



Dear Readers!

It is perfectly fair to say that modern-day civilization is urban civilization.

The economic and social advantages of living in cities are unquestionable.

At the same time, city dwellers are, to a large degree subject to various types of danger. The fact is that cities develop along social-economic lines – one only has to look at the state of modern industrial technology, the transport industry and the huge construction industry to see that safety factors are often overlooked.

That is the reason why on the edge of XXI Century the scientists worldwide are facing the need to develop quite new approaches to the problem of population protection. The mankind is aware that the real progress is only possible if the balance reached between technical developments and natural environment.

The further development of cities only increases the risk of emergency situation if we continue with the same technologies and infrastructure, as present.

The EMERCOM together with the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction have published and are distributing the present booklet which we hope will become a coffee-table book for every family and will help people to be properly prepared in emergency situations.

Sergei K Shoigu

*The Minister
of Russian Federation Civil Defense,
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Consequences of Natural Disasters
(The EMERCOM)*



Protection of Man in the City

Education and public awareness raising – are some of the most important tasks, which the world community has placed upon the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR). Each community, city, region and country in general can increase its protection from natural disasters by 15-20 times just by providing the population with information on risk reduction on a regular basis.

The international exchange of experience and knowledge is the most fitting means of accomplishing these tasks in the economic and humanitarian fields. This co-operation is beneficial to all, at the family, business and administrative level.

I am pleased to note that for the past five years the Minister of EMERCOM of Russia Mr. Sergei Shoigu, has been actively involving public organisations and mass media in order to increase the awareness of the population in Russia and CIS countries. The booklet “City, Man, Risk”, which is the Russian contribution to the implementation of IDNDR programmes, is a successful manual on easily understood and concrete assistance for the citizens of cities.

Aspects characteristic of the local city, historical data and, in particular the experiences of native citizens have been selected as examples to broaden the contents of this booklet, which will be useful for teachers and families.

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