**Direction and Coordination in Disaster Management**

VRSN10, 7,5 credits, A (Second Cycle)

Valid for: 2015/16

Decided by: Education Board C

Date of Decision: 2015-04-15

General Information

Main field: Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation.

Compulsory for: MKAT1

Elective for: RH4

Language of instruction: The course will be given in English

**Aim**

- To provide the student with knowledge and skills to plan and evaluate prerequisites for direction and coordination in disaster management.
- To constitute a foundation for the student with an interest in research associated with direction and coordination in disaster management.

**Learning outcomes**

**Knowledge and understanding**

For a passing grade the student must

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding for the field of direction and coordination in disaster management, including insight in current research and development within the field
- Demonstrate specialized methodological knowledge in the main field of direction and coordination in disaster management

**Competences and skills**

For a passing grade the student must

- Demonstrate the ability to critically and systematically integrate knowledge and analyze and assess preconditions for direction and coordination in disaster management
- Demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate challenges for direction and coordination autonomously and creatively as well as suggest solutions
- Demonstrate the ability in speech and writing both nationally and internationally to report clearly and discuss his or her conclusions and arguments on which they are based in dialogue with different audiences
- Demonstrate the ability to work constructively in a team and to communicate effectively with humans from different disciplines
Judgement and approach

For a passing grade the student must

- Demonstrate the ability to reflect on his or her attitude towards preconditions for direction and coordination
- Demonstrate the ability to reflect on ethical, subjective and societal dimensions of preconditions for direction and coordination

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Field description

Direction and coordination is here regarded as effects needed for making the best use of the capacity of the resources which are engaged in the management of a disaster, i.e. meeting the aid requirements. Direction entails orientation of available resources towards formulated goals. Coordination entails adapting sub-goals and activities to each other with the purpose of making the best use of the capacity of the resources.

An epistemological standpoint is that disaster management is characterized by complexity and uncertainty, which affects decision-making.

Direction and coordination can be achieved in several ways. Two of these are command & control and collaboration. Command & control achieves direction and coordination through the authority of one entity over other entities. Collaboration achieves direction and coordination through agreement between entities with mutually equal authority. Closely associated to these concepts is leadership. Leadership includes aspects such as ethics, norms, motivation, trust and to make the best of the abilities of the individual/group. Leadership entails relations between humans which enable command & control and collaboration.

Course components

The main components of the course consist of:

- Introduction to the terms direction, coordination, command & control and collaboration
- Brief treatment of the complex environment in which direction and coordination are to be achieved
- Treatment of decision making under uncertainty, including the time dimension
- Treatment of leadership with special focus on trust and norms
- Treatment of models for command & control and collaboration
- Exchange of knowledge between students and experienced practitioners
- Brief treatment of methods for evaluating and analyzing preconditions for direction and coordination

The course content is applicable nationally as well as internationally and suitable for those who are interested in working with issues concerning direction and coordination in emergency and disaster management on different levels of society. Examples of associated bodies are central, regional and local authorities, health care, rescue services, private companies and humanitarian organizations.

The course includes mandatory individual homework and group project work, which are mainly based on case studies. The project work is to be presented orally as well as in writing, the latter in the form of a report.

Examination details
Grading scale: TH

Assessment: Group assignment (2.5 hp, pass/fail) and individual assignments (5 hp)

Admission

Admission requirements:

Admitted to the Master's Programme in Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation or to the Programme Risk Management and Safety Engineering or have a minimum of 150 hp from a five-year engineering programme or from the Fire Safety Engineering Programme at LTH.

The number of participants is limited to: 40

Selection: Guaranteed admission for students at the Master's Programme in Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation. Selection rules for the remaining places: priority is given to students firstly at the Programme Risk Management and Safety Engineering and secondly at the Fire Safety Engineering Programme at LTH. To distinguish between students from the same programme, number of credits and results on the programme will be used.

Reading list


Contact and other information

Course coordinator: Christian Uhr, christian.uhr@risk.lth.se

Course coordinator: Olof Ekman, olof.ekman@msb.se

Further information: Group assignments and seminars require active participation. Each group member must individually be able to account for the content of the project assignment. If a group member does not fulfil the demands of the group or ignores hers/his commitment, she/he can be reassigned to another group or get a fail result.