

Delaware Civics Standard 2b and 3a

This excerpt comes from the Chapter 1: Basic Principles of the Delaware Civil Defense Plan published in December of 1964. It outlines the roles the Federal, State, and Local governments would play in handling emergency preparedness and operations.

State and Local Governments.

The government of each State is responsible for the preparedness and emergency operations of the state and its political subdivisions and for insuring that such activities are compatible with those of the Federal Government. The government is responsible for its preparedness and emergency operations in accordance with Federal and State emergency plans and programs.

While the Federal Government can indicate the kinds of preparedness actions the States should take, it is the responsibility of the State governments to provide the additional constitutional or statutory support, organization, and procedures for the conduct of those activities. The same is true of the need for local ordinances to meet the preparedness requirements of each locality...

Private Sector.

“The leaders of industry, agriculture, labor, and finance are responsible, in cooperation with appropriate government agencies, for planning and executing measures designed to assure the continued functioning or rapid restoration of the essential elements of the national economy.

Individuals and families are responsible to the extent possible for their own emergency needs and for participation in the general survival and recovery effort.

All public organizations are expected to make such contributions to national, State, and community preparedness and survival operations as possible and appropriate.

1. How does the structure of the Delaware Civil Defense Plan’s responsibilities demonstrate the balance of power between local, state, and federal agencies?
2. Does the balance of power demonstrated in the structure of the Delaware Civil Defense Plan illustrate the dynamic nature of governance or does it illustrate how the Constitution constrains the dynamic nature of governance?

3. What responsibility of a private U.S. citizen does the Delaware Civil Defense Plan require?

4. Why are these civic responsibilities given to citizens in the Civil Defense Plan important in ensuring the health of American democracy?

Answer Cues:

1. How does the structure of the Delaware Civil Defense Plan's responsibilities demonstrate the balance of power between local, state, and federal agencies?

- Each level had a different role but also worked together to promote emergency preparedness
- The Constitution gives responsibilities to the Federal government and gives others to the state. The emergency preparedness plan did this too.

2. Does the balance of power demonstrated in the structure of the Delaware Civil Defense Plan illustrate the dynamic nature of governance or does it illustrate how the Constitution constrains the dynamic nature of governance?

- Dynamic: Each government level is responding to a threat grounded in the context of the 1960s, not the era of the founding fathers
- Constrain: While the governments are responding to the threats facing America in the 1960s, the plan maintains a balance of power set forth in the Constitution (10th Amendment) maintaining constitutional principals

3. What responsibility of a private U.S. citizen does the Delaware Civil Defense Plan require?

- Citizens have to take care of their own defense on an individual effort but also contribute to the general defense.
- Public groups of private citizens are expected to work for the common defense.

4. Why are these civic responsibilities given to citizens in the Civil Defense Plan important in ensuring the health of American democracy?

- Citizens must work to protect American democracy in order to enjoy the rights and privileges it provides.

- Assisting the President in determining policy for, planning, directing, and coordinating the total civil defense program.

Office of Civil Defense. The Secretary of Defense is responsible for major civil defense activities of the Federal Government, which have in turn been delegated to the Director of the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) in the Office of the Secretary of the Army. This includes responsibility for civil defense stockpiles.

Other Agencies. The heads of many other Federal agencies have been assigned emergency functions related to their basic missions and capabilities. Civil defense functions are to be carried out in consonance with national civil defense plans, programs, and operations of the Department of Defense. Each agency plans and conducts such other nonmilitary defense activities as are inherent in its normal responsibilities, are assigned by the President (or necessitated by such assignment), or are specified in interagency agreements.

Federal food and medical stockpiles are the responsibility of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, respectively.

Each Federal agency, within the specified areas of its responsibility, works with the States and, as appropriate, their political subdivisions in providing functional guidance and assistance in emergency preparedness matters.

Wartime Structure. Although Federal policy calls for use of the current governmental structure in an emergency, certain tasks particularly related to administration of controls could best be performed by emergency agencies. Their existence would depend upon Presidential declaration of a national emergency, and the extent of their operations would depend upon the nature of the emergency.

Among these planned emergency agencies is an Office of Defense Resources, which would perform overall central resource management functions. Throughout this Plan, all references to the Office of Emergency Planning under emergency conditions apply to the Office of Defense Resources when established.

Field Coordination. To carry out their respective functions in assisting the States and coordinating the Federal agency field activities,

OEP and OCD maintain eight colocated Regional Offices with coterminous boundaries (see map, p. 8).

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While the Federal Government can indicate the kinds of preparedness actions the States should take, it is the responsibility of the State governments to provide the additional constitutional or statutory support, organization, and procedures for the conduct of those activities. The same is true of the need for local ordinances to meet the preparedness requirements of each locality.

Similarly, bordering States should encourage adequate preparedness through mutual assistance agreements or interstate compacts.

The State and local governments would be expected to carry out Federal emergency activities in event of temporary breakdown of Federal control and until it could be reestablished. They must also be prepared to assist the Federal Government in carrying out national programs such as price, wage, and rent controls and conservation and most advantageous use of resources.

Private Sector.

The leaders of industry, agriculture, labor, and finance are responsible, in cooperation with appropriate government agencies, for planning and executing measures designed to assure the continued functioning or rapid restoration of the essential elements of the national economy.

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All public organizations are expected to make such contributions to national, State, or community preparedness and survival operations as possible and appropriate.