

When Disaster Strikes

We regularly hear complaints: the system was not prepared for the latest eventuality out of the neglect of the people in charge or of the leadership. At times the complaint sounds plausible, at times farfetched. Who is to judge? How?

This is a difficult question since, obviously, before disaster strikes it has a small likelihood of doing so and then it competes with many other possible ones.

There seems to be one reasonable way to solve this problem. A committee—national as well as international—should list all thinkable disasters, suggest the reasonable means to prepare for it and check this against the facts. Publication of regular reports will elicit comments that may lead to its improvement and in times of disasters it will serve discussions of the reasonability of the degree of preparedness.

April 2020

Joseph Agassi

e-mail: agass@tauex.tau.ac.il

WebPages: <http://www.tau.ac.il/~agass/>