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TITLE OF DIPLOMA THESIS:

Organizational preparedness against natural and manmade hazards

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ABSTRACT

Preparedness to deal with natural and manmade hazards at an organization level can prevent or significantly reduce the adverse effects they may cause. Recognition of risks leads to a timely intervention decision and assessment of the situation. The coordination of information at the lower level (within the organization, as well as with those that provide warning information about imminent disasters to the organization), staff training and preparedness exercises can contribute to the successful resolution of a disaster event.

The description of the organizational preparedness, the natural and manmade hazards that the organization can encounter and the action planning stages present the challenges identified in the preparation of an emergency plan to deal with them. This diploma thesis proposes a Preparedness Response Process for Natural and Manmade Hazards, which is generally applicable at the organization level. The case study specializes at the Municipality of Thessaloniki and focuses on dealing with emergency needs arising from an earthquake or fire at the level of the Municipality's facilities and at a level that includes the population of the Municipality. The abundance of natural and manmade hazards that an organization is likely to face, and the fact that some of these cannot be predicted, highlights the need for pre-catastrophic planning. The approach involves identifying, analyzing, risk assessment and risk treatment, along with ongoing review and review of the proposed measures and the provision of knowledge by the relevant authorities. The proposed Preparedness Response Process for Natural and Manmade Hazards attempts an overall approach through its constituent part (emergency coordination team, coordination center, equipment, procedures, evacuation of facilities or event area, staff/population gathering spots and staff training). A continuous improvement and review process is included.

KEYWORDS

Organizational preparedness, Natural Hazards, Manmade Hazards, Plan of Action, Emergency Procedure