



## BULGARIA



### **State Agency for Civil Protection (SACP)**

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

The current Bulgarian legislation regulating the civil protection activities is based on the Council of State's Directive 265 of 1978, as well as the Rules on the Implementation of the Civil Defence Directive, promulgated in 1988 (ammendments and addenda: 1990; 1999; 2001).

A new draft Crisis management Law has recently been formulated and will be submitted to Parliament for approval. This new law covers organisational and responsibility issues, relating to the protection of the population and the national economy in peace and war.

The most important laws relating to civil protection issues in Bulgaria are :

- The Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria, Art. 16 concerning the obligation of citizens to help the Government and the municipality in case of natural or man-made disaster.
- The Law on the Administration, promulgated in 1998 (am. 2001) Art. 31 concerning the obligations of the local governors.
- The Law on Defence and Armed Forces of the Republic of Bulgaria promulgated in 1996 (am. 1996, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001) Art. 6, item 15 concerning the protection of civilians in times of peace and war and Art. 54 concerning obligations of government institutions and their staff.
- The Law on Health and Safety Conditions of Labor, promulgated in 1997 (am. 2000, 2001) Art. 20, para.1. item 1, defining the obligations of employers in cases of disaster and their interaction with specialised civil defence and Fire Fighting Services.

- The Council of Ministers Enactment No 18 of 1998, Rules on organization, prevention and mitigation of consequences of natural and technological disasters.
- The Council of Ministers Enactment No 53, dated 2 March 2001 (am. 15.10.2001; 14.12.2001) transforming the Civil Protection Service of the Republic of Bulgaria within the Ministry of Defence in State Agency for Civil Protection within the Council of Ministers.

## **2. Mission :**

The State Agency for Civil Protection is a part of the national security framework of the Republic of Bulgaria. It is a system of governmental, organizational, economic, scientific and social activities aiming to protect the population and the national economy in disasters, accidents and catastrophes.

The State Agency for Civil Protection pursues the following tasks:

- Maintains and develops the regulations regarding the protection of population and the national economy;
- Responsible for building-up, recruitment, training and use of the command divisions and units, as well as their readiness for rescue and protective initiatives;
- Supervises the development of plans for the protection of the population and national economy;
- Organizes the protection of the population; directs and carries out training of the members of the public for protection, assistance and mutual aid in disasters, accidents and catastrophes;
- Cooperation with the Armed Forces during rescue and emergency operations in disaster struck areas;
- Prevention and mitigation of harmful consequences when emergencies arise;
- Application of international experience in civil protection in disasters and accidents, principles and standards of International Humanitarian Law;
- Notification of the population and governmental authorities when disasters, accidents and catastrophes arise;
- Organizes the activities of the Standing Committee for protection of the population in disasters, accidents and catastrophes with the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria, which carries out and coordinates the relief and emergency activities between the ministry, departments and regional governing authorities in protection of population and national economy.

The National Crisis Management Center:

- Collects, processes, analyzes and classifies the complete information on the occurrence of an emergency situation and informs the government authorities;
- Organizes the interaction between state agencies and regional structures during liquidation of consequences from disasters, accidents and catastrophes.

### ***3. Regulation and procedure :***

The Civil Protection activities are carried out in a complex and differentiated organization covering the whole territory of the country and based upon territorial and production principles laid down by the state and local administration, the economic organizations and the foundations.

The general governance of the State Agency for Civil Protection is carried out by the Council of Ministers and the day to day operations by the Chairman of the State Agency for Civil Protection of the Republic of Bulgaria (the orders and instructions of the Chairman of the State Agency for Civil Protection related to Civil Protection matters are binding for the leaders of the services concerned; those leaders are responsible for the Civil Protection management within their departments or areas.)

At local level the Civil Protection Directorates in the Regional Administrations and specialists in Municipality Administrations give assistance to the regional governors and the majors in execution of their tasks in preparation, organization, execution and control of the protection of population and national economy in disasters, accidents and catastrophes.

This happens under the general management and control of the Standing Committee for Population Protection in Case of Disasters and Accidents (SCPPCDA) within to the Council of Ministers. The members of this Committee are the leading officials of Ministries and other agencies concerned.

The Standing Committee is assisted by a Scientific Council and a number of councils of experts in: nuclear safety, radiation, chemical and biological protection; medical insurance, forecast and evaluation of seismic danger and insurance of the buildings and facilities, meteorological and hydrological aspects of the natural disasters, etc.

The chairman of the Standing Committee is a Minister designated by the Government. The deputy chairman is the Chairman of the State Agency for Civil Protection of the Republic of Bulgaria. The Committee is also assisted in its activities by a Staff of experts under the leadership of its secretary. Permanent commissions are created to the ministries, agencies, the local government and local administration authorities, the companies and commercial sites. In case of emergency on the territory of a municipality, the relief is organized and carried out by the municipal commission, the subordinate management authorities and departments and support units.

When two or more municipalities are struck, this is the responsibility of the regional permanent commission together with the subordinate authorities and directorates, and the support of national forces and specialists.

The Standing Committee (SCPPCDA) is in charge for disasters encompassing the territories of two or more regions or accidents in sites of national importance.

The daily surveillance of the national situation is carried out by a National Information System, attached to the Standing Committee.

Notification about arising disasters and accidents, announcements for the population to behave in emergency situations is made on the Bulgarian Television and Radio and the other mass media by a representative of the Standing Committee and by the permanent regional commissions at regional level.

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

On the basis of a Decision N SB-1/04.04.1995 of the SCPPCDA a National Plan for the carrying out of rescue and urgent emergency restoration activities has been developed and currently is in undergoing a process of updating. The aim of the plan is to be well prepared in order to bring relief in time, to be able to assess the character and the consequences of the most frequent disasters and accidents and to manage and carry out successfully rescue and urgent emergency restoration activities in the arising centres of damage (contamination) on the territory of the country.

The National Plan is coordinated with all interested ministries and agencies whose responsibilities and obligations in case of emergency situations are defined in the plan.

The basic problems considered in the National Plan are the following : general forecast of the potential disasters and accidents, of their consequences and final outcome, emergency preparedness, alerting and getting the authorities and forces ready, management, organization and carrying out of the rescue and urgent emergency restoration activities, types of insurance, order of implementation of the plan and the responsibilities, order of informing of the country, the population, etc.

In the establishments of national importance, plans are developed which are similar to the National Plan.

The implementation of the National Plan is carried out by order of the Chairman of the Standing Committee. All other plans are put into action by the respective leaders by order of the Chairman of the Standing Committee.

In case of disaster, the Chairmen of the regional (municipal) committees initiate the detailed emergency plans and make suggestions to the Council of Ministers for declaring emergency situation in the region (municipalities).

In case of an imminent threat, and in order to protect the population and the national economy as well, the Standing Committee and the regional and municipal committees take provisional safety measures in conformity with their plans.

#### **5. Staff :**

##### National Intervention Means :

A national emergency group is created for disaster management, of which the Civil Protection forces are the basis. It is built up on the basis of the peculiarities of the physical, geographical and operational features of the regions and the presence of risk sites.

They are recruited according to the budget and are equipped with especially designated equipment and material.

The engineering and technical unit is considered to be the basic organizational unit of Civil Protection forces. It consists of a definite number of rescue teams, volunteer units, etc.

On the territory of the country there are 18 rescue teams with professional staff and one chemical protection unit. The rescue teams maintain a permanent day and night shifts.

The other national forces are : the National Fire Service and the National Police forces, the Ministry of Health forces (emergency medical help centres and teams for rendering of specialized medical help) ; the Bulgarian Red Cross units (teams of the Mountain Rescue Service and the Water Rescue Service, support points, sanitary teams and posts).

If necessary, units of the armed forces can take part in emergency activities.

The national forces mentioned above, are called to take part in the operations in the following order:

- Civil Protection units - by order of the Chairman of the State Agency for Civil Protection,
- Military units - by order of the Minister of Defence or the leaders of the corresponding agencies,
- the specialized forces or interested ministries and agencies - by order of their leaders.

The national forces take part in the rescue operations at local level by decision of the Chairman of the Standing Committee.

#### Regional Intervention Means :

On the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria, in the municipalities (city councils) and the potential risk sites of the national economy, the non military units are approximately 3200.

The latter, if necessary, are being prepared to carry out rescue and urgent emergency relief activities in the disaster areas.

In case of emergencies the Chairmen of the municipal committees initiate the emergency plans, manage the territorial forces, and make a suggestion to the Council of Ministers to declare a state of disaster.

The site forces become operational following the decision of their respective leader and the volunteer teams following the decision of the Committee Chairman.

For the needs of the immediate management of the rescue and urgent emergency relief activities, the permanent committees detach operational groups from their personnel and their staff, which are sent to the disaster site.

## **6. Training :**

The training of the population in Civil Protection is carried out through the education system, higher school, the mass media and the specialized Civil Protection training centres. The aim of all training is to acquire certain knowledge and skills for correct behavior and rendering help in case of disasters and accidents.

Students are being trained in all grades of the primary and secondary school in special classes, so that they acquire a minimum of knowledge and skills. For higher school students, the training is carried out by the disaster protection departments, according to their speciality.

The training of the unemployed and employed population is carried out through the mass media and the specialised Civil Protection centres.

The Civil Protection forces are trained according to a special programme. A special attention is paid to the acquiring of high moral and psychological qualities, equipment proficiency, studying the techniques of carrying out of rescue and urgent emergency restoration activities and the ways of achieving interoperability during operations in centres of damages, fires and other disasters and accidents.

The training of the management authorities and the Civil Protection forces is financed by the State Agency for Civil Protection that has a separate budget.

## **7. Equipment:**

Two rescue units for international humanitarian operations with the following equipment:

- Bulldozers
- Fadroms
- Chain vehicles for evacuation
- 30 kW generators
- Decontamination kits
- Cranes
- Rescue dogs with guides

**Mr. Nikola Stoyanov NIKOLOV, Ph.D.****Chairman of the State Agency for Civil Protection**

Born on 22 March 1944, Bozhurishte, Sofia region  
Married, two children

***Education:***

- 1967: Graduated a five-year course at "V. Levski" Higher Military School in the speciality Chemical engineer;
- 1983: Graduated from the "Georgi S. Rakovski" Military Academy  
Speciality: Command staff;
- 1981: Awarded the degree Doctor in military studies  
Subject: Automated system for assessment of the Nuclear, chemical, biological situation and the losses

***Professional career:***

1967	Serves with the Armed Forces
30 Sept. 1974	Serves with Civil Protection as: Senior chief of radiation and chemical investigation Senior assistant chief of Operative department Chief of department Operative training and Investigation Chief of Operative department Chief of stuff of Civil Protection of the Republic of Bulgaria
6 Dec. 1991	Appointed Head of Civil Protection of the Republic of Bulgaria with Decree No 354 of the President Deputy head of the Standing Committee for Protection of the Population in Emergencies and Disasters with the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria
1994	Awarded the title Major-General
2001	Appointed Chairman of the State Agency for Civil Protection