

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA  
 COMMONWEALTH EXECUTIVE MASTER OF BUSINESS/PUBLIC  
 ADMINISTRATION  
 FINAL EXAMINATION – MARCH 2009  
 MCP 2609 -DISASTER MANAGEMENT  
 DURATION : THREE (03) HOURS



Date : 28<sup>st</sup> March 2009

Time : 9.30 a.m – 12.30 p.m

**Answer 4 questions including question number 01.**

1. Read the following passage and answer all questions.

### **Fire at Kandy Library claims life of child**

*Firemen sans water to douse flames say witnesses Fire Dept. denies charges by L.B. Senarathne*

Firemen turned up late and were minus water to battle Friday's raging fire at the D.S. Senanayake Public Library which claimed the life of a child and caused extensive damage to the building and the priceless collection of books, Municipal Councilors and eyewitnesses said.

Kandy Municipal Council members had called Mayor L.B. Aluvihare to conduct an inquiry about the delay of the Fire Brigade arriving and their failure to supply water to control the fire.

A part of the Fire Brigade is located adjoining the premises which caught fire while the other bowsers are parked at the new building put up along Willam Gopollawa Mawatha.

The firemen were booed by onlookers while they struggled to find the hydrants and eventually the Bogambara Prisons had provided water to control the fire.

A spokesman for the Fire Department in Kandy denied the allegations. But eyewitnesses and Municipal Council members who rushed to the scene confirmed that the fire engines had arrived late.

JVP Municipal Councilor Anura Gonawala told The Sunday Times that he would call upon the Mayor to conduct an inquiry into the actions of the Fire Department.

Allegations were also leveled at the firemen that some of them were under the influence of liquor when they arrived at the scene.

The fire broke out during a rehearsal for a musical show and several persons were trapped upstairs prompting bystanders and prison guards to break open the glass window panes to rescue them.

A large number of books were damaged in the fire while some others had become soaked in the water used to control the fire.

The Library has a valuable collection of books and documents.

One of the former Librarians of the Kandy Library Daya Ratnayaka, who is now attached to the Library Services Board, was among those who rushed to the scene of the fire. Governor Tikiri Kobbekaduwa, Chief Minister Sarath Ekanayaka and the Mayor L.B. Aluvihare also arrived at the scene.

(Extracted from Sunday Times on line Feb. 4, 2007)

- a) Define the Hazard in relation to the incident described in the Paragraph.
- b) Define the term Vulnerability in relation to the passage.
- c) List 3 strengths and 3 weaknesses of relevant Public Authorities in Sri Lanka in managing this kind of disaster.
- d) Identify the type of disaster impacts of the incident.
- e) Who are the major stakeholders involved with the incident.
- f) Identify the kind of preparedness measures need to be managed in this type of incidents effectively.

(40 marks)

**Answer any 3 of the following questions. (Each question will carry 20 marks).**

2. (I) Distinguish between the following terms and give two examples for each.
  - a. Natural Hazards and Human Induced Hazards
  - b. Hazard and Disaster
- (ii) Name major phases of the Disaster Management cycle and list activities in major phases in relation to a Natural Disaster that occur in Sri Lanka.
3. (I) Distinguish between the terms “Training” and “Capacity Building”
- (ii) “Training is essential in disaster management context” Briefly discuss the above statement.
- (iii) Identify different levels of training and explain the importance of those levels in relation to disaster management.
4. Assume that you are appointed as the chairperson of the Disaster Management Committee in your organization. Your Committee is responsible for preparation of an organizational disaster preparedness plan.
  - (i) List down major activities that must be carried out in preparation of a preparedness plan.
  - (ii) Illustrate your preparedness plan in a table format.
5. (i) Name **Three** important phases of an emergency situation.
- (II) What are the common elements of an emergency plan?
- (iii) List key functions of an ‘Emergency Operation Centre’
- (iv) Explain briefly the importance of an Emergency Operation Centre in an emergency situation.
6. (I) What does “ICS” stand for in disaster management?
- (ii) What are the major functional areas of an ICS?
- (iii) What is the purpose of having an ICS for an emergency situation?
- (iv) Identify basic features of ICS and explain how those features help to manage disaster situations effectively.