

EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS CONTINGENCY PLAN OF FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES, ASSAM

INTRODUCTION: This Plan is prepared for a systematic approach and organisational preparedness to meet major goals and targets successfully.

The policy of Fire & Emergency Services to respond to disasters Like earthquake may be summarised in one simple mission statement - “We serve to save and the department is committed to providing an effective and efficient response in all emergency situations which threatens life, property and public safety.”

This document explains how Fire & Emergency Services will fulfil this responsibility with comprehensive reference to –

- a) Emergency Response System.
- b) Structure and operation of the system.
- c) How the system is designed to handle the three main phases of any emergency response; search & rescue, recovery and restoration.

OBJECTIVE:

1. To mitigate impact of earth-quake disaster through community awareness and preparedness.
2. To provide effective support to all concerned.
3. To keep co-ordination and co-operation with other line departments or stake holders.
4. To develop immediate and long term support system.
5. To create general awareness among the people about earthquake hazards and safety measures.

What is an Earthquake?

In its basic form, an earthquake is a sudden violent shaking of the ground as a result of movements within the earth’s crust, volcanic activity etc.

What are its affects?

Serious disruption of life, probably arising with no warning, that causes or threatens death or injury on a large scale and/or with destruction of property and disruption of communication system.

HAZARDS AND VULNERABILITY PROFILES OF ASSAM:

1. The state of Assam is encircled by Hills and the mighty river Brahmaputra with its tributaries as well as the Barak rivers are flowing through the state. The entire state is situated in the highly vulnerable seismic Zone-V.

The state of Assam is consisting of 27(twenty seven) districts and Guwahati is the capital city of the state.

2. Area & Population:

According to 2011 census the State of Assam has the following areas, population and density.

Area: 78,438 sq.km

Population: 3,11,69,272

Density: 397 per sq. km.

3. Rapid Urbanisation & Consequences:

Due to rapid urbanisation, the City of Guwahati and other major towns in the state has witnessed mushroom growth of Multi-storied Apartments, Buildings, Industries etc. with scant respect to requirements of open spaces, water bodies, preservation of hills and forested areas etc. making these more prone and highly vulnerable to disasters.

Apart from these the oil industries, refineries, gas based industries, coal mines, fertilizer industries, manufacturing industries including LPG Bottling Plants and transportation of Oil and LPG have made the state more hazardous than many others.

In Assam, the chances of having earthquake of higher magnitude(>6 Richter Scale) in almost every 50 years are fairly high, based on historical records and geological evidence of numerous active faults that have produced earthquakes in the recent past. Near about 25(twenty five) earthquakes of magnitude 5 Richter Scale have occurred in Assam in the last 5 years. Earthquake of magnitude 6 Richter Scale and more can cause significant damage and pose life-safety risks. The largest possible earthquakes for this region of magnitude 8.6 Richter Scale and above is very real as there are many faults capable of producing earthquakes of such magnitude and larger. It is sobering to consider the impact that some of the earlier historical earthquakes would have on today's urban setting. Large earthquakes will inevitably occur in Assam, only the timing is uncertain.

MAJOR EARTHQUAKE HISTORY OF ASSAM:

Date of occurrence	Place	Magnitude	Other Features
Jan 10, 1869	Assam	7.5	Affected an area of 2,50,000 sq. miles.
1897	Assam(Shillong)	8.7	1,600 Deaths
July 8, 1918	Assam	7.6	Heavy Damage
July 2, 1930	Assam	7.1	Heavy damage in Dhubri
July 29, 1947	Assam(Dibrugarh)	7.75	Heavy Damage
Aug'15,1950	Assam-Arunachal	8.6	Heavy damage to life and property
Nov.18,1951	Assam	8.0	Heavy Damage

PROFILE OF FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES ASSAM:

Fire & Emergency Services as well as State Disaster Response Force(S.D.R.F.) Personnel are called upon to respond to all types of hazards, whether man-made or natural, to serve the distressed people of the state.

Presently, the department is under the administrative control of the Home(B) Department of the Govt. of Assam and is functioning with 110(one hundred and ten) Fire & Emergency Services Stations with man-power of **2741** personnel with mandate to give fire protection and emergency coverage including search & rescue operations all over the state.

ACTION PLAN

A. PRE- EARTHQUAKE (DISASTER) ACTIVITIES.

Duty Policy: 24x7x365 days.

110(One hundred and ten) fire & emergency service stations always on duty 24x7x365 days.

Communication and mobilising system of each and every Fire & Emergency Services Station all over the State is directly connected to:

1. State Fire & Emergency Services Control Room

Location: Fire & Emergency Services Station, Guwahati, Panbazar

Contact No.:- 0361-2734191 / 101

0361-2637680

Integrated Telephone No- 108(Police/Fire/ Medical)

2. Fire & Emergency Services Control Room, Head-Quarter

Location: Fire & Emergency Services Head-Quarter Building premises.

Contact No.: 0361- 2511329

0361-2549328

Fax No.- 0361-2549328

Website: www.asfso.org

e-mail : info@asfso.org

3. State Disaster Control Room, ASDMA, Dispur

Contact No: 1070(Toll free)

92070-45023/ 92070-43756

Fax No.- 0361-2237011

(Source: State Disaster Management Cell, Govt. of Assam)

TASK

Community based Earthquake Sensitization and Awareness

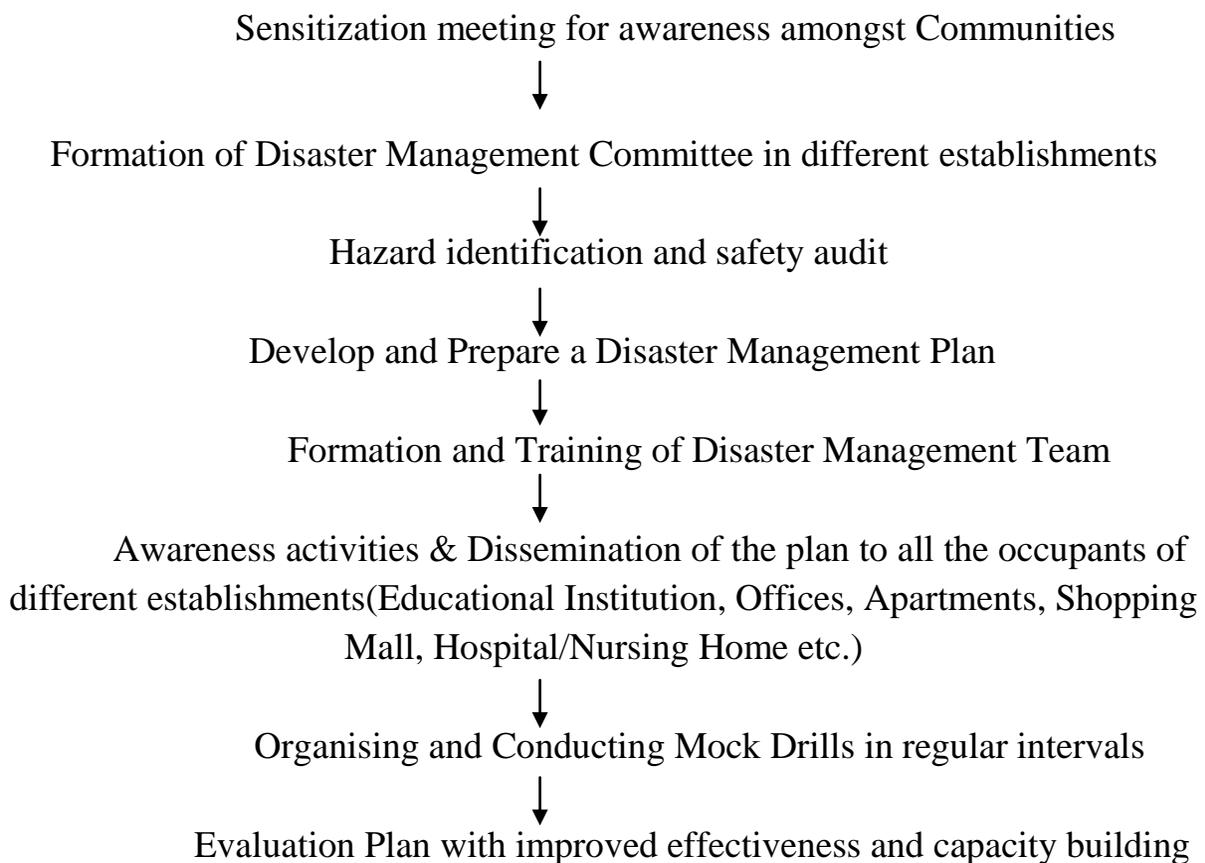
Programme which includes-

School going community- Different types of Educational Institutions Govt. and Pvt. Sector etc.

Non-School going Community- Various Apartments, High rise buildings, Public Places, Lifeline buildings etc.

Business Community- Multiplex, Commercial Complex, Industrial, , Warehouses, Godowns etc.

Key steps for Earthquake Sensitization and Awareness :



Special Awareness Campaign

1. Special Awareness Campaigning on Earthquake and Landslide in some identified vulnerable hill areas.
2. Special Apartment based Sensitization and Awareness Programme on Earthquake and Fire .
3. Special Inspection Campaign on Fire & Earthquake Safety in multi-storied building(apartment) and major industries.
4. Publicity of Earthquake Safety Measures through Newspaper, Printed and Electronic Media

B. DURING EARTHQUAKE (DISASTER) ACTIVITIES

1. Activation and Mobilisation of 110(One hundred ten) fire & emergency station as per Standing Operating Procedure(SOP).
2. To utilise fire fighting and search and rescue equipments, appliances and resources to the optimum at the time of need.
3. Policy of using available resources to get maximum output.

ACTIVATION OF PLAN OF ACTION:

1. As soon as information is received of any emergency, the concerned fire & emergency services station of that area will be the first responder.
2. Passing of information to the seniors(as per hierarchy) and mobilisation of re-enforcement etc.
3. Depending upon the situation each team member will discharge his responsibilities as per instruction of the attending senior officer.
4. More resources will be mobilised from all available sources by the senior most officer present as per Contingency Plan and Standard Operating Procedure.

TASK

1. The Senior Fire & Emergency Officer attending a disaster site on any terrain will be the Operation Commander who will take the command and control of all fire & emergency and search & rescue activities and keep coordination with all the rescue agencies involved within the affected zone.
2. The Operation Commander will establish a Fire Services Incident Command Post and will operate from a Mobile Command Unit and will work in close liaison with the Police and Civil Administration and other stake holders.
3. The Operation Commander will inform the Senior Officials once the post has been set up, giving its location and other relevant informations.
4. The Operation Commander will keep on informing the significant developments of the operation from the scene and can seek for re-enforcement or logistic support etc.
5. No any agency can enter or interfere or withdraw operation of cordoned work area without intimation to the Operation Commander.

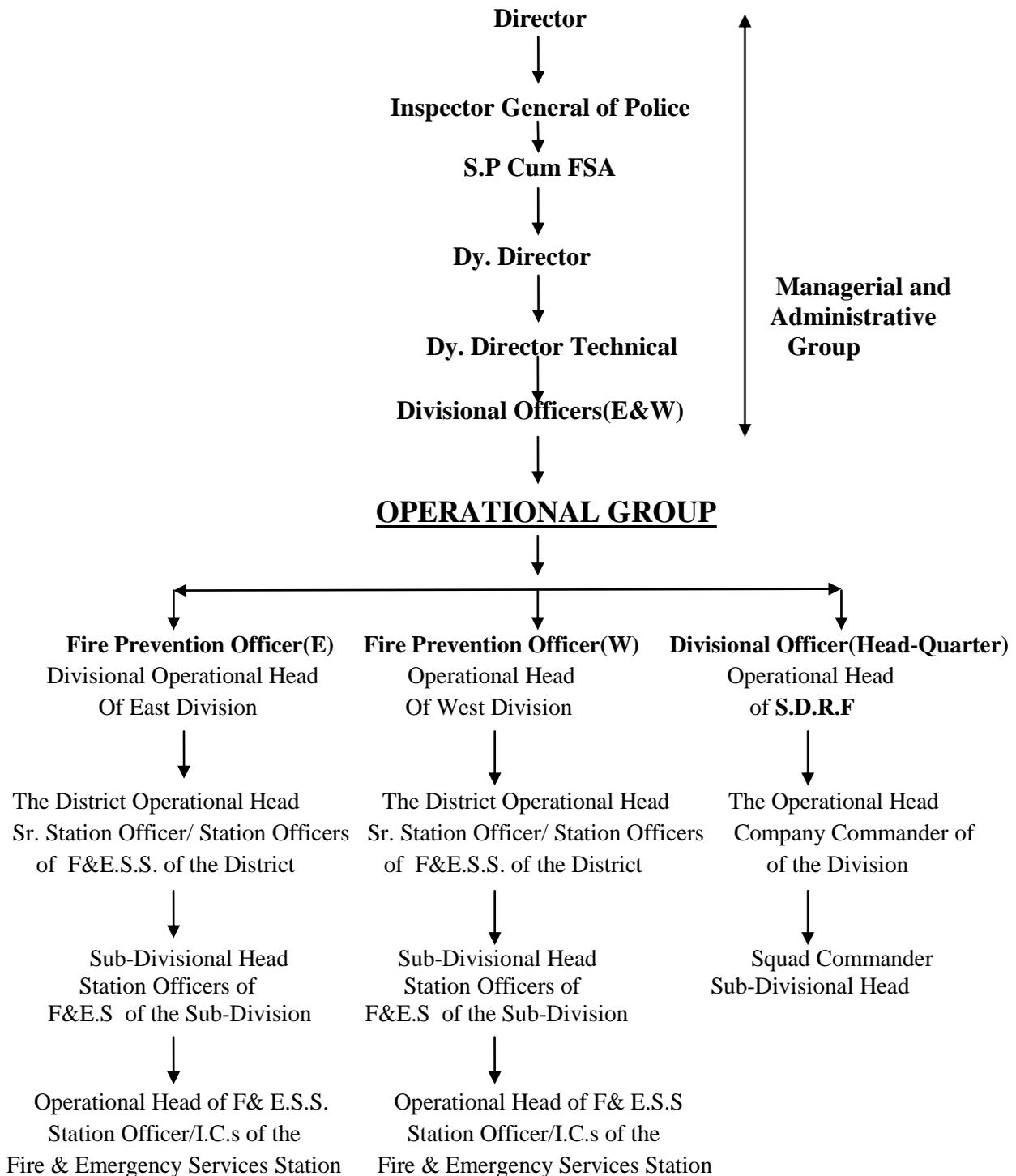
6. The Operation Commander will provide information and assistance to the Seniors(as per Hierarchy) in dealing with enquiries from the media and the public.

C. POST EARTHQUAKE (DISASTER) ACTIVITIES

It is not our intention in this document to go into details about disaster recovery management, which has its own demands and characteristics. We must, however, note that recovery agencies must become involved at an early stage of any major rescue and recovery effort so that they may also begin planning an effective recovery process. The recovery phase may be a long and costly process. An early involvement by the recovery agencies will allow the needs of those affected to be quickly identified in order to minimize the long term distress caused by the disaster. It may also help to reduce costs and timeframes significantly.

Flow Charts Showing

Operational Hierarchy as per Earthquake Management Contingency Plan



OPERATIONAL AREA: The entire state is divided into two operational divisions.

1. East Division consists of 15 Districts :

Kamrup(M), Kamrup(R), Nagaon, Morigaon, Golaghat, Jorhat, Sivsagar, Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Dhemaji, North Lakhimpur, Sonitpur, Darrang, Udalguri, Karbi-Anglong Districts

2. West Division consists of 12 Districts :

Nalbari, Barpeta, Baksa, Bongaigaon, Chirang, Kokrajhar, Dhubri, Goalpara, Dima-Hasao(N.C Hills), Cachar, Karimganj, Hailakandi Districts.

3. Following Senior Station Officers of Fire & Emergency Services will be the Operational Head of the districts given below :

- a. Sr. S.O Guwahati Fire & Emergency Service Stations (F&E.S.S.)
- Guwahati (M) & (R)/Baksa/Nalbari/Darrang & Barpeta Districts
 - b. Sr. S.O Kokrajhar F& E.S.S
- Kokrajhar /Bongaigaon/Chirang/Dhubri & Goalpara Districts.
 - c. Sr. S.O Nagaon F&E.S.S
-Nagaon/Morigaon/Sonitpur/Karbianglong/Hamren & Dima-Hasao(N.C. Hills) Districts
 - d. Sr. S.O. Jorhat F&E.S.S
-Jorhat/Sivasagar & Golaghat Districts
 - e. Sr. S.O North Lakhimpur F&E.S.S
-North Lakhimpur/Sonitpur/Dhemaji & Jonai Districts.
 - f. Sr. S.O Dibrugarh F&E.S.S
-Dibrugarh & Tinsukia
- 4. Station Officers/I.Cs of the Fire & Emergency Service Stations will be the Operational Head of his Station Jurisdictional area.**

The Director, Fire & Emergency Services is the overall head of the Operation and Administration of this Contingency Plan.

Enclosed :

Annexure I: Name and Contact Number of District Project Officer of District Disaster Management with Control Room Contact Number.

Annexure II: Contact Number of D.C. & S.P of Assam

Annexure III: Contact Number of District/Sub-Divisions Office

Annexure IV: Contact Number of All Fire & Emergency Service Stations and State Control Room of Assam

Annexure V: Fire & Emergency Services as well as S.D.R.F Station wise Resource Inventory.

**EARTHQUAKE
PREPAREDNESS**

**CONTINGENCY PLAN
OF**

**FIRE & EMERGENCY
SERVICES, ASSAM**

