

Concept Note
on

First Responders Training for PCR Van Officials of the State

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Organized by



Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management

Supported By



Gujarat Police



GVK 108 EMRI

1. Background

Gujarat is prone to various types of hazards due to a combination of geographical, geological, and environmental factors. Gujarat is located in a seismically active region, majorly falling in Seismic Zone III, Zone IV and Zone V. The state has a long coastline along the Arabian Sea, making it susceptible to cyclonic storms and associated hazards such as strong winds, heavy rainfall, and storm surges. The state experiences a monsoon climate, with a distinct wet season while some parts have semi-arid climates, which make them prone to droughts. In addition to the natural hazards, Gujarat is prone to many human-induced hazards due to its robust industrial base with numerous chemical plants, refineries, and other industries.

Given these factors, Disaster Risk Management (DRM) becomes essential for Gujarat to reduce vulnerabilities, enhance preparedness, and mitigate the impact of various hazards on its communities and infrastructure.

According to the conventional and contemporary understanding, the police force has been seen as one of the first responders in Disaster Response and Pre-Emptive Response measures, but, undoubtedly the role of police in the overall gamut of DRM is something that needs to be looked into. Case in point, the massive evacuation that was carried out as a pre-emptive measure during the recent cyclone Biparjoy of 2023 or even many other events, stands as elaborate examples. However, the role of the Police is not limited to the phase of 'Disaster Response'.

Police are consistently the first responders to any event due to their close proximity to the incident site and strong connections with the affected local communities. They play a vital role in disaster preparedness and the development of local Disaster Risk Management strategies due to their familiarity with the areas under their jurisdiction. Further, their responsibilities encompass various aspects of disaster risk reduction, including-

- Preparedness and Planning
- Early Warning and Communication
- Evacuation and Rescue Operations
- Maintaining Law and Order
- Traffic Management
- Crowd Control
- Community Awareness and Education
- Coordination with Other Agencies
- Post-Disaster Assessment
- Management of Dead Bodies
- Support to Relief and Rehabilitation

The Indian Police Force has been at the forefront of maintaining law and order, providing crucial support to the health system, and guiding the public during these challenging times. As intrepid COVID warriors, they have faced an unprecedented crisis with unwavering energy, efficiency, and, in many instances, empathy. It is truly heartening to witness how the police rose to the occasion, not only meeting the people's expectations but in some cases, going above and beyond the call of duty. Their dedication and commitment have been commendable throughout this difficult period.

With the world steadily moving towards Disaster Risk Management (DRM), there is an imminent need to understand, in a definitive and elaborative manner, the role that Police can play in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and hence, DRM. GIDM has initiated various collaborative capacity development activities on the subject targeting various levels of stakeholders from across the State. Prevention, Mitigation and Preparedness for any probable hazards are essential and proactive steps to deal with any emergency. Each stakeholder needs to develop and enhance its systems, skills and resources to enable the department to perform their respective roles and responsibilities at the onset of the disaster.

Keeping this in view, GIDM has planned to organize a series of **First Responders Training for PCR Van Officials of the State.**

2. Aim and Objectives

The aim of this training is to sensitize PCR Van police personnel about the necessary knowledge, skills, and capabilities to effectively respond to and manage any crisis and disasters. The training seeks to achieve the following **objectives** -

- Equip participants with the competence and confidence needed to effectively contribute to emergency management, protect lives, and support communities during times of crisis.
- To sensitize participants in coordinating with other emergency services, government agencies, and community organizations to ensure a unified and efficient response.
- To bring a culture of continuous learning within the police force, encouraging officers to regularly update their skills and knowledge in disaster risk management through ongoing education and drills.

3. Target Participants

The target group for this program will be Police Officials of PCR Van from across various districts. The training location will be at GIDM and District Headquarters.