



GREECE



General Secretariat for Civil Protection

Address :

**Ministry of Interior, Public Administration
and Decentralisation
2 Evangelistrias Street
GR - 10563 ATHENS
GREECE**

Tel. +30 210 3359 002 / 003

Fax. +30 210 3359 935

info@civilprotection.gr

<http://www.civilprotection.gr>

1. Legislation :

- Law 2344/1995: Concerns the establishment of the General Secretariat for Civil Protection (GSCP) under the Ministry of Interior, Public Administration.
- Law 3013/2002: Concerns the upgrade of the role of Civil Protection (CP) in Greece, emphasizing the importance of citizen protection and assigning roles to local authorities.
- Presidential-decree 151/2004. Concerns the organizational structure of GSCP.
- Ministerial decision 1299/2003. Regards the National Emergency Plan, which provides the general guidelines of emergency planning in Greece.

2. Mission :

The mission of GSCP includes:

- The protection of citizen's life, health and property from natural, technological and other major hazards.
- The protection of cultural heritage, historic buildings and monuments, the resources and the infrastructure.

3. Regulation and procedure :

GSCP belongs to the Ministry of Interior Public Administration and Decentralization.

By Law 3013/2002 GSCP is the competent authority for the planning and set-up of the national policy and actions in matters of prevention, preparation, public information, management and mitigation of natural, technological and other major hazards (including chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats).

The main areas of activity of GSCP include:

- Readiness of the personnel and means of CP.
- Elaboration of the available scientific information for the mobilization of resources in case of emergencies.
- Coordination of response and recovery actions in emergencies.
- Coordination of emergency planning actions at national level.
- Provision of scientific support to the programs, plans and actions in the field of CP.
- Monitoring and control of the Annual National Planning implementation at regional and local level in cooperation with competent authorities.
- Propose the distribution of state funds for CP to the local authorities.
- Preparation of special reports for every major disaster. Revisions, amendment and improvement of existing proposals are included.
- Functioning a Civil Protection Operation Center on a 24 hours basis.
- Operation of a unit for the assessment of information on weather forecasting and other precursory phenomena related with natural hazards, for the early notification and warning of the competent authorities and the general public.
- Public information and awareness.
- Organization and promotion of volunteer organizations work in the field of CP.
- Cooperation with the competent authorities towards preparing regulations, codes and legislation in the field of prevention. Approval of CP local plans.
- Programming, based on the annual national civil protection planning, of the necessary annual provisions of means and human resources in cooperation with competent authorities.
- Support and promotion (coordination, planning, financing) of the research, education and training in the field of CP.
- Promotion of the country's relations with International Organizations and CP authorities, including representation in International Organizations.
- Coordination of the assistance provided to Greece and assistance provided to other countries.

4. Organisation :

Civil Protection in Greece is organized in three administrative levels, national, regional and local. Greece is divided in 13 Regions.

Each region is divided into a particular number of Prefectures and each Prefecture into a specific number of Municipalities. Greece has a total number of 54 Prefectures and 1033 Municipalities.

Emergency planning in Greece is organised at three levels, national, regional and local. At national level, emergency planning is provided by the National Emergency Plan “XENOKRATES”. The National Emergency Plan is issued by GSCP and can be summarised by the following:

- includes definitions regarding Civil Protection
- identifies twenty-one (21) different types of natural, technological and other major risks
- determines the competent authorities for emergency planning
- provides the general guidelines for emergency planning

The Regions and Prefectures with the approval of GSCP issue their own emergency plans at a regional and local level, respectively.

Emergency plans for the 21 different types of natural, technological and other major risks, are also issued by the following Ministries:

- Ministry of National Defence: 8 plans concerning forest fires, earthquakes, floods, snowfalls, CBRN and transport accidents.
- Ministry of Development: 9 plans concerning earthquakes, tornados, landslides, CBRN, electric power failure and failure of natural gas transmission lines, storage of hazardous materials, industrial fires, dam failure, mining accidents.
- Ministry of Environment Physical Planning and Public Works: 11 plans concerning earthquakes, floods, tornados, snowfalls, landslides, volcanic activity, storage of hazardous materials, industrial fires, environmental pollution, dam failure, road and railway accidents.
- Ministry of Health and Welfare: 5 plans concerning: earthquakes, heat waves, CBRN, environmental pollution and epidemic cases.
- Ministry of Rural Development and Food: 7 plans concerning forest fires, floods, snowfalls, heat waves, CBRN, environmental pollution and animal and insect related hazards.
- Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications: 5 plans concerning tornados, CBRN, telecommunication network failure, road, railway and aircraft air accidents.
- Ministry of Public Order: 16 plans concerning forest fires, earthquakes, floods, tornados, snowfalls, landslides, volcanic activity, CBRN, electric power failure and failure of natural gas transmission lines, storage of hazardous materials, industrial fires, environmental pollution, dam failure, mining accidents, road, railway and aircraft air accidents.
- Ministry of Mercantile Marine: 7 plans concerning earthquakes, floods, tornados, CBRN, environmental pollution, marine and aircraft air accidents.

Main tasks in emergencies

In case of emergencies GSCP carries the responsibility to rank a disaster into one of the following three categories and make decisions to activate the appropriate Civil Protection Authorities and competent services.

By Law 3013/2002 natural and technological disasters according to their impact to the population and infrastructures are classified into general disasters, high or low impact regional disasters and high or low impact local disasters, respectively.

The management of a low impact local disaster requires activation of the competent authorities of one Prefecture.

The management of a high impact local disaster requires activation of the competent authorities from more than one Prefecture.

The management of a low impact regional disaster requires activation of the competent authorities of one Region.

The management of a high impact regional disaster requires activation of the competent authorities from more than one Region.

In case of general disasters the Minister of Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization carries the responsibility to proclaim the State of Emergency.

In case of regional or local disasters the General Secretary for Civil Protection carries the responsibility to proclaim a Region or a Prefecture in State of Emergency.

In case of low impact local disasters the General Secretary for Civil Protection authorizes the General Secretary of the Region or the Prefect to proclaim the Region or the Prefecture in State of Emergency.

5. Staff:

According to the Presidential-decree 151/2004 GSCP is organised as follows:

- The General Secretary.
- The General Secretary's Office.
- Press and Public Relations Office.
- Three Directorates concerning:
 1. Planning and emergency management
 2. International Relations, Volunteerism, Training and Editions
 3. Logistics
- The Civil Protection Operations Centre.

GSCP staff includes:

- Administrative personnel.
- Scientific personnel including meteorologists, chemical engineers, geologists, geophysicists, structural engineers, psychologists, sociologists etc.

- Officers of the fire brigade, the police, the coast guard and the armed forces to operate on a 24-hour basis the Civil Protection Operations Centre.

In case of emergencies the Civil Protection Authorities and competent services activated under the co-ordination of GSCP include the:

- National Centre for Emergency Care
- Fire Service
- Police
- Coast Guard
- Armed Forces
- National Weather Service
- Earthquake Planning and Protection Organization
- Red Cross
- Research Institutes and Universities
- State Organizations and Local Authorities
- Volunteering Organizations and other non-governmental organizations.

6. Equipment:

GSCP equipment consists of modern computing and telecommunication facilities and two Mobile Civil Protection Operation Centres.

Computing facilities includes LAN & WAN of modern computer systems. Telecommunication facilities include:

- ISDN telephone lines
- VHF and HF radio systems
- GSM communication
- INMARSAT telephones
- Video-Conference

The two Mobile Civil Protection Operation Centres can be transferred anywhere by C-130 aircraft and have modern facilities including:

- Satellite Communication
- GSM Communication
- Video-Conference
- TV Receiver & Transmitter
- Video
- Collection of Meteo-Data
- Detection of Toxic Gases

Mr. Panagiotis Furlas

General Secretary for Civil Protection

Panagiotis Furlas was born in Lamia (Greece), in 1948. He started his career in the Fire Service of Greece in 1970. He graduated from the Officer's School of the Fire Service Academy in 1978 and studied Political Science in the Department of Political Science and Public Administration of the Faculty of Law of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.

During his career in the Fire Service, he became successively Commander of Fire Service in the cities of Ptolemaida, Larisa, Athens and the Region of Attica. He was appointed Chief of the Fire Service, on May 2000 and General Secretary for Civil Protection in April 2004. During his 34 years service, he was honoured with a large number of medals and awards including the "Abdi Ipekci Special Award" under the auspices of the United Nations.

