

For those who have G-d in their heart,
who have the passion and the ability
to participate in the creation of a new nation –
this is the path to take

David Ben Gurion, Sde-Boker 1955



Israel Leadership Institute



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Emergency Preparedness & Disaster Response Center

The Israeli case

In less than seven decades of existence, Israel has been forced to fight eight major wars to defend its borders; two major uprisings within its own boundaries; thousands of terror attacks, and hundreds of missile attacks on its civil population – mainly in the South.

A small nation, the size of New Jersey, with a population of 7.5 million citizens (of which Arabs form a minority of 1.3 million), Israel – and its people – struggle to deal with exceptional demands in order to defend its freedom and secure its existence. These demands impose an outstanding burden on the nation in the following areas:

- Almost 1/5 of the national budget is dedicated to military and security expenses.
- Continuous military conflicts cause severe damage to civil infrastructure, facilities, industry and commerce, export and economy activity, housing, and more.
- Civilian life and routine governmental activities are constantly interrupted. This recurring disruption affects education, supplies of goods and food, business and project development, medical services, and every aspect of life.
- 50% of adult Israeli males, age 21-55, participate in military 'Reserve Service' every year for an average of 30 days. In times of war and conflict, approximately 80% of them are recruited immediately. This causes major shortages of man-power and reduction of services in all sectors.

The Israeli challenges

In times of conflict, mass casualty incidents, conventional and non-conventional attacks, Israel's civil system has shown a great need for organized volunteer support in the following sectors:

- Local and municipal services in affected regions that are functioning under limiting regulations.
- Evacuation operations and mobility of vulnerable populations that is difficult to organize.
- Welfare systems and services that are reduced to almost a non-operating level.
- Food supplies and transportation of goods, medical products, and life supporting items.

The **Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response Center** offers a unique solution to help Israel deal with these challenges by training selected young Israelis to take the lead in an Emergency Task Force that will help maintain continuity of vital civilian operations during periods of crisis. The center also provides training seminars for international groups to become their state's Civil Task Force in times of emergency, disaster and military conflicts.

Mission Statement

Using an integrated approach, the **Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response Center** at **The Israel Leadership Institute** – in cooperation with *The Israeli Ministry of Home Front Defense* and the *Home Front Command of the IDF* – develops, conducts, and implements training programs and

professional workshops in the areas of civil and public emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation. The center's principle dimensions of activity are:

- Assessment
- Planning
- Education and training
- Exercises
- Program implementation and evaluation
- Volunteer programs
- Community preparedness

The location

The **Israel Leadership Institute** located and operating in the town of Sderot - situated less than a mile from the Israel-Gaza border.

Sderot has long been the main target of terrorist attacks: Since 2000, the terrorist groups in Gaza have fired **over 12,000 rockets and missiles** at this town. The impact of the ongoing military conflicts and emergency situation on the life of Sderot is comprehensive. Almost every possible phenomena and aspect of emergency and disaster situations has been experienced in Sderot, including: casualties, mass injuries, evacuation of civilians, security enforced regulations, infrastructure damages, and more. The learnt experience and developed expertise in managing emergency and disaster situation makes Sderot – and the Israel Leadership Institute – a unique laboratory for these subjects.

Curriculum:

- The Leadership Angle: Thinking Outside the Box
- Terrorism: Conventional and NBC events
- Case study and lessons learned from terror attacks in Israel
- Chemical event preparedness in the community
- Bioterrorism Event: Infrastructure and Impact
- Infrastructure and Transportation challenges
- Staff and Volunteers allocation, training and deployment
- Decision making and role playing
- Simulated drills, MCI scenarios and table-top exercises
- Public order, security, and Family information center
- Information management, public relations and the press
- Communication system in MCI and Social Services
- PTSD and psychological effects on staff and population
- Staff debriefing
- Evacuation of communities and individuals