

*Kasian O. – researcher of Training Research and Production Center of the National University of Civil Protection of Ukraine Kharkiv*

*ORCID: 0000-0003-2582-3794*

## **LEGAL STATUS OF ELEMENTS OF THE UNIFIED STATE SYSTEM OF CIVIL PROTECTION AS SECURITY MANAGEMENT ENTITIES IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS**

*The article examines the legal status and operational framework of the Unified State Civil Protection System (USCPS) of Ukraine in managing emergency situations. The research analyzes the structural elements, hierarchical organization, and functional mechanisms of the USCPS, emphasizing its role in ensuring population safety and territorial protection. The study reveals that the system operates on multiple levels - state, regional, and local - with specific responsibilities and authorities assigned to each level. The research identifies three operational modes of the USCPS: daily activity, increased readiness, and emergency mode, each activated according to the severity and scale of potential or actual emergencies. The article highlights the significance of preventive measures and the system's dual-level emergency response mechanism at territorial and state levels. The study demonstrates that the USCPS's effectiveness depends on clear legal regulation, proper coordination between its subsystems, and adequate resource allocation. The research concludes that successful emergency management relies on implementing comprehensive legislation, state target programs, and international scientific-technical cooperation, supported by practical experience in preventive measures. The findings emphasize the importance of specific preventive measures of scientific, engineering-technical, and technological nature in reducing emergency risks and minimizing potential losses.*

*Keywords: Civil protection system, emergency management, legal regulation, safety management, preventive measures, crisis response, territorial subsystems, state emergency service, public safety, emergency prevention.*

Introduction. Emergency management in modern society requires a systematic and well-regulated approach to protect populations and territories from various threats. The Unified State Civil Protection System (USCPS) of Ukraine represents a comprehensive mechanism designed to coordinate emergency prevention and response activities at all governmental levels. The system's legal framework and operational structure play crucial roles in ensuring effective emergency management and public safety.

Analysis of literature data and problem statement. Recent studies in the field of civil protection and emergency management in Ukraine have focused on the legal and organizational aspects of the USCPS. The research demonstrates increasing attention to the development of emergency response mechanisms and the improvement of coordination between different system elements. However, there remains a need for comprehensive analysis of the legal status of USCPS elements and their role in emergency management.

Purpose and objectives of the research. The purpose of this study is to analyze the legal status of USCPS elements as subjects of safety management in emergency situations. The main objectives include:

Examining the structural organization of the USCPS

Analyzing the system's operational modes and management mechanisms

Evaluating the effectiveness of coordination between different system levels

Assessing the legal framework governing emergency response activities

Presentation of the main material. The main purpose of establishing the Unified State Civil Protection System (USCPS) is to combine the efforts of central executive bodies, administrative bodies, local self-government bodies, as well as organizations, institutions, and enterprises, their forces and means in the field of emergency prevention and response.

The USCPS addresses the following key objectives:

Development and implementation of legal and economic standards related to protecting the population and territories from emergencies;

Implementation of targeted and scientific-technical programs aimed at preventing emergencies and increasing the operational resilience of enterprises, institutions, and organizations, regardless of their organizational and legal forms, including their industrial and social facilities during emergencies;

Ensuring preparedness of management bodies, forces, and means designated for emergency prevention and response;

Collection, processing, exchange, and dissemination of information regarding population and territory protection from emergencies;

Preparation of the population for emergency response;

Forecasting and assessment of socio-economic consequences of emergencies;

Creation of financial and material resource reserves for emergency response;

Implementation of state expertise, supervision, and control in the field of population and territory protection from emergencies;

Emergency response operations;

Implementation of social protection measures for populations affected by emergencies, including humanitarian actions;

Realization of population rights and obligations in the field of emergency protection, including individuals directly involved in emergency response;

International cooperation in the field of population and territory protection from emergencies.[3]

The USCPS is built on a territorial-industrial principle and includes territorial and functional subsystems. Territorial subsystems are established in territorial centers within their boundaries and consist of units corresponding to the administrative-territorial division of these territories.

Each territorial subsystem is designed to prevent and respond to emergencies within its jurisdiction. It includes a governing body - the Emergency Commission, a daily management body specially authorized to address civil defense tasks, emergency prevention and response, territory's own forces and means, including financial, food, medical, and material-technical resources, communication systems, notification, information support, and protective structures. [5]

The specific structures of territorial subsystems and their units are determined by the respective executive authorities. Typically, each territorial system has its own hierarchy, including city, district, and facility-level emergency response commissions, corresponding daily management bodies, forces, and means.

The functional subsystems of the USCPS are created by state executive bodies to organize work on protecting the population and territories from emergencies within their scope of activities and assigned economic sectors, coordinated with the State Emergency Service of Ukraine.

There are more than thirty functional subsystems, including:

Subsystem for monitoring and control of natural hydrometeorological and heliophysical phenomena and environmental conditions

Construction fire protection subsystem

Monitoring subsystem for potentially hazardous facilities

Subsystem for seismological observations and earthquake prediction and others, created in accordance with relevant state executive bodies.

Regarding the USCPS levels, the state level includes management bodies, forces, and means of central subordination, whose actions and use are directly coordinated by the State Emergency Service of Ukraine, as well as management bodies, forces, and means directly subordinate to state executive bodies. [2]

The regional level of the USCPS is formed through territorial division. Each region encompasses the territories of several oblasts. The main management body responsible for the operation of forces and means of USCPS subsystems in the region is the corresponding regional center for civil defense, emergencies, and natural disaster response. The main purpose of the regional center is to coordinate the activities of territorial executive bodies within the region in emergency prevention or response work, and to direct the forces and means of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine deployed in the region.

The territorial level includes executive bodies, forces, and means of USCPS territorial subsystems with elements of functional subsystems deployed in these territories.

The local level covers the territory of formations (district, city, city district), while the facility level covers the territory of enterprises, institutions, and organizations.

The main management body responsible for emergency response in the respective territory is the Emergency Commission of the corresponding executive authority (local self-government). [1]

The Commission, as a collegial body, unites responsible representatives of local departments, allowing for the early implementation of emergency prevention measures, and in emergency conditions - rapid mobilization of resources of the respective territory and effective emergency response. The Commissions are headed by deputy heads of executive bodies. The working bodies of these commissions are ministries, main directorates, departments, and divisions for civil defense and emergencies. It should be noted that these bodies are the main daily management organs functioning at all levels, down to the rural district. At the state level, the Government Commission for Emergency Prevention and Response and Fire Safety has been established and operates. It includes representatives of ministries and departments at the level of deputy ministers whose competence includes addressing issues related to protecting the population and territories from natural and man-made disasters. The main tasks addressed by this commission are:

Formation and implementation of unified state policy in the field of prevention and response to emergencies caused by accidents, catastrophes, natural and other disasters;

Coordination of state executive bodies' activities in developing draft legislative acts and other normative legal acts on issues within its competence, as well as review and submission

of these draft documents to the Government in the established manner;

Preparation of proposals for forming a system of economic, organizational-technical, and other measures aimed at safety and protection of the population and country's territory from emergencies caused by accidents, catastrophes, natural and other disasters;

Determining the main directions for improvement and further development of the USCPS;

Organization of developing state targeted and scientific-technical program projects aimed at emergency prevention, protection of population and territory from emergencies, and coordination of work on implementing these programs;

Coordination of state executive bodies and local self-government activities during emergency response regarding socio-economic and legal protection, medical rehabilitation of citizens affected by accidents, catastrophes, natural and other disasters, as well as persons involved in emergency response;

Determining the main directions of international cooperation in emergency prevention and response. [7]

The decisions of this commission are mandatory for all ministries and departments within its composition. The most important component of the unified state system of emergency prevention and response is its forces and means. They are divided into forces and means of observation and control, and forces and means of emergency response.

The forces and means of observation and control include those bodies, services, and institutions that carry out state supervision, inspection, monitoring, control of the natural environment, natural processes and phenomena, potentially dangerous objects, food products, fodder, substances, materials, and human health. These forces and means include those of state supervision bodies, hydrometeorological service, veterinary service, and others. [4]

Through their activities, certain disasters are prevented, their possible occurrence is predicted, and management bodies and population are notified of their threat.

Typically, emergency response is carried out by the forces and means of that USCPS unit, territorial or functional subsystem in whose territory or facilities they occurred. If the scale of the emergency is such that the territorial or departmental emergency commission cannot independently handle its localization and elimination, it requests assistance from a higher emergency commission.

Financing of the USCPS, its subsystems and units is carried out through special funds allocated from the state budget and local budgets. The State Emergency Service of Ukraine and respective emergency commissions are the administrators of these funds.

Depending on the situation and scale of predicted or occurred emergency, three operational modes of the USCPS are established by decision of the respective executive authorities within a specific territory:

1. Daily Activity Mode: system operation under normal industrial, radiation, chemical, biological (bacteriological), seismic, and hydrometeorological conditions, in the absence of epidemics, epizootics, and epiphytotics, and during long-term accident aftermath recovery operations.

2. Increased Readiness Mode: system operation during deteriorating industrial, radiation, chemical, biological (bacteriological), seismic, and hydrometeorological conditions, upon receiving forecasts about possible emergency situations.

3. Emergency Mode: system operation during the occurrence and response to emergency situations.

Summarizing the above, it can be stated that the USCPS is one of the crucial elements in solving tasks of protecting population and territories, ensuring economic stability, maintaining and restoring the safety of individuals, society, and the state during emergencies. [6]

The effectiveness of the USCPS operation depends on the efficiency of each of its subsystems and units. This necessitates implementing measures at each system level to improve the activities of management bodies, forces, and means in reducing emergency risks and increasing readiness for response operations.

Thus, the most critical component of the USCPS is its forces and means. They are divided into forces and means of observation and control, and forces and means of emergency response.

The establishment of the USCPS was based on several principles and prerequisites, the main ones being:

- The need to follow an integrated approach in system formation, considering all types of natural and man-made emergencies, all stages of their development, and utilizing the full range of measures, forces, and means for emergency response;

- Recognition that it is impossible to eliminate the risk of emergencies in all cases of potential threats;

- Adherence to the principle of preventive safety, which involves advance implementation of measures aimed at emergency prevention and maximally possible reduction of damages and losses in case of their occurrence.

Within the USCPS, the State Emergency Service of Ukraine performs functions of developing and implementing state policy, regulatory and legal framework, as well as supervision and control in the field of civil defense, protection of population and territories from natural and man-made emergencies, ensuring fire safety and human safety at water bodies.

Typically, emergency response is carried out by the forces and means of that USCPS unit, territorial or functional subsystem in whose territory or facilities they occurred. If the scale of the emergency is such that the territorial or departmental emergency commission cannot independently handle its localization and elimination, it requests assistance from a higher emergency commission. [3]

In recent years, the USCPS has developed a two-level emergency response system: at territorial and state levels.

It is concluded that all listed emergency response systems have similar structures, which include:

- Management bodies prepared for decision-making and implementation regarding emergency prevention and response;

- Emergency response forces (general-purpose rescue forces, emergency rescue units, non-staff rescue units, etc.);

- Material and technical means (equipment, special equipment, clothing, power units, food supplies, etc.) that come under the management bodies' disposal to support emergency response forces;

- Financial reserves intended for restoring spent material resources and paying for work performed by external forces and means;

- Information resources of the facility for solving tasks related to possible emergency response (action plan for prevention and response to possible emergencies, plans of cities, settlements and facilities, plans of communications, fire extinguishing systems, communica-

tion and notification systems, etc.).

Conclusions. Only with clear legal regulation can the activities of any state structures, especially in the sphere of ensuring safety of population and territories from emergencies and protecting human life and health, effectively address existing threats and implement methods and means of elimination or protection from their adverse consequences. The effectiveness of implementing relevant measures for emergency prevention and response will depend on the quality level of legal regulation in the aforementioned sphere. An effective mechanism for ensuring the safety of population and territories, considering the risks of natural and man-made emergencies, is the formation and implementation of legislation, state target programs, and international scientific-technical cooperation programs, based on significant practical experience in preventive measures for reducing natural hazard risks.

The measures for emergency prevention (reducing their occurrence risk) and minimizing possible losses and damages (reducing emergency scale) are based on specific preventive measures of scientific, engineering-technical, and technological nature, implemented according to natural and technical types. A significant portion of these measures is carried out within the framework of engineering, radiation, chemical, medical, biomedical, and fire protection of population and territories from emergencies.

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