



FRANCE



Emergency Preparedness Directorate
(Direction de la Défense et de la Sécurité Civiles - DDSC)

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1. Legislation :

- Article 17 of the amended Ordinance of 7 January 1959
- Decree n° 65-28 as amended on 13 January 1965
- Decree n° 88-622 of 6 May 1988 relating to emergency plans
- Law n° 96-369 of 3 May 1996 relating to fire and emergency services
- Law n° 96-370 of 3 May 1996 relating to the development of volunteer service in the fire-brigade corps
- Decree n° 97-1225 of 26 December 1997 relating to the organization of fire and emergency services
- Decree n° 99-1039 of 10 December 1999 relating to volunteer fire-fighters
- Law n° 2004-811 of 13 August 2004 relating to the modernisation of civil safety.

2. Mission :

At the State level, prevention of risks as well as the protection of people and property demands studies, requires the elaboration of plans, necessitates the anticipation of organizational measures and involves the search for important and specialized resources.

Many administrations and services have a role to play in civil safety and responsibilities are shared between ministries, departments and communes.

Organization of civil safety is based both on action undertaken by State structures and the efficiency of facilities set up for relief throughout the country with the help of decentralized authorities.

A whole range of emergency responses are regularly required for:

- the safeguard of the population (from daily accidents to large-scale disasters)
- the protection of the environment (from forest fires to combating all types of pollution)
- the protection of material goods (from the prevention of fires to mitigating the effects of floods)

3. Regulation and procedure :

The pattern on which the organization of civil safety is based is relatively complicated because the interveners are attached to different ministries (Interior, Defence, Health...). But, except for exceptional circumstances, prefects share responsibilities with mayors to prevent accidents and direct relief operations to assist victims. However, when it is obvious that intervention is beyond the possibilities of the commune, the day before, one single ministry intervenes and coordinates relief - the Ministry of the Interior.

The Minister of the Interior and Regional Development is in charge of civil safety and is also responsible for civil defence according to the provisions of Article 17 of the amended Ordinance of 7 January 1995. According to the directives of the Prime Minister, its mission is thus to "as regards civil defence, take measures in prevention and relief as required for the safety of the population under all circumstances" (Amended Decree no 65-28 of 13 January 1965). Such actions are undertaken in liaison with the military authorities.

Civil safety : competence shared between ministries

The Ministry of the Interior disposes of the essential portion of national relief resources. It may apply to other ministries for help that it solicits or monitors as the lead organism in civil safety:

- *The Ministry for Defence* intervenes in forest fires;
- *The Ministry for Ecology and Sustainable Development* coordinates the governmental policy on major natural and technological disasters. It also controls "classified installations for the protection of the environment".
- *The Ministry for the Economy, Finance and Industry* intervenes directly in the prevention of technological hazards : nuclear hazards or hazards related to hydrocarbons, etc.
- *The Ministry Delegate for the Budget and Administrative Reform* coordinates activities for the prevention of domestic accidents and the safety of goods proposed to consumers.

- *The Ministry for Health and Solidarity* supervises urgent health services (SAMU), and emergency and re animation services (SMUR).
- *The Ministry for Transportation, Capital Works, Tourism and Maritime Affairs* conceives the regulations concerning safety against fires in inhabited buildings.
- *The Ministry for Employment, Social Cohesion and Housing* is directly concerned by the prevention of accidents and damages in enterprises and professional premises.
- *The Ministry for Agriculture and Fisheries* is responsible for the prevention of forest fires, the management of and safety in forests (clearing, forest paths to prevent fires, forest fire-fighter units, etc.).

4. Organization :

The Director for Emergency Preparedness exercises his functions in combination with the functions of Senior Official for Defence. As such, he directs and coordinates services in charge of:

- the preparation and the implementation of measures regarding protection;
- the prevention of all types of civil hazards and the planning of civil defence and safety measures;
- relief actions for the safety of people and goods, in peace time as during crises;
- means of intervention for civil safety;
- -response to local services for assistance and fire-fighting;
- promotion of instruction in civil safety and the training of fire-brigade officers.

The Emergency Preparedness Directorate (DDSC) includes:

- the Cabinet
- the inspectorate
- the international relations mission;
- the operational services subdivision
- the fire brigade and emergency workers subdivision;
- the risk management subdivision
- the administration and logistic subdivision

The Commandment of military formations for civil safety (C.O.M.F.O.R.Mi.S.C.) is attached to the operational services subdivision.

An Interministerial Operational Crisis Management Centre (C.O.G.I.C.) collects all information regarding a serious event that may harm the population, material goods or the environment. This is a tool that is permanently on the watch to assist the Government in its decisions. It informs the Cabinet of the Ministry of the Interior of all situations justifying emergency measures.

It must also respond to requests for technical information formulated by prefectorial authorities and, if necessary, place at the disposal of these authorities all necessary supplementary means for action. In addition, it directs and coordinates the use of means of action engaged at national or international levels.

Decentralized services of the Emergency Preparedness Directorate :

- 18 mine clearance centres;
- 1 aircraft base at Marignane;
- 22 helicopter bases and 1 command and logistical base located in Nimes;
- 3 civil safety training and intervention units (U.I.I.S.C.) based at Nogent-le-Rotrou, Brignoles, and Corte;
- 4 operational and logistical support centres (E.S.O.L), located in Mery-sur-Oise, Jarnac, Mort-Mare and Marseille;
- 7 zone headquarters with their operational centre (C.O.Z) at Paris, Bordeaux, Lyon, Metz, Rennes, Lille and Valabre, and two in the overseas territories (Martinique et La Réunion);
- the Higher National School for Fire-Brigade Officers (.E.N.S.O.S.P.)

Civil safety in France is a responsibility shared between the State and the territorial authorities.

At the central level: *the Emergency Preparedness Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior.*

The Law of 13 August 2004 stipulates that "the purpose of civil safety is the prevention of all types of hazards, the information and alarm of population as well as the protection of persons, properties and the environment against accidents, disasters and catastrophes by the preparation and the application of measures and appropriate means recovering from the State, the territorial authorities and the other public or private persons".

The Minister of the Interior, responsible for civil safety, prepares safety measures and coordinates the resources for relief of the State, the local authorities and public establishments throughout the country.

The DDSC is the State administration that allows the Minister of the Interior to ensure inter-ministerial responsibility for the organization and coordination of relief at the national level.

The DDSC disposes of national means of intervention, specifically three military units (UIISC) that intervene to reinforce the fire-brigade, in particular during forest fires, technological accidents, natural catastrophes or disasters occurring abroad.

An intermediary structure: *the Civil Safety Zone Staff*

Under the authority of zone Prefects, the Civil Safety Zone Staff (EMZ) analyses all the risks the zone is likely to encounter and elaborates the guidelines for the training of firemen. It also establishes a general plan for the organization of relief (ORSEC) in the zone.

Under the authority of the chief of the EMZ, the operational zone centres (C.O.Z) coordinates relief operations regarding several departments or that need national reinforcement.

Closer to the population: *action by prefects, mayors and fire-brigade*

At the local level, the authorities in charge of hazard prevention and relief organization are: the mayor within the limits of his powers of keeping order, and the prefect of the department.

- The prefect prepares and triggers the ORSEC plan and other emergency plans during major disasters. He is also in charge of elaborating plans to prevent foreseeable natural hazards (floods etc.).

When there are disasters that cannot be handled by one single commune, the prefect is the authority with the legal right to direct operations in which fire-brigade units take part. He can also call upon necessary private relief resources. He has, at his disposal, the inter-ministerial service for defence and civil defence (SIDPC).

- Mayors responsible for the safety of citizens on their territory of their communes rely mainly on the fire-brigade. Over 80% of the firemen are volunteers who, for the most part, must adjust professional activity and voluntary work. The fire-brigade serves the departmental units (some 11 000 operational units) and, in each department belong to the departmental fire and emergency service (SDIS), a departmental public establishment with an administrative commission presided by a local elected member. The Director General of the SDIS, under the authority of the prefect and the interested mayors, is responsible for the operational use of resources and the fire-brigade serving in the department.

Firemen intervene over 8 000 times a day throughout the country. Voluntary, professional and military firemen in the regions of Paris and Marseilles are in the front-line of actors who, day by day, ensure the protection of the population against all sorts of accidents and disasters.

5. Staff :

- Civilian staff of the DDSC (2005): 1 109;
- Military staff (covered by the D.D.S.C. budget): 1 504;
- 9 928 military firemen (Paris, Marseilles);
- 36 461 civilian professional firemen;
- 197 556 civilian voluntary firemen.

6. Training :

The Higher National School for Fire-Brigade Officers (.E.N.S.O.S.P.) became an administrative public establishment in 2004.

The missions of the ENSOSP :

- to ensure initial and continuous training of professional and voluntary firemen;
- organisation of training in the field of fire and emergency intended notably for the elected members, the civil servants, the managers of companies and for the French and foreign experts;

- Animation of the network of fire brigade's schools, in particular the coordination of trainings, researches and actions of cooperation insured by these schools, in contact with the prefects of zone.
- Research, studies, evaluation, forward-looking and broadcasting of the information; development of international cooperation actions, notably in the field of training and research.

Means available for the ENSOSP :

The ENSOSP disposes of three sites:

- Nainville-les-Roches in the Essonne where the Higher National School for Fire-Brigade Officers is situated after its creation in 1979;
- Aix-en-Provence, where the ENSOSP is going to be gradually delocalized
- In Paris, rue Oudinot, where firemen are trained in prevention. Staff is divided out as follows: 102 agents in Nainville-les-Roches, 8 in Aix-en-Provence and 9 in Oudinot.

7. Equipment/appliances :

Air and land equipment:

- an air fleet: 20 water-bomber planes for forest fire control (10 Canadair CL 415, 10 Grumman S 2F), 3 command planes (Beechcraft King Air 200); 2 Dash8
- 41 helicopters: 6 Alouette III, 4 Ecureuil 350 B, 31 EC 145
- 512 land vehicles.

8. Finances :

- operating budget (2005): 34 638 963 € ;
- capital budget (2005): 54 500 000 €

Mr. Henri MASSE

Director of the DDSC

Prefect

Senior Defence Official