



## ALGERIA



### **General Directorate of Civil Defence** **(Direction Générale de la Protection Civile)**

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#### **1. Legislation :**

Civil Defence is governed by a set of regulatory texts that define its organisation and functioning.

##### 1.1 - Concerning administrative organisation:

- Decree 64.125 of 15 April 1964 on the Administrative Organisation of Civil Defence;
- Decree 76.39 of 20 February 1976, on the Organisation of the Central Administration of the Ministry of the Interior
- Ministerial decree 91.503 of 21 December 1991, on the Organisation of the Central Administration of the General Directorate of Civil Defence.

##### 1.2 -Concerning Technical and operational organisation:

- Ordinance n° 76.04 of 20 February 1976 relating to the regulations on fire prevention and panic and the creation of prevention and Civil Defence commissions;
- Decree 76.34 of 20 February 1976 relating to dangerous, unsanitary and vulnerable establishments;
- Decree 76.35 of 20 February 1976 relating to fire prevention and panic in public establishments;
- Decree 76.37 of 20 February 1976 relating to the fire prevention and panic in residential buildings ;
- Executive Decree n° 98-339 of 3 November 1998 defining the regulations applicable to classified installations and listing them ;
- Executive Decree n° 99-253 of 7 November 1999 concerning the composition, organisation and functioning of the classified installations' supervisory and control Commission.

This set of texts establishes the preventive rules and determines the administrative and technical control procedures relating to different types of establishments as well as the regulations and technical measures for their protection from the risks of fire and panic.

- Decree 85.231 of 25 August 1985 setting out the conditions and methods of organisation and implementation of emergency intervention and assistance in case of disasters;
- Decree 85.232 of 25 August 1985 relating to the prevention of disaster risks.

These two texts established the prevention plan and the O.R.S.E.C. plan which determine the organisation of disaster assistance at the township (socio-economic unit) and the Wilaya (administrative division) level. They also regulate the co-ordination of relief.

The organisational, technical and material measures form the O.R.S.E.C. plan which inventories the human and material means to be used, lays down the level of command and the units responsible for dealing with all aspects of the disaster.

## ***2. Mission :***

Ensuring the safety of people and property is a State mission. Civil Defence, under the authority of the Minister of the Interior and the local communities, assumes responsibility for:

- protecting people and property from the risk of accidents and natural and man made disasters;
- the study, implementation and control of Civil Defence procedures at the national level;
- decreeing and initiating, in conjunction with the relevant structures, all emergency aid and rescue operations required to face accidents, calamities and disasters;
- the implementation and control of the disaster risk prevention plans and the disaster intervention and assistance plans ;
- At the request of the State authorities of countries struck by disasters, to extend to them help and assistance at the international level.

## ***3. Regulation and procedures :***

Since its last structural reorganisation in 1992, Civil Defence organisms enjoy administrative and financial management autonomy, under the supervision of the Ministry of the Interior. Although administrative and technical management is centralised, some administrative and financial activities and operational command responsibilities are assumed at the local level.

As regards prevention in public establishments, Civil Defence is part of and leads the prevention and civil defence Commission and the supervisory and control Commission at the Wilaya (governorate) level.

Civil defence issues the certificate of conformity required for opening or transforming all industrial or commercial buildings, and carries out programmed or unscheduled controls to verify whether the required security measures are respected.

#### **4. Organisation :**

Civil Defence is governed by a set of regulatory texts that define its organisation and working.

- Decree 64.125 of 15 April 1964 on the Administrative Organisation of Civil Defence. Following Algeria's independence, this decree established the foundations of Algerian Civil Defence. It defined its missions, fields of intervention and its central and local organisation.
- Decree 76.39 of 20 February 1976, on the Organisation of the Central Administration of the Department of the Interior.

This established the Directorate General of Civil Defence thus providing an answer to an essential preoccupation, that is to say, how to give new dynamism to the mission of protecting people and property and to the practical conditions necessary for its realisation.

The General Directorate of Civil Defence was composed of two Directorates:

- an Operations Directorate;
- a Studies and Means Directorate;

and at the local level of:

- a Civil Defence and Rescue service.
- Ministerial decree 91.503 of 21 December 1991, on the organisation of the Central Administration of the General Directorate of Civil Defence.

A re-organisation of the General Directorate of Civil Defence allowed a redefinition of the assignments and a strengthening of the disaster prevention, training, operational planning and human and material resource management functions. Control over the services has been reinforced by the creation of a General Inspection Unit.

Thus the General Directorate is now composed of four Directorates :

- Disaster Prevention;
- Assistance Co-ordination;
- Staff and Training;
- Logistics and Infrastructure.

At the local level, Civil Defence is organised as follows:

- A Civil Defence Management Office per Wilaya with technical, administrative and financial management structures;
- A Main Unit that ensures co-ordination and operational and technical cover;
- A Secondary Unit per Daira;
- An Sector Unit for each Township;

- An Advanced Post in regions where there is a specific risk or which are particularly distant.

The management of emergency situations and of natural or technological disasters is undertaken in accordance with Decree n°85.231 of 25 August 1985 which establishes the conditions and methods of organisation and implementation of disaster intervention and assistance.

The geographic distribution of Civil Defence intervention units, follows the national administrative division. This allows the provision of a wide operational cover with regard to disaster prevention, rescue, lifesaving and assistance to threatened populations.

The Civil Defence intervention units are so equipped as to ensure, as far as possible, the safety of people and property in the face of disasters.

Depending on the size and the extent of the disaster, human and material reinforcements can be brought in from other areas or communities.

Co-ordination of the reinforcements is undertaken by the General Directorate of Civil Defence.

In the context of air rescue, the General Directorate of Civil Defence has available light aircraft for surveying forest fires and the beaches in the summer season.

Civil defence is considering reinforcing its air squadron with helicopters to be used for rescue and assistance missions on land and at sea, for transporting air rescue teams in inaccessible forest areas and for assisting affected and isolated populations.

Civil defence also aims to develop sea rescue to safeguard harbour installations and organise the fight against fires on ships anchored by the quayside.

## **5. Staff :**

Civil Defence personnel are technical and operational professionals funded by the State under its general budget.

The 1970 nationalisation of the Civil Defence services allowed the creation of a homogeneous body of professionals.

There are no volunteers within the Civil Defence service.

Decree 91.274 of 10 August 1991 on the special status of Civil Defence personnel established their rights and liabilities.

The Civil Defence service is organised along paramilitary lines and relies upon a hierarchy of permanently mobilised officers, non-commissioned officers and fire fighters stationed in barracks and upon intervention units.

Civil Defence personnel are assigned to intervention units spread over the national territory, thus providing operational cover.

The central and local administration of the Civil Defence service also includes special bodies of civil servants: senior executives, and others (administrative assistants, administrators, state engineers...) that help with administrative, financial and technical management of its structures.

## **6. Training :**

Decree 64.129 of 15 April 1964 on the administrative organisation of the Civil Defence services established the National School of Civil Defence which trains specialist managers working within the Civil Defence services.

The School has at its disposal an Instruction and Intervention Unit that provides logistical and educational support.

Decree 83.101 of 5 February 1983 granted the School financial autonomy and specified its mandate, which is:

- to ensure the establishment of training programmes for national and foreign officers and non-commissioned officers, in a co-operative context.
- to provide to regional training centres educational assistance and specialist proficiency courses;
- to provide practical retraining and proficiency courses to officers and technical managerial staff, who are candidates for professional exams.

Entry to the School is through examinations. Entry candidates must undertake specialised technical training that touches upon all aspects of prevention, general protection and intervention.

The length of the training varies according to rank:

- for officers: 3 years:
- for non-commissioned officers: 2 years at the level of the regional training centres;
- fire fighters undergo one year of special training during which they are introduced to different techniques and emergency rescue methods, including lifesaving, fire extinction, prevention, general mechanics ;
- The national School of Civil Defence trains engineer-officers recruited on the basis of their qualifications and which are required to undergo unceasing training.

The Civil Defence Service is also establishing a Training School for non-commissioned officers. This will also function as a centre for retraining and offer proficiency courses.

Civil Protection has established six (6) training annexes or centres under the tutelage of the National school of civil defence; these offer specific and specialised training such as in : prevention, sea pollution, the fight against forest fires, hydrocarbon fires, aqua-diving, road accidents...

The General Directorate of Civil Defence has launched a new method of citizen training and information, namely the organisation of mobile teams which travel all over the national territory to raise public and, especially, children's awareness.

The themes vary. Two teams have already been active in the framework of the campaigns against scorpions and on the dangers and risks from gas.

These teams are lead by Civil defence agents and theatrical groups and offer advice and recommendations on caution when faced with these risks.

### **7. Equipment :**

Depending on the risks specific to each region, all Civil Defence units are equipped with specialised equipment suitable for all types of interventions

The equipment provided by the General Directorate of Civil Defence includes:

- fire-engines for rescue, lifesaving, fire fighting operations, clearance, etc.
- tankers for fighting forest fires;
- special fire engines for fighting fuel and aircraft fires;
- inflatable boats for keeping a watch on beaches and bathing areas;
- ambulances for evacuating casualties and ambulances equipped for emergency treatment.

The intervention personnel wear appropriate protective clothing ensuring their safety.

### **8. Finances :**

The working expenses and equipment of the Civil Defence Services are met by the State budget.

Funds are made available in the first instance to the Director-General of Civil Defence, and then to the Directors of the Civil Defence services and to decentralised secondary services who oversee the budget spending.

## **Colonel Mustapha EL-HABIRI**

**Director-General of Civil Defence**

Appointed by Presidential decree on 11 January 2001  
Has held several senior State appointments