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INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY  
ON DISASTER MEDICINE  
  
الجمعية الدولية لطب الكوارث

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THE PLACE OF DISASTER MEDICINE  
IN RELIEF ORGANIZATION PLANS  
IN FRANCE

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Following the introduction, in France, of university teaching in Disaster Medicine in 1981 and the application of European Community Directive No. 82-501 E.E.C. (the "SEVESO Directive"), the French authorities were led to draw up new **RELIEF ORGANIZATION PLANS** mainly adapted to technological developments and to the hazards that they entail.

So, the law of 22nd July 1987 on the organization of Civil Safety and the prevention of major hazards recognizes two categories of relief organization plans intended to ensure a specific and progressive response to numerous large-scale accident or disaster situations.

THE MAIN RELIEF ORGANIZATION PLANS IN FRANCE :

The two categories of relief organization plans comprise, on the one hand, **EMERGENCY PLANS** laying down measures to be taken in the event of specific and sector-linked hazards and, on the other hand, **ORSEC PLANS** which list at Departmental level, under the responsibility of a State representative, the public and private resources which would be employed in the event of a disaster.

An emergency plan can be triggered on its own. However, several emergency plans may be implemented jointly and may even be complemented by an ORSEC plan, if the scale or the nature of the disaster justify it.

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