

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS IN DEVELOPING THE FIRST EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTER (EOC) OF IRAN AT TEHRAN

Maziar HOSSEINI

*Islamic Azad University, South Branch, Tehran, Iran
Deputy of Technical and Development Affairs, Tehran Municipality, Tehran, Iran
maziarhosseini121@yahoo.com*

Kambod AMINI HOSSEINI

*Associate Prof., IIEES, Tehran, Iran
kamini@iiees.ac.ir*

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ABSTRACT

A review of the impacts of Iran's recent earthquakes depicts that the lack of an appropriate Emergency Operation Center (EOC) in the affected areas, caused many difficulties in coordination of emergency response activities. This shows the importance of establishment the EOC's in big cities, like Tehran. According to the worldwide experiences in this field, EOC's should fulfil many criteria to be operational at the time of crisis. Besides of necessity to have earthquake resistance structure, these facilities should have specific design, architecture and infrastructures. In addition, many facilities such as damage estimation and emergency communication systems should be available at these centers. Furthermore, they need to have emergency operation systems and initial action plans as well as sufficient experts to make these centers operational continuously in 24/7. Considering these points, Tehran Emergency Operation Center has been developed during recent years. In this paper having a look on the worldwide experiences, the main items in developing Tehran EOC will be presented and discussed.

INTRODUCTION

Based on the definition of the World Health Organization preparedness include arrangements and measures set by the government, organizations, communities and individuals to make them able to provide rapid and effective response to undesirable conditions subsequent of disasters (WHO, 1986). Considering this definition, the level of preparedness in none of the major earthquakes in Iran was not appropriate. One of the most important subjects in improving the preparedness is operational Emergency Operation Center (EOC). Again the situation of EOC's in the earthquakes occurred in the last two decades were not appropriate. This will be discussed in the following parts:

MANJIL EARTHQUAKE OF 1990

Before the Manjil earthquake due to the internal condition in Iran, less attention was paid to the problem of earthquake in order to improve the preparedness. In fact, Manjil earthquake occurred shortly after the war of Iraq against Iran and the necessary infrastructure for DM purposes in the country were not existed. Thus the coherent planning for disaster management was not developed and therefore operations in response were implemented using experiences gained in the times of the war. Based on the deficiency observed in that event, the responsibility for coordinating of relief and rescue affairs were given to the Minister to Interior in June 1990. Later in 1991 Disaster Management Taskforce was established. By the way due to lack of