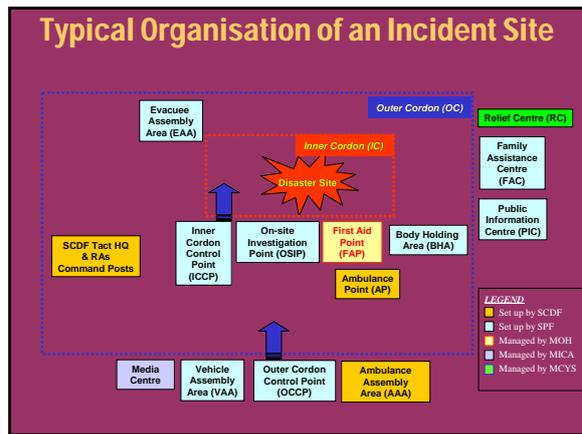
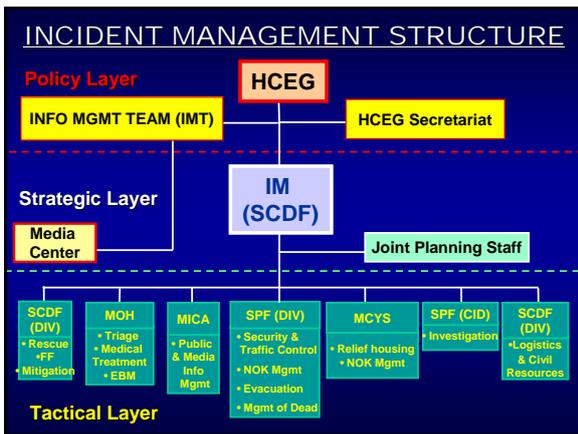
## Related Agencies Involved during Civil Emergencies

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Singapore Police Force (SPF)</li> <li>• Ministry of Health (MOH)</li> <li>• Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)</li> <li>• Ministry of Community Development Youth &amp; Sports (MCYS)</li> <li>• National Environment Agency (NEA)</li> <li>• Singapore Power (PowerGrid)</li> <li>• Singapore Power (PowerGas)</li> <li>• Public Utilities Board (PUB)</li> <li>• Singapore Armed Forces (SAF)</li> <li>• Housing Development Board (HDB)</li> <li>• Building Control Authority (BCA)</li> <li>• Immigration &amp; Checkpoint Authority (ICA)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Singapore Armed Forces (SAF)</li> <li>• Civil Aviation Authority of S'pore (CAAS)</li> <li>• Land Transport Authority (LTA)</li> <li>• S'pore Mass Rapid Transit (SMRT)</li> <li>• S'pore Bus Service Transit (SBST)</li> <li>• Maritime Port Authority (MPA)</li> <li>• Info-Communications Development Authority (IDA)</li> <li>• Singapore Tourism Board (STB)</li> <li>• Health Sciences Authority (HSA)</li> <li>• Defence Science Organisation (DSO-NL)</li> <li>• Ministry of Education (MOE)</li> </ul>
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Others will be co-opted when needed...

## 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 VIP Visit to Site
- Security and Traffic Control at Incident Site
- Management of Information to the Public and Media
- Management of Volunteer Resources
- Recovery of 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)

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- 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

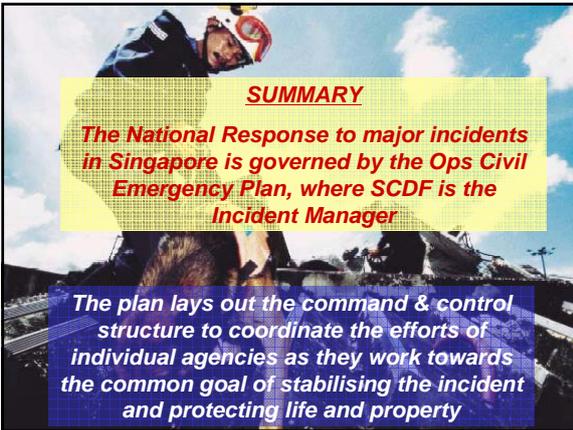
- Provide emotional and logistical needs to NOKs
- Visits to incident site were arranged
- Assisted in funeral rites



**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*



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*Thank you*

