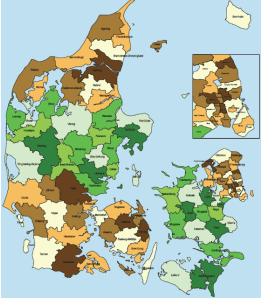


**Managing Crises
Preparing for Uncertainty**


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Five Regions – 98 Municipalities



Denmark – Facts

- Area: 43,094 sq km (Nepal: 147,181 sq km)
- Highest Point: 171 m (Nepal 8,850 m)
- Population: 5,543,453 (Nepal: 29,890,686)




Multi-level emergency management

- **Level 1: The municipal fire and rescue service**
 - The municipality may choose to have a municipal fire and rescue service or enter into a contract with a private company (most often Falck) or a voluntary fire brigade.



Natural Hazards

- Denmark: flooding is a threat in some areas of the country but most areas are protected from the sea by a system of dikes



- Nepal: severe thunderstorms; flooding; landslides; drought and famine depending on the timing, intensity, and duration of the summer monsoons - earthquakes.

Multi-level emergency management

- **Level 2: The municipal and national support sites**
 - If the municipal fire and rescue service does not have enough capacity to handle an accident using its own resources, it may call upon the assistance of nine municipal and national support sites or the five national fire and rescue centres. The support site assistance can reach a site of damage throughout the country within an hour. This may be water tankers, lighting equipment or high-pressure compressors. The municipal and national support sites thus only offer equipment.

Multi-level emergency management

- **Level 3: The national fire and rescue service**
 - In the case of comprehensive accidents requiring special equipment or large amounts of equipment and personnel, the municipalities may call on the assistance of DEMA's five fire and rescue centres all on 24-hour turn-out duty. DEMA's centres may dispatch personnel and equipment within five minutes and reach destinations all over the country within approx. two hours.

Sector Responsibility

- The fundamental principle of emergency management in Denmark is that the authority, company or institution with the day-to-day responsibility of a given area is also responsible for that area in the event of a major accident or disaster. This is the so-called sector responsibility principle.
- The Emergency Management Act has established that the individual ministers are obliged to plan for the maintenance and re-establishment of societal vital functions within their area of responsibility in case of accidents or disasters.

Danish Crisis Management Structure

Coordinating bodies



But Coordination is crucial

- Modern society is so complex that coordination of the emergency management planning is required.
- It is no good in a crisis situation, for example, that a hospital discharges as many patients as possible in order to provide extra beds, if the local authorities are not prepared to receive the discharged patients and provide them with the care and treatment they need.

Political System and Legal Framework

- The purpose of the Danish preparedness planning and crisis management is to prevent that major accidents affect life, welfare and environment.
- The Danish authorities are obliged to plan how operation of vital societal functions may be continued or re-established in the event of accidents or disasters. The authorities comprise departments, agencies, state-owned enterprises, regions, municipalities and other public institutions.

Principle of Similarity

- It is important to maintain the largest similarity possible between the daily setup and the crisis management setup in order to minimise the extent of organisational re-arrangements when activating the crisis management organisation

Principle of Subsidiarity

- Emergency management and crisis management activities should be handled at the lowest organisational level possible.

The challenges of crisis managers

- Incidents with severe or extreme impact will continue to happen
- Unpredictability and uncertainty are attributes of any crisis
- Managing crises in a complex world demand new solutions
- We must be able to manage crisis regardless of origin and impact

Principle of Precaution

- If in doubt; Act



Way Forward

- Prepare for consequences rather than predicting likelihoods
- Develop general capabilities within the area of crisis management
- Continue to work together to explore new ways to make our crisis management more efficient
- Keep the development of dual or multi-purpose capabilities in mind
- Develop and maintain strong links between the research communities and the practitioners

DEMA's approach to Preparedness Planning and Crisis Management

