

National strategies

Broadly speaking, phase I covered the major scenarios described above; it was also considered important, however, to take matching action to respond to perceived needs in the country in areas such as industrial risk, assistance and specialist rescue and the promotion of general preventive measures.

Industrial risk

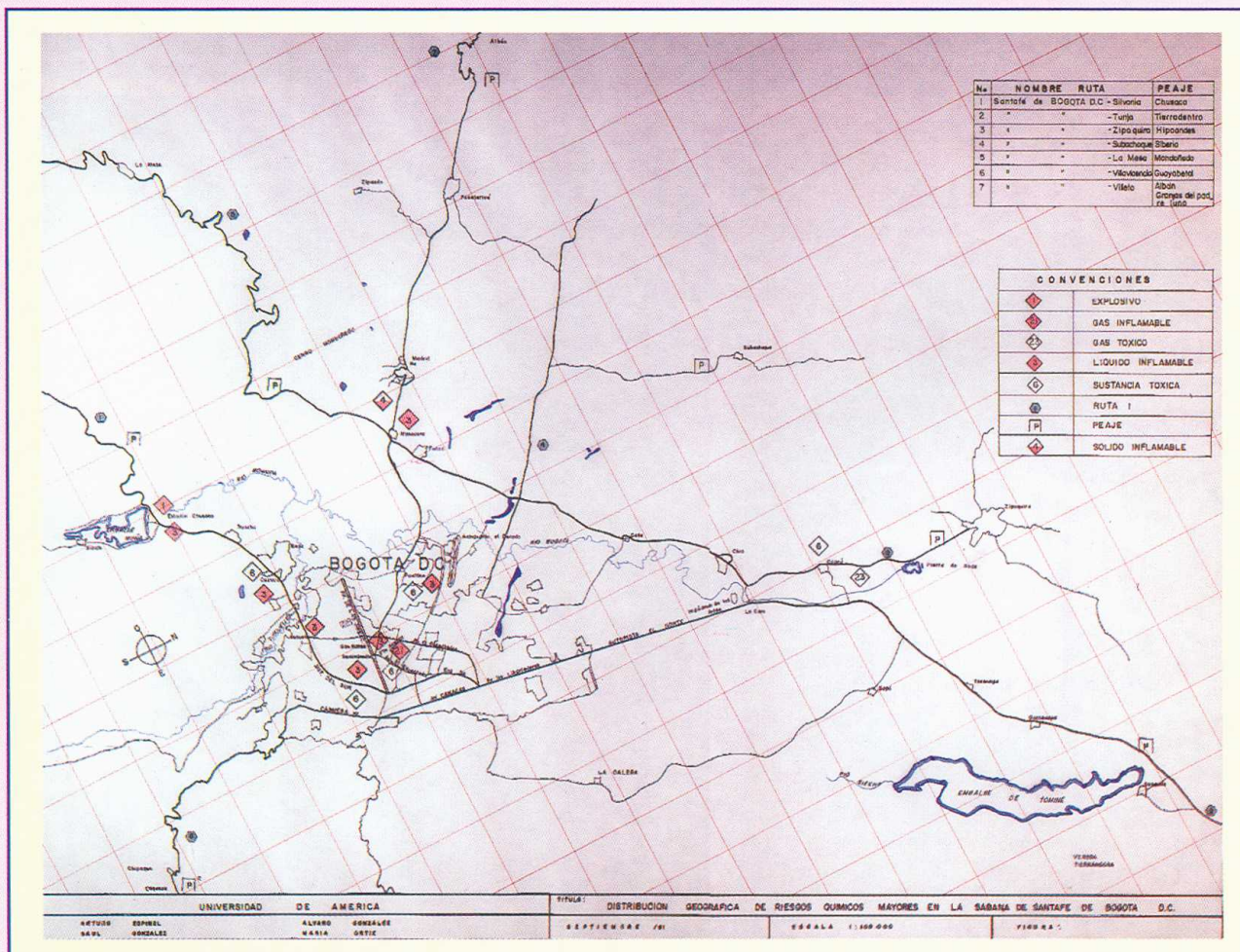
This has been accorded too little importance in Colombia and generally confined to business practices. There was no scenario

covering the dangers and appropriate responses, so the topic was selected to complement the subjects covered above.

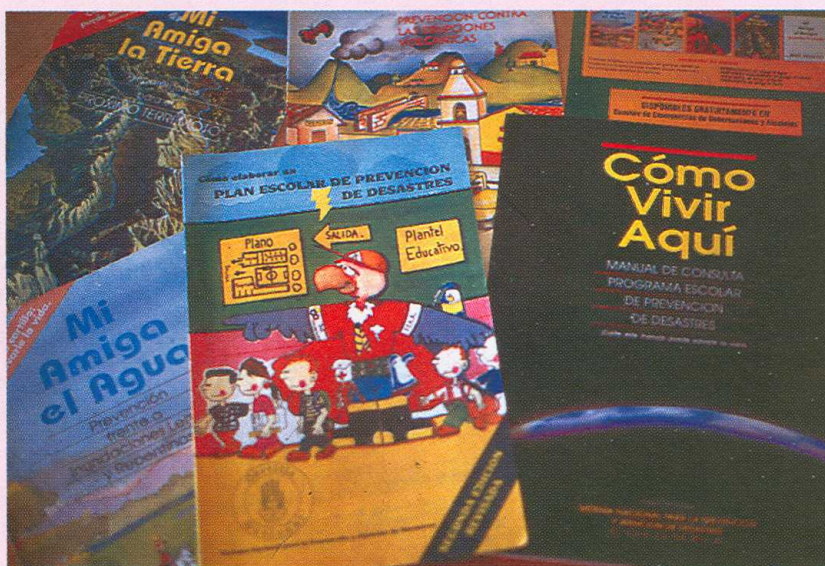
General activities:

- Creation of a safety information centre
- Establishment and strengthening of the National System for Risk Mitigation and Disaster Preparedness (SNPAD) Advisory Committee on Industrial and Technological Risk
- Training in accident handling and industrial safety
- A map identifying chemical hazards in Bogotá
- A national seminar on APELL (Awareness and preparedness for emergencies at the local level).

HAZARD IDENTIFICATION MAP



One of the most prominent outcomes was the establishment of the SNPAD Advisory Committee on Industrial and Technological Risk. This, under private sector leadership, has accomplished much - such as setting up the Information Centre on Chemical Products (CISPRO-QUIM) which provides information 24 hours a day to all comers on types of chemicals and how to handle them. It has also moderated seminars on contingency and mutual assistance plans in the oil and gas sectors, and discussions on building standards, assay standards and the transport of dangerous substances. The application of UNEP's APELL methodology has been encouraged in various parts of the country. The results are currently being evaluated.



TRAINING SUPPORT BOOK LETS AND DOCUMENTS

Inter-institutional relief and rescue training

Continual basic and refresher training for search and rescue bodies has always been a concern of the entities making up the National System for Risk Mitigation and Disaster Preparedness in Colombia. Resources have therefore been channelled to train instructors to spread their knowledge.

General activities:

- Helicopter aid and rescue course
- Inter-American emergency rescue and relief seminar.

The relief and rescue training courses have increased the knowledge and response capacity of Colombian institutions. These activities should be a permanent fixture.

General preventive activities

- Research into historical disasters (methodological research)
- Training seminars for officials
- Creation of an emergency reserve centre in the city of Pasto (repeatable experiment).

Research into historical disasters was one of the first elements in the evaluation and testing of the national contingency plan, this being understood as intersectoral and inter-institutional cooperative response to emergencies. It provided lessons which are being put into practice as the Regional Emergency Committees are strengthened.

The Emergency Reserve Centre in Pasto, Nariño, served as a model for the creation of the National Network of Emergency Reserve Centres, the reasoning being that regions should have the necessary supportive elements to back up institutions and communities when the magnitude and expected effects of an emergency exceed their response capacity ●