

# The challenge of communicating risks to the public



Christina Andersson, Safety of the individual section



### Content

- Individuals as an important part of the emergency preparedness system
- The challenge to engage and motivate individuals
- The challenge to communicate risks and threats











## Responsibility of the individual

✓ Know the risks and be aware of that serious crises and distasters can happen.

✓ Stay informed about the crises, and following advice and instructions given by authorities



✓ Be aware of that first responders and other public resources have to focus on those who can't take a responsability due to age, illness or disabilities.

✓ Prepare one self to be selfsufficient at least in the initial stages of a crises. Make a houshold emergency kit so you can handle basic needs such as food-, and water supply and to keep warm.







## Trust for a specific institution depend upon:

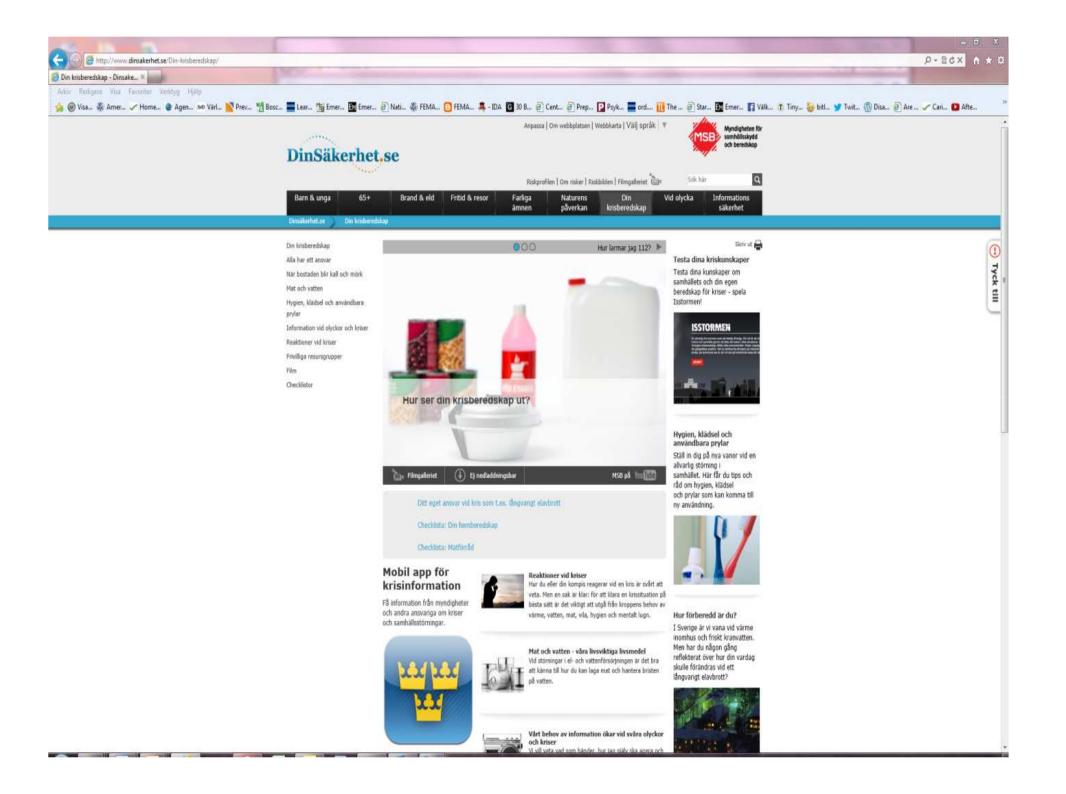
- ✓ What is actually done and said in a specific situation by the institution
- ✓ That the motive of the institution is a good one in the specific situation
- ✓ That the institution gets support from other (more) trusted sources



#### The swine flu and mass vaccination











#### Skydda dig mot brand

#### Brandvarnare räddar liv!

En brandvarnare larmar snabbt om det ädrjar brinna. Då hinner du släcka eller ta dig ut om det behövs. Ha minst en brandvarnare på varje våning.







Prova brandvamaren med jamna By mellanrum. Trydk på testknappen.

Byt batterier en gång om året.

#### Har du brandsläckare hemma?

En brand växer fort, i början när den är iten kan du försöla siäcka själv. Det är viletigt att ha brandsläckare homma. En pullensläckare på 6 kg passar bäst. Ha gärna en brandfilt också.

#### Så här släcker du!



Dra ut säkringen.

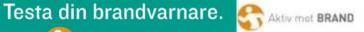




Tr.

Tryck ner handtaget.

#### Planera hur ni tar er ut vid brand!



Amaziner Advinist brand ar et samarbeit miller Mondighten fin sambalti skyddight sindskap, Randkap delennight, Randsaman Grapen (1990). Randkrigeljunderna, Svensk finsak neguent til svokyerianna.

us mer om translagets all same Environment on/brans



Elene knew what to do when a fire started in the got She put a lid on and put out the fire. Everyone in hel house are grateful that she knew what to de!

Eo you know what to do if a fire breaks out at home Do you know how to stop it happoning in the first place?





Sov gott. Vakna fort.



## The challenge with risk communication

- ✓ Not relevant for me (What's in it for me?)
- ✓ Hard to understand
- ✓ Unbelievable



✓ Unacceptable (conflict with previous knowledge, belief or value)







- ✓ The feelings overwhelms and the person is not capable
  of interpreting and understanding the message
- ✓ People don't listen any more, it feels unlikely
- ✓ People start to deny that they expose themselves for a risk: "I don't need to use the seat belt, I'm a good driver and I can avoid a crash."



### **Profiles**

#### Responsible

- Strong and secure
- Knows a lot about preparedness and threats
- Well prepared
- Trust authorities and do as they are told

#### Invulnerable

- Strong and secure
- Don't need preparedness and don't have any
- Don't listen to the information

#### Vulnerable

- An idea that the society is a scary place to live in with a range of known and unknown treats
- Well prepared but still having a feeling of unsecurity

#### Powerless

- No possibility to change or influence what is happening around them
- Don't trust different measure to increase security and preparedness



## **Conclusions**

- ✓ Trust is a fundamental starting point in all crisis communication.
- ✓ The message has to be formed from different target groups interests, behavior and needs.
- ✓ Changing peoples ideas and behavior takes time and communication doesn't solve everything.



## Thank you for your attention!

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