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TRAINING OF FIREFIGHTERS AND RESCUERS AT THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF CIVIL PROTECTION OF UKRAINE

Fire safety and emergency response are essential components of national security and public safety. In Ukraine, the training of professional firefighters and rescuers requires a combination of scientific knowledge, practical training, and strong physical preparation. The National University of Civil Protection of Ukraine, currently located in the city of Cherkasy, plays an important role in preparing specialists for the State Emergency Service of Ukraine.

The university provides modern educational programs that integrate theory with practical training. Students study fire dynamics, emergency management, rescue operations, and modern technologies used in firefighting. Particular attention is given to teamwork, leadership, and the ability to make decisions in dangerous and unpredictable situations. These competencies are essential for firefighters and rescuers who often work under extreme conditions.

The structure of the university includes four important institutes that prepare specialists in different areas of civil protection. One of them is the Institute of Operational and Rescue Forces, where cadets are trained to perform rescue operations, eliminate consequences of emergencies, and work directly in operational units of the State Emergency Service. This faculty focuses on practical rescue skills, emergency response coordination, and professional physical training.

Another important institute is the Institute of Fire Safety, which prepares specialists responsible for fire prevention, fire risk analysis, and the development of modern fire protection systems. The Institute of Civil Protection focuses on emergency management, population safety, and

strategic planning for disaster response. In addition, the Institute of Engineering and Special Training provides education in technical support, engineering solutions, and special equipment used during rescue operations.

Scientific research also plays an important role at the university. Cadets and academic staff conduct research aimed at improving firefighting technologies, emergency response strategies, and safety systems. Such research contributes to the modernization of civil protection and strengthens the capabilities of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine.

The profession of a rescuer is one of the most responsible and socially significant occupations within the civil protection system. The primary mission of rescue services is to protect human life and health, property, and the environment from emergencies of natural, technological, and military origin. In Ukraine, these functions are performed by the State Emergency Service of Ukraine [1].

A rescuer must possess high physical fitness, psychological resilience, professional competence, and the ability to make rapid decisions in extreme conditions. The main tasks include firefighting, search and rescue operations, evacuation of victims, provision of first aid, and mitigation of emergency consequences. The effectiveness of rescue operations largely depends on response time and team coordination.

Modern challenges require continuous professional development, advanced training, and implementation of international safety standards. The use of modern rescue equipment, personal protective equipment (PPE), and innovative technologies enhances operational efficiency and safety [2].

In conclusion, the National University of Civil Protection of Ukraine is an important educational and scientific institution that prepares highly qualified firefighters and rescuers. Through the work of its faculties and modern educational programs, the university significantly contributes to improving the effectiveness of emergency response and ensuring the safety of Ukrainian society. So, the profession of a rescuer is not merely a job but a true vocation. It demands courage, discipline, responsibility, and readiness to act under extreme conditions. Rescuers are the first to respond in critical situations, fulfilling an essential humanitarian and social mission.

References

1. Code of Civil Protection of Ukraine. Law of Ukraine № 5403-VI of October 2, 2012 (as amended).
2. State Emergency Service of Ukraine. Official website. Available at: <https://dsns.gov.ua>