

Thursday 16 May 2019 – Morning

LEVEL 3 CAMBRIDGE TECHNICAL IN IT

05838/05839/05840/05841/05842/05877 Unit 2: Global information

INSERT



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Organisational profile

Introduction

PH Disaster Aid (PHDA) is a charity that creates specialist teams to provide help and assistance to remote areas that have been affected by natural disasters. The charity also has a warehouse where disaster aid supplies are kept along with the equipment that the teams will need to take to the disaster zone.

The charity puts together each team based on the type of natural disaster that has happened and the specialisms that may be needed. The equipment that is to be taken with the team is also based on the type of disaster that has happened.

PHDA is a member of a worldwide network of disaster charities and other aid organisations such as UNICEF, The Red Cross and MSF. The network has coordinators that plan and organise the relief teams, equipment and supplies that will be sent to the disaster area.

When a natural disaster occurs, information is collected by the government of the country in which the disaster has occurred. This information could include the type of disaster, the location of the affected area, the number of people who live in the affected area and an overview of the damage that has occurred.

The network coordinators assess the natural disaster that has occurred based on the information received by the country's government. They then alert network members as to the type of aid and specialisms that are needed.

The network coordinators organise aid relief transport, which includes the allocation of seats for team members and cargo space for the equipment and supplies that each team will take. The number of seats allocated to each charity and organisation is based on the type of disaster and the specialist skills that are required. Cargo is allocated based on the type and amount of equipment and supplies needed but must also take into account the weight limit for the transport.

Each charity and organisation is responsible for the travel arrangements for its team, equipment and supplies to the departure point of the aid relief transport.

Many of the approved PHDA people live in the UK but some, with additional specialisms, such as predicting future earthquake tremors, live in other parts of the world. These people have to make their way to the departure point of the aid relief transport.

Before the relief aid transport leaves, paperwork has to be completed for the equipment and supplies that will be loaded into the transport. Each charity and organisation is responsible for the paperwork for their own equipment and supplies.

PHDA holds records, in a database, of each approved person. Each person has at least one specialism. Specialisms can include debris clearance, construction and water treatment. The database is queried to find people with the specialisms required.

Fig. 1 shows an excerpt from the approved person database table, showing some complete records. The actual database table contains all the data about every approved person. PHDA has incorporated validation routines into the database, such as drop-down lists, to minimise data entry errors.

When a specialist team has been created, PHDA needs to check the passports and visas, where needed, for each team member. Passport numbers and current visa numbers, with the countries they apply to, are stored in the database. PHDA can apply for emergency visas to the UK-based Embassy of the country in which natural disaster has occurred. The emergency visas can be granted within 24 hours of the application. The emergency visa applications are submitted online with the visa numbers provided by email.

When the teams from each charity and organisation have been finalised, the personal details are emailed to the network coordinator. The personal details include emergency contact details, passport and visa numbers. These are stored and can be used in case of an emergency.

Each team member carries handheld computer devices. These are used in the disaster area for communication between team members and PHDA. The devices can also be used to send images and video footage of the devastation that has been caused by the disaster.

The images and video footage are used to assess if further teams and relief aid need to be sent to the disaster area. The images and video footage are sometimes used by news broadcasters to inform their audience of the disaster.

Excerpt from the approved person database table

ID	Given Name	Family Name	Specialism	Contact_Number	Passport_Number	Visa-Number	Country	Emergency_Contact
2	Alan	Jones	Construction	01115687098	GB01267	6990811	Maldives	111927878
3	Jane	Bloggs	Water Treatment	01116845001	GB76872	9517823	Kuwait	441235658
4	Sam	Field	Emergency Construction	01128394767	GB26788	5628723	India	998823676
5	Peter	Wilson	Debris Clearance	01192749084	GB88990	6421767	USA	874836688

Fig. 1

To prepare for the examination, you should research the following themes:

- The categories of information holders and information used by PHDA and the network coordinators.
- Access issues and the consequences of poor quality information that can affect the relief aid, the people affected by the disaster, and teams from PHDA and the network.
- How different types of information access and storage devices and information styles could be used by PHDA and the network including the advantages and disadvantages of each type.
- The information sources used by PHDA and the network coordinators.
- The principles of data security and how these should be considered by PHDA and the network.

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