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FUNCTIONS OF STATE AUTHORITIES IN RESPONDING TO AND ELIMINATING THE CONSEQUENCES OF EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

The article examines the functions of Ukrainian state authorities in responding to and eliminating the consequences of various types of emergencies. It analyzes the legislative framework, the main powers of central and local authorities, and the role of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine (SES). It identifies problems and areas for improvement in the system of public administration in the field of civil protection.

The mechanisms of interaction between state authorities in crisis situations, their coordinating and managerial role, as well as the specifics of their activities during emergency rescue and recovery operations are analyzed.

The results of the study can be used in the formation of state policy in the field of civil protection, the training of specialists in life safety, as well as in the practical activities of executive authorities and emergency rescue services.

Keywords: *emergency situation, state authorities, civil protection, State Emergency Service of Ukraine, elimination of consequences, public administration, interagency interaction.*

Problem setting. Contemporary challenges associated with the emergence of emergencies of any nature require effective and coordinated action by state authorities. With the increasing number and scale of emergencies, there is a need to

improve the functioning of state institutions responsible for preventive measures, rapid response, and elimination of the consequences of emergencies. Insufficient clarity in the division of powers, duplication of functions, and poor coordination between authorities complicate the process of crisis management. This poses a threat to national security and the life and health of citizens, as well as causing significant economic and environmental damage. Therefore, there is a need for scientific analysis, systematization, and improvement of the functions of state authorities in order to increase the effectiveness of response and elimination of the consequences of emergencies.

Recent research and publications analysis. A review of scientific and practical publications shows that the key focus is on improving the regulatory framework and coordination between government agencies in responding to emergencies. Researchers also emphasize the development of mechanisms for interagency cooperation, information provision, and community resilience as important factors in effective crisis management. At the same time, there is a lack of comprehensive empirical studies that simultaneously take into account the legal, organizational, and technological aspects of emergency response.

Paper objective. The purpose of the study is to scientifically substantiate and systematize the functions of state authorities in responding to and eliminating the consequences of emergencies, identifying shortcomings in the current system of their implementation, and developing proposals for improving coordination mechanisms, information support, and organizational interaction in order to increase the effectiveness of state management in the field of civil protection.

Paper main body. The effectiveness of the civil protection system largely depends on the clear definition and proper implementation of the functions of state authorities in responding to and eliminating the consequences of emergencies. Contemporary challenges related to both man-made and natural threats, as well as military actions on the territory of Ukraine, require an increase in the level of preparedness of state institutions for crisis events. Accordingly, the functions of

state authorities in this area must not only be clearly enshrined in legislation, but also effectively implemented in practice.

An important task for the state is to ensure a comprehensive approach to emergency management, which involves coordinating the efforts of all levels of government, providing adequate resources, monitoring compliance with safety norms and standards, and providing social protection for the population affected by disasters. Thus, studying the functions of state authorities allows us to assess their effectiveness, identify strengths and weaknesses, and outline ways to improve the civil protection system as a whole.

In this context, it is advisable to consider the key functions of state bodies that determine the main directions of their activities in the field of response and elimination of the consequences of emergencies: coordination, organizational and managerial, control and supervision, and social protection. A comprehensive analysis of these functions makes it possible to determine how effectively Ukraine's civil protection system is functioning and which areas need further improvement.

Government authorities play a key role in ensuring an adequate level of preparedness for emergencies, timely response, and mitigation of consequences [1]. The functioning of this system is determined by a set of tasks, including legal regulation, organizational management, coordination between civil protection entities, as well as control over the use of resources and implementation of safety measures.

The regulatory and legal function of state authorities in responding to and eliminating the consequences of emergencies consists in creating and improving the legislative and regulatory framework governing the activities of all participants in the civil protection system. A clear definition of the powers, rights, and obligations of executive authorities, local self-government bodies, and specialized services makes it possible to avoid duplication of functions and legal conflicts when responding to crisis situations.

If we analyze the Civil Protection Code of Ukraine [1], it is the main law that defines civil protection as a function of the state: prevention of emergencies, elimination of consequences, rights and obligations of state authorities, local self-government bodies, and public participation. The sixth section of this regulatory document specifically defines issues related to responding to and eliminating the consequences of emergencies.

The Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine “On Approval of the Regulations on the Unified State Civil Protection System” [2] defines the structure of the unified state civil protection system and its functional subsystems; provides for functions related to forecasting, localizing, and eliminating emergencies, organizing life support for the affected population, evacuation, and protecting the population from chemical, biological, environmental, and medical threats.

The Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine “On Approval of the State-Level Emergency Response Plan” establishes the procedure for action and organization of interaction between government authorities and business entities in the event of a threat or occurrence of state-level emergencies. It defines the functions of central executive authorities and the algorithm for putting management bodies and civil protection forces on high alert.

In view of current realities, it is necessary to amend and supplement existing regulatory acts. In particular, a number of resolutions clarify the powers of civil protection entities, their tasks in terms of preparedness, response, control, information, and mobilization of forces and resources during special periods [3].

For rapid response and elimination of the consequences of emergencies, the functions of control centers have been more clearly defined. Thus, the order of the Ministry of Internal Affairs “On Approval of the Procedure for the Activities of Control Centers in Emergency Situations” establishes the organization and tasks of emergency control centers; defines operating modes (routine, heightened readiness, emergency, state of emergency); regulates interaction with other situation centers and emergency response headquarters; defines tasks for processing information about the situation and ensuring round-the-clock operation.

This regulatory act aims to strengthen the role of information and analysis centers; clarify the distribution of responsibilities during response operations; improve efficiency and coordination between different levels; and centralize data processing for rapid response.

Today, the State Emergency Service has developed a “Model list of civil protection documents developed by other state bodies, central and local executive authorities, local self-government bodies, and business entities.” It specifies the list of documents that must be developed for civil protection (at the local level, in districts, communities, etc.). This contributes to the unification of documentation; more clearly establishes what plans, regulations, instructions, and programs each level of government should have; and facilitates control and coordination through standardization.

Thanks to new regulations and changes, the functions of state authorities are becoming more detailed and accountable, and regulations are becoming more specific and clearly defining who is responsible for what at the central, regional, and local levels. The role of emergency management centers is strengthening, especially in terms of coordination, information analysis, and rapid response. The unification of civil protection plans and documents promotes coordination, reduces “legal vacuums” or ambiguities, and focuses more attention on the preventive and preparatory stages of response.

The coordinating role of government agencies in responding to and dealing with emergencies is super important [4]. It's about making sure different levels of government, law enforcement, health services, utilities, and non-governmental organizations work together. The speed of resource mobilization and the coordination of actions in critical conditions depend on the effectiveness of coordination.

Among the problems in implementing this function today are:

- unclear division of responsibilities between different authorities in responding to and eliminating the consequences of emergencies;

- low level of digital integration of information systems, which in turn leads to delays in data transmission;
- lack of financial and material and technical resources to support the constant readiness of management bodies;
- not always a responsible approach to the training of individual officials responsible for coordination.

The shortcomings of the coordination function include:

- the complexity of procedures hinders quick decision-making in crisis situations;
- there is duplication of functions between different structures (executive bodies, State Emergency Service, law enforcement agencies);
- the forces and resources involved in responding to and eliminating the consequences of emergencies are not always evenly distributed across different regions; some regions have an excess of these forces, while others have a shortage;
- communication with the public is weak, which reduces the level of trust in the decisions of the authorities.

However, the advantages of the coordination function are:

- the use of a single decision-making center, which allows avoiding chaotic actions when responding to and eliminating the consequences of emergencies;
- ensuring the integrity of the management hierarchy and subordination in matters of response and elimination of the consequences of emergencies;
- the coordination function contributes to the optimization of the use of state resources and international assistance;
- the possibility of combining the forces of various agencies to achieve a common goal.

This function can be called key in the activities of state authorities in responding to and eliminating the consequences of emergencies, but its effectiveness will depend on the timely updating of the regulatory framework, the digitization of management, and the improvement of the professional level of responsible persons.

The organizational and management function plays [6] a significant role, including planning response measures, creating warning systems, conducting training and drills, and forming reserves of material and financial resources. An important aspect is personnel management and determining algorithms for action in various scenarios.

The organizational and managerial function of state authorities in the field of emergency response and recovery consists in creating, maintaining, and developing an effective system of public administration capable of operating in crisis situations. Its essence lies in planning civil protection measures, forming appropriate structures and units, distributing resources and responsibilities among authorities at different levels, and monitoring the state of readiness to respond. This function ensures a clear vertical management structure, the availability of defined action algorithms, and the ability to quickly redistribute forces depending on the scale of the emergency.

Among the advantages of the organizational and managerial function, it is worth highlighting the increased efficiency of interaction between central and local authorities, the existence of legally established plans and procedures, which makes the system predictable and structured, as well as flexibility in management decision-making. At the same time, there are significant shortcomings: excessive bureaucratic procedures, uneven quality of local governance, staff shortages, and insufficient training of specialists. Additional problems include outdated material and technical resources and fragmented information support, which complicates effective real-time management.

The organizational and management function is the foundation of the state's emergency response system, combining both significant opportunities to ensure stability and controllability and the need for further improvement of management mechanisms and digitization of processes.

The information and analytical function of state authorities in the field of emergency response and mitigation is aimed at the timely collection, processing, analysis, and dissemination of data necessary for making management decisions

during the threat of or occurrence of an emergency. It includes monitoring potential threats, forecasting the development of emergencies, informing authorities and the population, and creating unified databases to coordinate the actions of all participants in the civil protection system. This function is crucial for ensuring rapid response and minimizing the consequences of emergencies.

The main advantages of the information and analytical function include the ability to quickly identify and predict threats, improve the soundness of management decisions, ensure the transparency of government activities, and establish communication with the population. In addition, it promotes the integration of modern digital technologies into the process of public administration, which increases the level of preparedness for crisis challenges. At the same time, this function has certain drawbacks: insufficient technical equipment of information systems, fragmentation of databases between different agencies, possible delays in data transmission, as well as risks of spreading unreliable information, which can complicate the response process.

The information and analytical function are an integral part of public administration in the field of civil protection, as it provides the basis for forecasting, planning, and timely response. Its further development is linked to the digitization of management processes, the introduction of modern monitoring systems, and the improvement of the state's information security.

The control and supervisory function of state authorities in the field of emergency response and elimination of consequences consists in constant monitoring, verification, and assessment of the readiness of facilities, institutions, and management bodies to act in crisis situations. It ensures compliance with civil protection legislation, monitors the implementation of response plans, and supervises compliance with fire, industrial, and environmental safety regulations. Thanks to this function, the state is able to identify shortcomings in the activities of business entities and local self-government bodies in a timely manner, as well as apply preventive or administrative measures of influence.

Among the advantages of the control and supervisory function, it is worth highlighting the improvement of discipline among management bodies and enterprises, ensuring a systematic approach to checking preparedness for emergencies, the possibility of timely elimination of identified violations, and the formation of uniform safety standards. It also allows for an objective assessment of the effectiveness of other functions of state power in the field of civil protection.

However, there are also shortcomings: excessive regulation of control and supervisory procedures, which can slow down operational actions in crisis situations; uneven levels of control in different regions; insufficient staffing and technical support for supervisory bodies; risks of a formal approach to inspections. An additional problem is the limited ability to quickly implement the results of supervision into management practice.

However, the control and supervisory function is an important tool for ensuring legality, discipline, and increasing the resilience of the state civil protection system. Its improvement is linked to the optimization of control procedures, strengthening of human resources, and the widespread use of digital technologies in the field of monitoring and supervision.

When it comes to the social protection function of state authorities in responding to and eliminating the consequences of emergencies, it is aimed at protecting the lives, health, and rights of citizens affected by emergencies. Its essence lies in providing social assistance, psychological support, medical care, and organizing evacuation measures. It also involves restoring the living conditions of those affected, paying compensation, and providing benefits aimed at reducing the negative social consequences of disasters.

Among the advantages of the social protection function, it is worth noting the increase in social justice, the strengthening of citizens' trust in state authorities, and the creation of a system for rapid response to the needs of the population in crisis situations. It ensures the implementation of the principle of priority of human life and health, enshrined in Ukrainian legislation and international norms.

However, there are also shortcomings:

- limited financial resources, which complicates the provision of timely assistance;
- insufficient coordination between various state structures and local authorities;
- uneven access to social protection for the population depending on the region;
- additional problems include bureaucratic obstacles in the process of obtaining assistance and delays in compensation payments.

Thus, the social protection function is a key area of state policy in the field of civil protection, as it directly affects the interests and needs of citizens. Its improvement is linked to increased funding, the digitization of social support processes, enhanced interagency cooperation, and the introduction of the latest practices in psychological and social rehabilitation of victims.

Thus, the functions of state authorities in the field of emergency response and recovery cover the entire crisis management cycle – from preventive measures and planning to immediate response, control, and recovery. Their effectiveness is determined by a systematic approach [7]: the consistency of legal regulation, the smooth functioning of coordination mechanisms, and the ability to integrate modern information and technological solutions into civil protection management practices.

Conclusions. The study allows us to conclude that the functions of state authorities in the field of response and elimination of the consequences of emergencies form a coherent system that ensures the stability of public administration in crisis conditions. The coordination function serves as the foundation for interagency cooperation and effective coordination of actions, the organizational and managerial function shapes the response strategy and determines the order of resource use, the control and supervisory function ensures compliance with legislative norms and safety standards, and the social protection function ensures the implementation of the principle of priority of human life and health.

The analysis revealed that although the implementation of these functions has significant advantages, there are still certain problems: bureaucratization of administrative procedures, uneven control in the regions, insufficient resources, and difficulties in accessing social support programs. These shortcomings reduce the overall effectiveness of the civil protection system and require comprehensive improvement.

In the context of growing man-made and natural threats, as well as modern military challenges, innovative approaches to the organization of public administration in the field of civil protection are becoming increasingly important. It is advisable to introduce digital platforms for monitoring and forecasting emergencies, develop a unified information and analytical system, strengthen the human resources of state authorities, and expand funding for social support measures.

Prospects for further research lie in an in-depth analysis of the effectiveness of interagency cooperation, the development of models for adaptive crisis management, and the study of international experience in implementing comprehensive civil protection programs. This will increase the resilience of the national civil protection system [8], reduce the negative consequences of emergencies, and ensure an adequate level of safety for Ukrainian citizens.

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