KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AS A TOOL TO ENSURE PUBLIC SAFETY IN EMERGENCIES

Purpose. The purpose of this article is to determine the theoretical and practical bases for knowledge management, which is a tool to ensure public safety during emergency response in Ukraine.

Methodology. This paper highlights the issue of knowledge management to achieve the goals of protecting the population and territories against natural and man-made hazards. When investigating the issue, the authors used basic research methods, namely statistical analysis (to represent the variables of the impact of emergencies on the lives of the population, economy and environment of the country); logical and systems analysis (to describe knowledge development and management, to determine the content of knowledge management to ensure public safety); generalization, analysis and synthesis (to study the existing knowledge management system). Method of individual expert estimation was used during interviews with emergency management experts, which resulted in development of relative importance of knowledge factors.

Findings. It has been found that knowledge management is a vital process to fulfill the purpose of protecting civilians and territories against natural and man-made disasters. Key knowledge factors on ensuring the safety of the civilian population in emergencies are classified in the main categories: legal, infrastructural, financial and economic, resource-based, organizational, social and political, and time. As a result of expert research, indicators of relative importance of the studied knowledge factors have been found out, which affect the safety of the civilian population during disaster management in Ukraine.

Originality. Based on logical analysis, the phenomenon of knowledge management to ensure public safety during emergency response in Ukraine has been clarified. The concept of “knowledge management for the safety of the civilian population during an emergency” is specified as a process in which any authorities or enterprises (institutions, organizations) being stakeholders in the field of civil protection generate and accumulate knowledge for the benefit of the safety of life and activities of the civilian population. Key knowledge factors on ensuring the safety of the civilian population during emergency response (legal, infrastructural, financial and economic, resource-based, organizational, social and political, and time) have been identified and it has been found that they can influence all the stages of the emergency management cycle. It has also been determined that the following knowledge factors, such as social and political, organizational and resource-based ones are very important for emergency response.

Practical value. Research findings can be taken into account by the heads of authorities, enterprises (institutions, organizations) whose work relates to organizing and running events in civil protection during emergency response, which will enhance the safety of the civilian population.

Keywords: emergency, public safety, knowledge factors, knowledge management

Introduction. The solution of urgent issues of politics and economics of the state is achieved through the progress of science, technology, and production. At the same time, it is replaced by the uncertainty of the situation related to the occurring of new natural, man-made or social issues. The growth of these challenges threatens daily activities of people, their health and life as well. At different stages of the history of Ukraine high living standards, human well-being and security have always been strategic goals for the development of the country. This remains a priority for the government but the importance of security, its essence for the quality of life have now increased significantly.

Over the past century, the number of emergencies in the world has been steadily increasing. Accordingly, loss of human life, people’s homes and property, and the damage to physical infrastructure and the environment have grown. Emergency risk ignorance calls into question not only economic growth and social well-being, but also the country’s national security. The population of Ukraine is under constant influence of natural, man-made, and social disasters, their embodiment in the military confrontation in eastern Ukraine. The devastating effects of emergencies on civilians’ life, economy and environment of the country are not diminishing. During 2019, 146 disasters happened on the territory of Ukraine, as a result of which 199 people died and 1492 were injured [1]. As L. Petrenko argues, the impact of technological, demographic, social and economic changes makes significant adjustments to the employment landscape of different countries, causes the introduction of new skills requirements for specialists from different economic sectors [2].

Unsolved aspects of the problem. As people around the world are exposed to an increase in the frequency and variety of disasters and accidents, efforts to ensure their safety are aimed at avoiding or reducing possible losses, assisting victims, and achieving quick recovery. Authorities, enterprises (institutions, organizations), as stakeholders in civil protection, must make sufficient efforts to ensure the safety of the civilians during emergencies. Establishing of the effective counter disaster system contributes to the safe living conditions for people, as well as sustainable development of the country’s economy. Effective measures development to protect the civilian population requires to enhance highly effective advanced management technologies used by government agencies, enterprises (institutions, organizations). One such technology is knowledge management, which is widely used in the developed countries.

At the main stages of the disaster countering, starting with the pre-crisis period, essential and timely information to make coordinated decisions is always of importance. Knowledge leads to collaboration between various stakeholders in civil protection in order to prevent, respond to emergencies and eliminate their consequences, to carry out rehabilitation work. With the experience gained by dealing with disasters, they acquire...
knowledge, which is necessary to ensure life safety of the civilian population. Emergency elimination generates and accelerates new specialized knowledge development based on security values. Such knowledge is of particular significance, a strategically important asset under the natural and man-made threats.

Researchers claim that the ability to generate and use new knowledge productively is the basis for national competitiveness and a prerequisite for intensive social and economic growth [3]. There is no doubt that the future depends on how new knowledge is created, stored and disseminated to address specific challenges related to human security. Thus, knowledge management improves disaster management provided by stakeholders in civil protection, eliminates gaps in the exchange of information. In this context, identifying and comparing key factors of knowledge about disasters will provide an efficient setting for public safety development.

Literature review has shown that a significant number of studies carried out by modern researchers both from Ukraine and abroad are on disaster management and civil protection. The issues on theoretical principles and practical tools for disaster counteracting have been analysed in the works by the leading researchers, namely: S. Andreiev, M. Andrienko, K. Becker, W. Beck, F. Haetani. Specific features of the civil protection system management have been studied by S. Maistro, F. Oseiia, R. Peliiaguru, V. Sadkovyi, D. Skorupka, A. Terentiev, O. Trush, R. Haig, V. Tishchenko, I. Shpylovyi. Issues of human security in crisis situations have been considered by L. Zhukova, R. Kovalenkon, M. Kozyar, V. Kostenko, R. Razumyshyn. Considering the state of natural and man-made security, the current social and political instability in the country, combat operations in eastern Ukraine, the issue of safety of the civilian population during disasters remains extremely crucial, thus, it requires further research.

Better protection of human life, territories, property, and environment justifies the need to apply knowledge management at all stages of the emergency management cycle [4]. The adopted Sendai Framework Program for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015–2030) highlights the important role of knowledge in reducing the level of man-made and natural hazards [5]. No mention has been found in the Ukrainian studies for this area of management, in particular, how to manage people as disaster-related knowledge holders. Thus, the urgency of this issue requires more attention to the ways of addressing it.

Given this, the purpose of this paper is to determine the theoretical and practical foundations for knowledge management, which is considered a tool to ensure the safety of the civilian population during emergency response at the artillery warehouses in Ukraine.

In line with the purpose, the study addressed the tasks of:
- exploring the importance of knowledge management for effective neutralization of threats caused by disasters;
- investigating the key knowledge factors related to the main stages of the emergency management cycle, and their classification by categories;
- establishing the indicators of relative importance of knowledge factors, which affect disaster management at the artillery warehouses in Ukraine.

Results. Methodological basis for research involves the provisions of the Civil Protection Code of Ukraine [6], the Law of Ukraine “On National Security of Ukraine” [7], DSTU 3891-99. Emergency Safety. Basic terms and definitions of the concepts [8], in which:
- state policy on national security is aimed at protection of human lives from threats, at supporting safe living conditions, welfare and providing the opportunities for sustainable development of the society and environmental protection;
- protection of the population, territories, and environment from disasters is defined as a function of the state. This function is performed during peace time and special periods by preventing emergencies, eliminating their consequences and assisting victims;
- safety for the civilian population, as well as for objects of the economy and the environment, presupposes the condition of being protected against danger or loss during disasters.

Ukrainian legislation defines an emergency as a situation in a separate territory, enterprise, organization or water body characterized by a violation of normal living conditions. The violation can be caused by a catastrophe, an accident, a fire, a natural disaster, an epidemic, means of destruction, which endangered the life or health of the population with a large number of casualties, inability to reside within the area and the business, and caused significant material damage [6]. In responding to an emergency, which is maintained by a long, dynamic, integrated process of planning, organizing, coordinating and implementing appropriate activities, the efforts of stakeholders are determined by a consistent flow of events at different stages of the emergency management cycle. During the stages, stakeholders take measures to reduce the negative effects of the emergency on people, infrastructure, and the environment [4]. Limiting the negative impact of emergencies takes place at certain stages of the emergency management cycle, notably: emergency prevention; emergency response and elimination of consequences; emergency recovery works.

The provisions of current regulations define the emergency prevention as a set of legal, social and economic, political, organizational and technical, sanitary and hygienic measures. During emergency prevention, based on data monitoring along with emergency expertise and forecasting, the risk levels are evaluated [6]. These measures are aimed at regulating natural and man-made safety. In turn, emergency response requires from civil protection stakeholders to be prepared to coordinated actions in accordance with appropriate response plans. At the stage of liquidation of the consequences, people and property are rescued, and dangers that pose a threat to human life or health are eliminated. Since the elimination of the consequences of an emergency is dynamic, in order to make a management decision, the head of the authority, enterprise (institution, organization) must quickly obtain updated information about its current state. Any delay in collecting, accessing or using information on an emergency negatively affects decision-making. At the stage of recovery, works related to the reconstruction of destroyed or damaged buildings and structures of economic entities and households are carried out. Recovery works after the liquidation of an emergency are entrusted to the local governments of the emergency-affected territories. Public funds and local budgets, enterprises (institutions, organizations) are involved in supporting recovery works.

Although there is no way to neutralize all the threats caused by disasters, the authorities, enterprises (institutions, organizations) are still making efforts to minimize them. Their efforts are supported by knowledge of the principles and methods of countermeasures, as well as by the lessons learned on disaster prevention and response. Three main interconnected, consistent categories highlighted by researchers help people gain the necessary awareness of protection against extreme threats; they are: data, information, and knowledge. In our view, the basis for these concepts is data (certain facts taken out of context), information is placed above it (data used in context), and knowledge is at the top. Individual observations (data as unstructured information) can be used to develop information.

Through the perception of the best possible pieces of information (interconnected structured data set), experts understand the intentions, vision and general concept of action of the head of the civil protection stakeholder, which creates new knowledge.

At this stage, having received the information, the manager reviews the existing practical knowledge about dangers, makes managerial decisions, and gives necessary directives to ensure the safety of people. Thus, knowledge is a combination of experience and expert assessments, which set the general
framework for incorporating new experience and contextual information used by the intelligent system (individual, artificial intelligence). The process, which is a sequence of certain interrelated actions aimed at providing knowledge with additional management value is defined as knowledge management by M. Rudeenko [9]. It is a complex and multi-stage process within a certain life cycle, which requires to be managed consciously to maintain some consistency and coordination, and to reach the desired level of effectiveness and efficiency of the defined goals.

Knowledge management is a tool for improving decision-making efficiency. In Ukrainian management studies and practice, this issue has been defined as a new concept of knowledge development that contributes to organizational competence building [10]. The main purpose of knowledge management is knowledge acquisition and dissemination, that is elimination of its deficit and increasing its efficiency. Scholars suggest a way to understand the essence of knowledge management, which covers all its components. Thus, I. Sytnyk notes that knowledge management is a key element of the modern management process, which forms new approaches to modelling a holistic management system at all levels of government [11]. Ya. Sikora claims that knowledge management moves from the individual to the global level, consequently, and is possible at the command level if the individual one is developed [12].

Kovalchuk G. considers knowledge management as a process of compilation, application of information, direct knowledge, experience, professional skills to achieve certain goals and objectives that can strengthen the organization and increase its competence [13]. L. Anisimova emphasizes that knowledge management is one of the areas in the management of modern organizations, which aims at accumulating and effective application of intellectual capital [14]. S. Illiaschenko considers the knowledge management of the enterprise or institution as a coordinated and interconnected processes of knowledge generating (acquisition) and exploitation [15].

During project implementation, an expert survey of representatives of the task force on emergency management was conducted. To this end, ten respondents aged 36 to 45 with 10 to 20 years of experience in civil protection were interviewed, some of them were with practical experience in research and directly involved in emergency response at the artillery warehouses in Ukraine. The research project is related to recent emergency response at the artillery warehouses in Ukraine. The research project analyses in detail the causes and consequences of the disaster at the ammunition warehouses in the area of Kalinovka, Vinnytska Oblast, in 2016; it expanded the existing knowledge base to improve the actions of civil protection authorities. In view of high probability of emergencies at the artillery warehouses in Ukraine with large-scale destruction and casualties, key areas of knowledge generation were identified based on the stages of the emergency management cycle (Table 1).

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Due to the perceived need to share and acquire knowledge on emergencies, the Institute of Public Administration in the Sphere of Civil Protection has launched a research project “Model”. This research project is related to recent emergency response at the artillery warehouses in Ukraine. The research project analyses in detail the causes and consequences of the disaster at the ammunition warehouses in the area of Kalinovka, Vinnytska Oblast, in 2016; it expanded the existing knowledge base to improve the actions of civil protection authorities. In view of high probability of emergencies at the artillery warehouses in Ukraine with large-scale destruction and casualties, key areas of knowledge generation were identified based on the stages of the emergency management cycle (Table 1).

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ever, the resources for emergency prevention differ from the

response stage. At this stage, the focus is on

maximum impact of the resource knowledge factor is observed

site to assist people and eliminate the consequences of the

average. Thus, resources are of great impor­

ter site to assist people and eliminate the consequences of the

the activities of civil protection authorities and is of the utmost

knowledge factor. Most emergency response mea­

s and buildings that create the necessary conditions for ef­

emergency response are among the infrastructural fac­

structural factor remains important throughout all the

the remote site at any time. The respondents argue that

To achieve proper infrastructure is vital for effective emergency response.

the remoteness of the emergency site, civil

political interest of some

are not able to arrive and respond
timely [18]. Therefore, the potential of the risk-based infra­

structure within the administrative territory which is designed
to provide safety during disasters should be strengthened.

The financial and economic factor includes management

The respondents emphasized the importance of the financial

infrastructure is of vital importance for effective emergency response.

ence and quality of these aspects contributes to the tasks

of public safety at times of crisis. The respondents argue that

The indirect influence of the social and political factor comes

safety both directly and indirectly. The direct influence of the

safety during the emergency response. The respondents also

The organizational factor of knowledge includes planning,

social and political factor is most evident in the reduction of

The organizational knowledge is considered important at all stages of the

management cycle. The respondents claim that

there is a relationship between some drawbacks and appropri­

erature and utilization. Finance is a vital resource at all stages of

the system of indicators that show financial resource visibility, al­

during the emergency management cycle. Effective financial and

in the assessment of the level of communities' general

Emergency recovery

Emergency recovery

the causes of the emergency.

Equipment, tools, technologies, processes, methods, int­

for emergency management relate to the

the resource knowledge factor. Most emergency response mea­

are based on resources. Resources facilitate the timely

the maximum impact of the resource knowledge factor is observed

At this stage, the focus is on the rescuers' rapid arrival and equipment delivery to the disas­

the resource factor is integrated with the organizational

sequences of emergencies depends on the organizational factor,

so that the resource factor is integrated with the organizational

The organizational factor is related to the forms and methods

conducting the emergency rescue operations, increasing the

safety during disasters should be carried out, along with addressing the causes of the

Emergency recovery

Comprehensive assessment of the impact of the emergency on the population, territory and environment

Awareness and assessment of differences in the knowledge application and practical actions taken by

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This factor is of concern to society and stakeholders during an emergency and at the stage of recovery works. However, no matter how well society is aware of the threats but has a will to accept and live with them, this situation is seen as a social and political achievement. For instance, the Chernobyl disaster, the largest in the history of nuclear energy, left imprints on the lives of many people who are aware of the threats and have become resilient despite irreparable damage to their health and the environment.

Time factor. The form and measure of all types of motion is time, which shows the duration of the reality and the sequence of changes in the state of all material systems and processes in the world. Investigating knowledge management at the stages of the emergency management cycle, we reached the conclusion that the speed of information search and acquisition is an important parameter of technological solutions; it influences the effectiveness of management decisions. The response to emergencies is dynamic, so decision-makers need to quickly obtain the necessary information about the current state of an emergency. Any delay in knowledge gathering, access, use and distribution has a negative impact on the quality of decision-making and therefore on the possible consequences of an emergency. Lack of rapid knowledge sharing may be one of the reasons for the low level of emergency management. Professional development of the specialists due to the new knowledge acquisition affects the speed of decision-making. Acquiring new knowledge and passing it on to others take extra time.

The findings of the research obtained with the expert assessments method, which is considered as one of the most effective modern tools for quality information analysis [19], showed the indicators of relative importance of the key knowledge factors affected the level of public safety during the disaster at the artillery warehouses in Ukraine (Table 2).

The results of the assessment of factor relative importance of the knowledge indicate that social and political (0.720 fraction of a unit) and organizational (0.585 fraction of a unit), as well as resource (0.500 fraction of a unit) factors are of great importance during emergency management at the artillery warehouses in Ukraine. In turn, infrastructural (0.185 fraction of a unit) and legal (0.215 fraction of a unit) knowledge factors have been identified as less significant for the provision of public safety during emergency management at the artillery warehouses in Ukraine.

The foregoing confirms the conclusions that emergencies at the artillery warehouses in Ukraine had an adequate public response. It was the response to the effects of how people perceive the frequent emergency events at the artillery warehouses, along with the feedback on the authorities’ inefficiency to carry out recovery works and to the mobilization of substantial logistical resources from institutions and organizations, most of which were never involved in the works.

| Knowledge factor       | Total score determined by the respondents | Assessment of relative importance of the knowledge factor |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Legislative            | 192.50                                   | 0.215                                                   |
| Infrastructural        | 194.50                                   | 0.185                                                   |
| Financial and economic | 175.00                                   | 0.400                                                   |
| Resource-based         | 167.50                                   | 0.500                                                   |
| Organizational         | 162.50                                   | 0.585                                                   |
| Social and political   | 150.00                                   | 0.720                                                   |
| Time                   | 190.00                                   | 0.250                                                   |

Conclusions. In areas where immediate response is mandatory, knowledge management becomes an important and vital tool for ensuring the availability of information and accessibility to it. It helps to summarize the lessons learned from the past failures and successes and develops the necessary competencies of professionals. As disasters lead to deaths and direct or indirect economic damage, there is an urgent need for the government to build capacity to counter them. In this regard, efforts to overcome emergencies are focused on possible human losses reduction or avoiding, on providing assistance to victims and enabling people to recover quickly from dangers. Emergency management is based on the exploitation of knowledge about threats, nature and patterns of their course, strict and consistent implementation of the measures on response, and elimination of threats as well.

Literature review along with the analysis of the main provisions of regulations, empirical and expert research have made it possible to identify key factors of knowledge within the emergency management cycle. Among knowledge factors, social and political, organizational and resource-based factors proved to be important for ensuring public safety during disasters at the artillery warehouses in Ukraine. However, infrastructural and legal knowledge factors had less impact on human safety. Future research is needed to explore opportunities for improving the management and public safety during recovery and reconstruction after disaster impacts.

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Управління знаннями як інструмент забезпечення безпеки населення в надзвичайних ситуаціях

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Мета. Полагає у визначені теоретико-практичних засад управління знаннями як інструменту забезпечення безпеки населення при реагуванні на надзвичайні ситуації в Україні.

Методика. У роботі висвітлюються проблеми управління знаннями для досягнення цілей захисту населення та відповідного реагування на надзвичайні ситуації в Україні. Охоплюється послідовне прийняття рішення в процесі управління, використання інструментарію, який дієвий розроблено для забезпечення безпеки населення в надзвичайних ситуаціях.

Результати. Встановлено, що управління знаннями є життєво важливим процесом для досягнення цілей захисту населення та забезпечення безпеки в рамках надзвичайних ситуацій. Встановлено ключові фактори значної кількості підходів до управління знаннями в надзвичайних ситуаціях, що дозволяє ефективно спрямувати дії визначених факторів, щоб забезпечити безпеку населення.

Ключові слова: надзвичайна ситуація, безпека населення, фактори, управління знаннями
Результаты. Установлено, что управление знаниями является жизненно важным процессом для достижения целей по защите населения и территорий от опасностей природного и техногенного характера. Охарактеризованы ключевые факторы знаний по обеспечению безопасности населения в чрезвычайных ситуациях, которые классифицированы по основным категориям: правовой, инфраструктурный, финансово-экономический, ресурсный, организационный, социально-политический, временной. В результате экспертного исследования установлены показатели сравнительной важности исследованных факторов знаний, которые влияют на безопасность людей в ходе ликвидации чрезвычайных ситуаций в Украине.

Научная новизна. На основе логического анализа раскрыта сущность управления знаниями для обеспечения безопасности населения в процессе ликвидации чрезвычайных ситуаций в Украине. Сформулировано понятие «управление знаниями для обеспечения безопасности населения в чрезвычайных ситуациях», в котором акцент делается на том, что это процесс, в ходе которого орган, предприятие (учреждение, организация) как заинтересованный субъект сферы гражданской защиты, генерирует и накапливает знания с целью их использования в интересах обеспечения безопасной жизнедеятельности населения. Выявлены ключевые факторы знаний по обеспечению безопасности населения в процессе ликвидации чрезвычайных ситуаций (правовой, инфраструктурный, финансово-экономический, ресурсный, организационный, социально-политический, временной), а также установлено их влияние на уровень безопасности населения на всех этапах цикла управления чрезвычайными ситуациями. В то же время было установлено, что социально-политический, организационный и ресурсный факторы знаний имеют особое значение при ликвидации чрезвычайных ситуаций.

Практическая значимость. Полученные результаты могут быть учтены руководителями органов власти, предприятий (учреждений, организаций), деятельность которых связана с организацией и осуществлением мероприятий по вопросам гражданской защиты, во время подготовки к ликвидации чрезвычайных ситуаций, что повысит уровень безопасности населения.

Ключевые слова: чрезвычайная ситуация, безопасность населения, факторы знаний, управление знаниями

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