

A framework for Command and Collaboration in Societal Disruptions

About the framework

"Common Guidelines" is a comprehensive framework for managing societal disruptions in peacetime and war. The framework contains prerequisites for management and development, conceptual foundations, mindset, methods and standard operating procedures (SOPs). These elements are all crucial aspects of the managerial efforts needed for achieving joint direction and coordination, and thus generating effects when needed the most.

The framework is designed to support response management efforts on a local, regional, higher regional and national level.

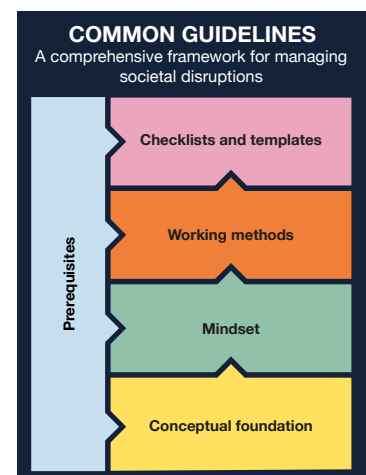
The content of the framework is designed for all actors that are responsible for, or contribute to, managing societal disruptions. Actors can be public, private and non-profit organisations such as municipalities, regions, authorities, voluntary organisations and/or companies.

What is the purpose of the framework?

- To be a platform for a common understanding.
- To provide support for efficient management activities.
- To promote collaborative efforts.

A joint effort between actors

The framework is the result of three years of national development work in which MCF has collaborated and co-created the material with more than 60 actors at national, regional, higher regional, and local levels of the Swedish crisis management system.



How should the framework be used?

The framework should be used when different actors need to respond individually and collectively during societal disruptions, in peacetime crises, but ultimately also during war. The framework offers guidance to actors with the responsibility to lead and coordinate the joint crisis management as well as actors who participate in the joint crisis management. It contains concepts, mindset and practical tools for both command (when there is a clear chain of command) and collaboration (when multiple chains of command exist in parallel, and when agreements need to be made). To increase comprehension and the ability to use the framework, it should be applied daily during regular collaboration, exercises and training.

The framework is structured as different web-based modules. Which part to read and in what sequence should be guided by the reader's need.

The framework is organised in four levels and also includes prerequisites for development and management

Prerequisites explain what we must take into account when we develop concepts, mindset and methods. It also covers information that needs to be taken into account in management situations, such as laws and regulation. Prerequisites should be seen as the point of departure, where you can find links to relevant information and knowledge you need to know before starting to explore the four levels of the framework. Next to laws and regulations, the content covers descriptions of the formal crisis management system, the guiding objectives, existing technical and digital conditions and possibilities. Furthermore, scientific knowledge and documented experience is a key part of the prerequisites for development and management.

The conceptual foundation is about our common language. To manage societal disruptions effectively, we need to have a common understanding of the concepts that actors use to think and communicate. The conceptual foundation contains definitions and elaborations of essential terms and concepts – as well as descriptions of how these relate to each other. It is also a basis for development and understanding in the other areas of the framework and contributes to a common thread between the levels.

Mindset is about how we can think and behave when dealing with societal disruptions. They are ways of thinking that influence our reasoning, attitudes and behaviour. They help us to counteract common shortcomings in dealing with societal disruptions. They can be seen as mental compasses that guide our thinking in a constructive way.

Working methods include methods and guidance on how to work. All actors involved in managing societal disruptions must be able to easily liaise with each other and find effective ways to work together. This level contains concrete descriptions of how the work should be done, for example in the form of processes for direction and collaboration and for achieving a common operational picture.

Checklists and templates provide support for hands-on management efforts. This level contains descriptions that focus on how more detailed steps can be done. For example, here you can find supporting material for developing a common operational picture.

The framework can be found at www.mcf.se/ledningsamverkan

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