

# Research on Countermeasures for Local Governments to Enhance the Capacity of Social Emergency Forces

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**Abstract:** China's emergency management system has been undergoing significant changes, and the state encourages the development of social emergency rescue. In order to promote social emergency forces and government rescue forces to form an effective synergy and continuously promote efficient and standardized emergency rescue, we summarize the problems of social emergency force development by analyzing the capability level of social emergency forces, and study the local government's enhancement of social emergency forces in the light of the current emergency management development situation. The study will provide reference for better integration of social emergency forces into the national emergency rescue system.

**Keywords:** Emergency management; Social emergency response force; Local government

## 1. Preface

### 1.1 Background and significance of the study

"Humanity is increasingly living on the crater of civilization" <sup>[1]</sup>, and even though we are a developed country that has started to move into "modernization" and "post-modernization", we are still facing the risk of earthquakes, Even though we are a developed country that has started to "modernize" and "post-modernize", we still face the risk of earthquakes, mudslides, floods, droughts, hurricanes, nuclear leaks and a series of non-natural disasters. Since the new century, the country has suffered many disasters, such as SARS, snowstorms, earthquakes, as well as the annual floods and the new crown pneumonia in 2020. According to the Ministry of Emergency Management statistics in 2019, the number of people affected by disasters in the country exceeded 120 million, and overall, the total number of disasters in China is huge and the risk of disasters cannot be ignored <sup>[2]</sup>.

### 1.2 Concept definition

At present, the Ministry of Emergency Administration does not make a clear definition and normative definition of social emergency forces in China, and in the first national first social firefighting force professional skills competition organized by the Ministry of Emergency Administration in 2019, only one of the basic conditions for registration is clearly specified that they must be registered and registered by the civil affairs department, and it is emphasized that professional firefighters such as in-service firefighters and government staff firefighters Firefighters are not allowed to register for the competition. From the comprehensive analysis, the social emergency force first emphasizes a kind of social organization, and then emphasizes a kind of social organization specializing in emergency response or rescue of various social emergencies..

## 2. Evaluation standard of social emergency power capability in China

The principles of constructing evaluation indexes for social emergency power should follow four principles: scientific and real, simple and comprehensive, independent and relevant. The evaluation of China's social emergency power can be mainly divided into three parts: emergency preparedness beforehand, emergency response capability during the event, and emergency recovery capability afterwards.

## 3. Analysis of the problems of China's social emergency forces

### 3.1 Problems of social emergency rescue team development

#### 3.1.1 Unstable basic security and insufficient rescue materials

The most prominent feature of China's social emergency forces is that rescue acts are not charged and the organization is not profitable. In fact such an organization has relatively huge expenses from preparation, approval to clothing, equipment procurement and other aspects. In the rescue process, the cost of food and lodging for rescuers, commuting expenses, and costs incurred in the rescue process are not small expenses, and in case of an unexpected situation, emergency funds are also an expense. In the social emergency response team, part of the team's funding is borne by the entrepreneurs in the team, part is donated by the community, but most of the costs are shared by the team members, and most of the members are working class, the income is only enough to maintain their basic survival, in the long run will affect their own work and life. It is difficult for social emergency rescue teams to purchase high-quality rescue materials and equipment when they are not well-funded.

#### 3.1.2 Internal management confusion and lack of protection

Social emergency rescue teams are initially initiated and created by one or a few enthusiastic people, who devote a lot of effort in the initial preparation and resource expansion process and rightfully develop into the leaders and core of the rescue organization. The organizational and management structure of rescue teams is generally "single-core" or "multi-core", and rarely uses the relatively more scientific "section system", even though some important issues can be discussed democratically. Even though some important issues can be discussed democratically, the final decision is made by only a few core leaders, and the power is too centralized. The

personal thoughts, temperament, methods, styles and behaviors of core leaders are directly related to the development of the team, which often leads to some internal conflicts and staff turnover.

### **3.2 Lack of certification and low credibility**

As a civil organization, the way and means for social emergency forces to obtain a legal identity is to register as a social group or a private non-enterprise institution in the civil administration or civil organization, but before the registration is qualified, it needs to be examined and approved by the business department to which it belongs. However, the legal system for social emergency forces to participate in emergency management activities is not perfect. On the one hand, the existing legal system is mostly macroscopic policies, which are not perfect, and until now the relationship between social emergency forces and their service recipients is still not legally regulated, the registration mechanism of social organizations is strict, which leads many social emergency forces to participate in emergency activities in a more awkward capacity, the regulations for volunteers vary from region to region, and there is a lack of national regulations for volunteer management. On the other hand, the lagging nature of the legal system has led to the introduction of laws that lag far behind practice.

### **3.3 Poor information and lack of collaboration**

Social emergency rescue teams have difficulty getting timely emergency information due to their civilian nature. The emergency rescue information resources between the government and social emergency forces are almost completely isolated. Since the emergency management system does not include social organizations, it results in the emergency management system being unable to obtain information from social organizations and the failure to establish an information sharing mechanism between local governments and social emergency forces.

## **4. Countermeasures of local government to enhance the level of social emergency response force capability**

### **4.1 Improve the institutional construction of social emergency rescue team**

First of all, considering from the institutional environment, the government needs to promulgate policy documents to further clarify the role of social organizations, so as to clear institutional obstacles for social organizations to better perform their functions and take responsibility, and also help further stimulate the enthusiasm of social forces to participate in emergency management. The command and decision-making layer can ensure the smooth operation of the organization in the present, so it is necessary to set up a scientific and reasonable, professional and efficient command department, which can make accurate judgment and prediction of the situation, achieve scientific decision-making and lead the organization to act in an orderly manner in case of sudden emergencies. In order to establish a long-term mechanism for emergency management, it is necessary to establish a sound three-stage system of emergency management prevention and preparation, response, recovery and learning within social organizations, and to continuously strengthen the resilience of social organizations through the whole process of management, which is more helpful to the long-term development of social organizations.

### **4.2 Strengthen the construction of supporting systems to promote the organization of emergency volunteer services and risk prevention**

In terms of equipment expenditures, local governments should increase support for equipment expenditures of social emergency forces, increase policy support, strengthen cooperation with social organizations, purchase their services, and guide project implementation; governments should also set up special protection funds for social emergency forces from government financial expenditures, actively promote the construction of emergency industrial parks, and promote joint training and synergy between social emergency forces and government emergency forces development.

### **4.3 Local governments strengthen the training of social emergency force capabilities**

In the Program for Deepening Institutional Reform of the Party and the State, issued in March 2018, it is clear that the Ministry of Emergency Management, which was established by integrating the relevant responsibilities of 13 ministries and commissions, is responsible for "coordinating the construction of emergency forces and unifying their dispatch in disaster relief," which has largely established the emergency management department as the main department for all types of emergency forces in China. This has largely established the role of the emergency management department as the main department for the management and command of all kinds of emergency forces in China.

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