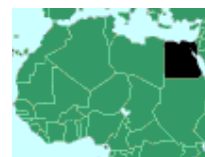




EGYPT



Civil Defence Authority

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1. Legislation :

In accordance with Law no 148 of 1959, the Civil Defence Department is in charge of disaster management. To fulfill its duties to this end, the Service may mobilize civil defence units and can call on and reinforce units from other ministries and agencies.

2. Mission :

- Mitigate the consequences of disasters on people and properties.
- Undertake preventive action by ensuring the necessary measures for a better handling of emergencies.
- Sensitize the population so that they are less vulnerable when catastrophes occur.
- Train executives and provide the necessary practice opportunities for civil defence staff
- Administrate available resources (national or foreign) and coordinate their best possible use.

Civil Defence covers disaster prevention and protection of the infrastructure so as to ensure the correct functioning of the country's social and economic activities. This also involves protecting the cultural and historical heritage and public establishments during war as well as during peace.

Civil defence activities have multiplied during these past years especially in the field of standardization and prevention, given the increase of industrial enterprises now implanted in the country.

3. Organization :

In Egypt, civil defence is mainly dependent on the Civil Defence Department and the Supreme Council for Civil Defence as well as on the committees and bureaux for civil defence in the governorships.

At the national level

A - Civil Defence Department:

This is a department in the Ministry of the Interior, presided by a Director General. His duties are:

- to conceive plans and monitor their implementation,
- to ensure the training of civil defence staff,
- to sensitize the population to disaster-prevention measures and indicate rules of behaviour during emergencies,
- to handle disaster situations and seek assistance from other structures when necessary,
- coordinate interventions and relief operations on land, sea and rivers as well as operations to defuse explosives and NBC interventions.

The Service includes a Directorate for Planning (with sectors for planning, statistics and follow-up). It is in charge of planning, research and implementation.

The Directorate in charge of civil defence for enterprises also depends on the Department and intervenes through its preventive engineering and inspection units to establish minimal rules for safety in enterprises.

As for training, its Directorate is entrusted with the task of practical and theoretical training through the Civil Defence Institute.

The Public Relations Directorate organizes the promotion and the dissemination of civil defence principles and public awareness programmes.

The Civil Defence Service is composed of three agencies : operations, fires, administration and finance:

- Operations agency:

Department for operations :

- operations unit
- evacuation unit
- volunteers and manoeuvres unit

Department for rapid interventions:

- rescue on land
- fire-fighting unit
- medical unit

rapid interventions unit

Department against explosives

Department for rescue on water :

Training Centre for rescue on water

- Fire-fighting agency:
 - Department for the prevention of fire risks
 - Department for the follow-up and monitoring of the fire-brigade
 - Department for the prevention of rural fires
- Agency for administrative and financial affairs:
 - Department for administrative and financial affairs
 - Department for equipment and maintenance.

B - The Civil Defence Supreme Council :

This is the highest authority in civil defence. Its members are appointed by the Council of Ministers and it is chaired by the Prime Minister. It defines the national civil defence policy both during times of war and peace and designs the plans and strategies for each ministry.

*At the regional level***Civil defence bureaux in the governorships:**

Egypt is divided into 22 governorships. Each governorship has a civil defence bureau which is attached to the security management (police) of the region. The Civil Defence Department is technically responsible for the bureaux. Financially, the bureau depends on the local administration within the governorship.

Civil Defence Committees

The Committee in the governorship is presided by the Governor. The members of the Committee are the Director of Public Safety, the Military Counselor of the region, the person in charge of the region's medical establishment, the Director of Social Affairs, the Financial Director of the governorship, the civil defence Director of the bureau, a telecommunications agent and a delegate from the transportation service.

In fulfilling its duties, the Civil Defence Department may receive support from other partners such as: the Ministry of Health, the Academy for Scientific Research, the National Environment Agency, the Red Crescent, the Army....

Much importance is attached to public sensitization regarding rules of behaviour during disasters and major-risk situations so as to lessen their impact on the population. Programmes involve publications, information ads, executive training courses, the financing of training courses abroad for certain civil defence staff members.

General Salah AWAD

Director General of Civil Defence