

Emergency response management and co-operation

Several parties will normally be present in a response area (the working area of the response authorities), e.g. the fire and rescue service, the police and the emergency medical service. It is vital for the course of the response that co-operation works perfectly.

Division of responsibilities

An accident often requires the response of several authorities, each with their individual responsibility and expertise. In order that an emergency response runs as efficiently and smoothly as possible, it is important that everybody knows their own role and that of others. It is also important that co-operation adheres to pre-determined principles that are respected by all parties involved in the emergency response.

The scene of accident is the place where an accident has occurred and a remedial response is being launched (the working area of the fire and rescue service). The response area is the area in which the overall response takes place (see figure). In the area between the inner and outer cordon, a treatment area for the injured, which is a kind of casualty ward, is established (the working area of the emergency medical service).

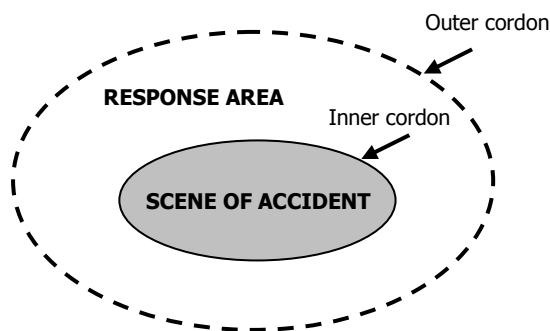


Illustration of the response area and the scene of accident

In case of major accidents, an Incident Management Team is established which normally comprises leaders from the police, the fire and rescue service and the emergency medical service, but also leaders from other emergency management services may be represented.

The coordinating management rests with the police who is therefore responsible for the overall response running as efficiently as possible.



Co-operation between the fire and rescue service and the ambulance service.

The operational leader of the municipal fire and rescue service is responsible for the technical management of the response at the scene of accident, including responsibility of all deployed units.

The leader of the emergency medical service and leaders of other emergency management services deployed are responsible for the response within each of their individual sectors; cf. the general sector responsibility principle.

DEMA's task

The Danish Emergency Management Agency issues guidelines for the "Incident Command System" describing management conditions and co-operation principles for all types of response covered by the Emergency Management Act.

The guidelines also form the basis of instructions for the handling of more specific incidents, e.g. accidents involving dangerous substances and acts of terror.

The guidelines have been prepared and acceded to by the authorities who normally work in a response area.

The guidelines (in Danish) may be downloaded from DEMA's website at www.brs.dk.