PRIORITIES OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION IMPROVEMENT
IN CIVIL PROTECTION OF TERRITORIAL COMMUNITIES UNDER
POWER DECENTRALIZATION IN UKRAINE

**Problem statement.** Mitigation of risks of emergencies and raising the level of population safety and protection of territories against the emergency aftermath are among the key priorities of the state’s development in the national security sphere. An optimal option to solve the problem of protection of the population and territories against emergency situations is introduction of an effective state policy by way of a clear determining and distribution of functions, powers, and resources among the administration subjects of all levels in order to provide a systemic approach to planning and realization of civil protection measures.

**Recent research and publications analysis.** Scientific works by the domestic and foreign researchers devoted to the problems of protecting the population and territories in emergency situations give evidence to the fact that today’s system of civil protection is imperfect, inefficient and inconsistent with the current threats, specifically at the local level.

**The paper objective** is to consider the priorities of organizing civil protection measures at the level of associated communities under the conditions of power decentralization in Ukraine.

**The paper main body.** The acting system for rapid response to emergency situations and local firefighting is ineffective both economically and functionally, since the overwhelming majority of its actions are financed at the expense of the State Budget. Considering the above-mentioned, the State Emergency Service faces the challenges of methodological assistance to communities in their
organizing of local voluntary fire guards, elaboration of an optimal number, structure, and functions of civil protection services, which should be established in every territorial community with account of their technogenic and environmental load, organization of training the population in the rules of conduct if an emergency situation occurs.

The local government reform in Ukraine calls for establishment of civil forces, aimed to protect territorial communities, that would be adequate to the risks of emergency situation occurrence at enterprises located in their territory. The proper functioning of the civil protection forces requires estimation and supply of the appropriate material and technical resources.

The community leadership should arrange fire-safety measures i.e. to create fire-protection units, and after that – voluntary fire brigades; to improve (for the communities – to introduce) keeping of emergency occurrence risk passports with forecasts of possible negative effects of emergency situations and main provisions on how to respond.

At the regional level, information that is delivered in the regional emergency risk passports should be updated. At the district level, it is necessary to have the emergency risk passports with a detailed description of all the safety means, available in the territories, and possibilities of using them in rescue operations, irrespective of their form of ownership.

In the course of implementing the civil protection measures under the conditions of the local government reform, it would be inexpedient to vest the duty of population warning in the local authorities only. This matter is complicated in the organizational, technical, and financial sense, which is why it should be addressed in a comprehensive manner and at all the levels of administration simultaneously.

After reforming local government bodies, it is expedient to renew (establish) emergency-rescue units, which would be able to encompass the entire range of actions as to civil protection (rescue work). The number of military posts and specialization of the State Emergency Service should match directly the density of
residing population, environmental features of localities, and a technogenic load on regions.

**Conclusions of the research.** At the current stage of power decentralization in Ukraine, it is necessary to adopt legal and normative acts in order to ensure planning, coordination, and control of accomplishment of the civil protection measures by territorial communities. With the purpose of improvement of public administration of civil protection, it is indispensable to introduce supplements to the Civil Protection Code, specifying the work of centers of the territorial subsystem of the Unified State System of Civil Protection both in time of peace and in emergency periods. When adopting legislative and administrative decisions, solutions should be found that would compromise between communities’ needs, interests of private businesses located in their territories, and volunteers in order to prevent emergency situations and improve response to them.