

Fire & Rescue Service of the Czech Republic



Motto:

**„Everybody has the right to live;
human life is worthy of protection...”**

The Charter of Fundamental Rights and Basic Freedoms



Primary mission of the Fire & Rescue Service of the Czech Republic is to protect life, health and property of citizens against fire, and to provide effective help in emergencies.

From history to present



Although the first paid fire brigade on Czech territory was established in Prague already in 1853, during the second half of the 19th century, and after the Czechoslovak Republic was established in 1918, up to the beginning of the 2nd World War, the main responsibility for fighting fires lay on voluntary fire brigades of towns and municipalities. The first voluntary fire brigade was founded in the town of Velvary in 1864. Public fire units of professional character had existed in certain bigger cities only.

Basic reorganisation of fire protection took place after the 2nd World War, namely when the Act No. 35/1953 on State Fire Inspection and Fire Protection came into force. On the basis of the Act, the public and company fire units became executive fire units, and fire protection started to be established on principles of military organised bodies.

The new Fire Protection Act in 1958, however, meant gradual decentralisation of fire protection, and consequent weakening of its level.

The sixties of last century are therefore characterised by efforts to introduce some new legislation in fire protection.

At the beginning of seventies of last century the proportion of technical responses of fire units began to increase, in comparison with fire interventions. And because of their abilities, professional fire units gradually replaced some of other technical services. Therefore, the existing legal provisions and organisation had to be adapted.

On 1st July 1986 the Fire Service was established, including its administrating bodies/the Main Fire Service Administration within the Ministry of Interior, district /city and regional Fire Service Administrations, all performing state management in the field of fire protection, and controlling fire departments of the Fire Service.

On 1st January 1995 the Fire & Rescue Service of the Czech Republic (FRS CR) was established, headed by the Fire Chief Officer of the Czech Republic. FRS CR was composed from the Directorate of FRS CR, the Prague FRS, district FRSs, and FRS of cities Brno, Ostrava and Pilsen.

At the turn of the millennium the scope of the Ministry of Interior was extended on the issues of emergency management, civil emergency planning, population protection, and the Integrated Rescue System. In connection with this, the Czech Parliament discussed and approved new laws.

The new legislations, which came into force on 1st January 2001, marked a fundamental change in the status, scope and organization of the Fire & Rescue Service of the Czech Republic. The existing district organisation was replaced by the regional arrangement (i.e. the General Directorate of the FRS CR, and regional FRSs).

A further stage of modern history started in 2009, when the Emergency Unit of the Fire & Rescue Service of the Czech Republic, settled in Hlučín, Silesia, near Polish border, and in Zbiroh, the Pilsen Region, was incorporated in the organizational structure.

Mission and tasks of FRS CR



Fire & Rescue Service of CR is one of the basic bodies of the Integrated Rescue System (IRS), and operates in its new structure since 1st January 2001.

Fire & Rescue Service of CR fulfils tasks in the scope and under conditions determined by special laws, which are:

- Act No. 133/1985 Coll. on Fire Protection, as amended,
- Act No. 238/2000 Coll. on the Fire & Rescue Service of CR and amending certain acts, as amended,
- Act No. 239/2000 Coll. on the Integrated Rescue System and on Amendments to certain Laws, as amended,
- Act No. 240/2000 Coll. on Emergency Management and amending certain acts (the Crisis Act), as amended.

Under the Act No. 238/2000 on Fire & Rescue Service of CR and on certain regulations, new organisational structure had been established and the basic tasks had been determined.

Fire & Rescue Service of CR consists of the General Directorate of Fire & Rescue Service of CR (FRS CR), which is a part of the Ministry of Interior, and of 14 regional Fire & Rescue Services, the Emergency Unit of FRS CR, and the Special Secondary School of Fire Protection and High Special School of Fire Protection in Frýdek-Místek. Part of the General Directorate of FRS CR are also educational, technical and specialized facilities: the School and Training Facility of FRS CR, the Institute of Population Protection, the Technical Institute of

Fire Protection, and the Logistic and Repair Facilities of FRS CR.

The General Directorate of Fire & Rescue Service of CR (FRS CR) fulfils tasks of the Ministry of Interior, which is the central body of state administration for fire protection, crisis management, civil emergency planning, population protection and the Integrated Rescue System.

The General Directorate of FRS CR manages regional Fire and Rescue Services, which are organisational bodies of the state, accounting entities, and administrative authorities; and the Emergency Unit of FRS CR, which is an organisational body of the state and an accounting entity.

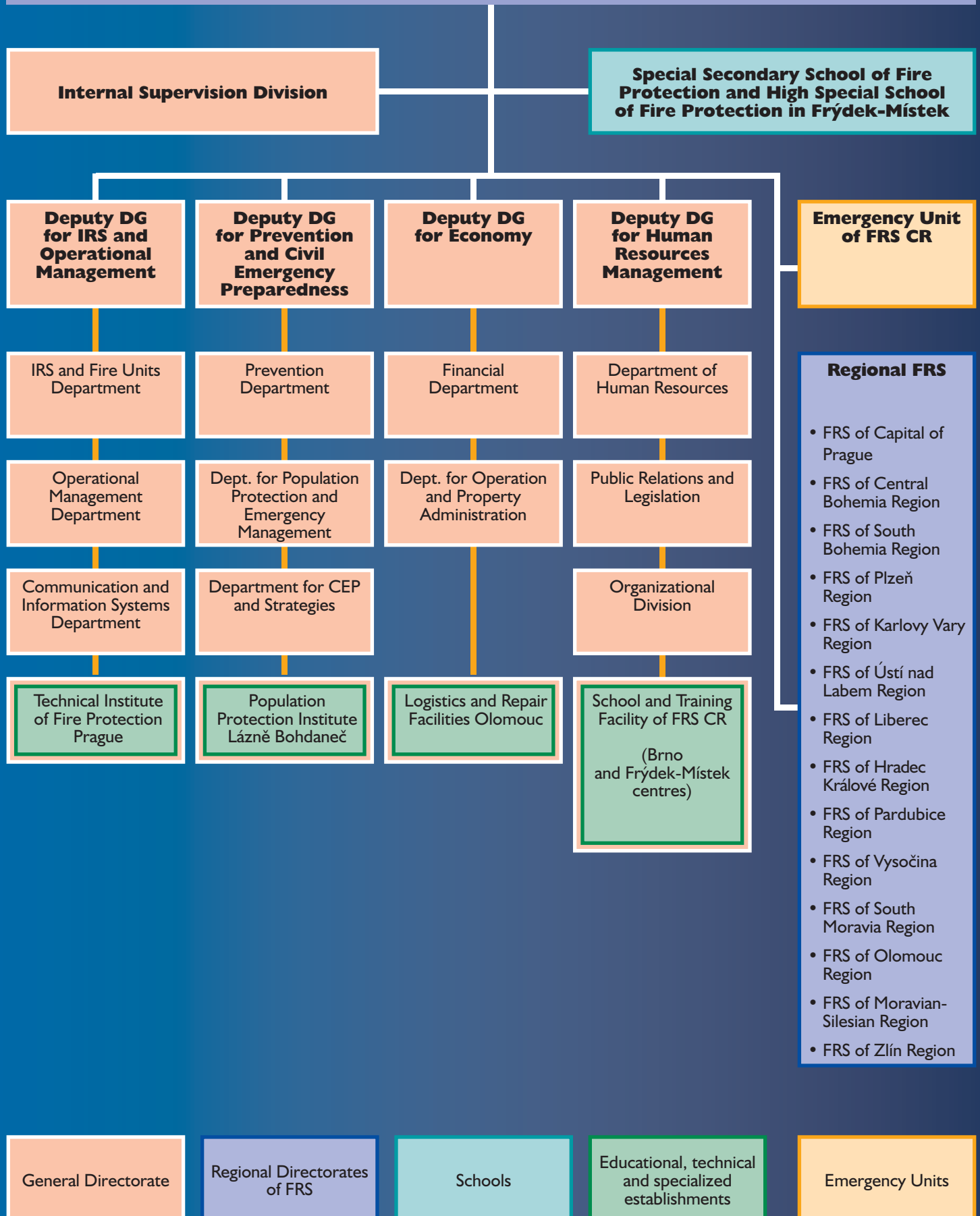
Tasks of Fire & Rescue Service of CR are fulfilled by members of the Fire & Rescue Service of CR (in service employment), and by other employees.

Main activities of FRS of CR

- State fire supervision;
- Interventions (firefighting, liquidation of consequences of natural disasters and of other emergencies);
- Preventive educational activities;
- Population protection;
- Providing of humanitarian assistance to abroad;
- Law-making in the area of fire protection, Integrated Rescue System, population protection and crisis management.

Organisational Diagram of FRS CR

Director General of FRS CR



Regional Fire & Rescue Services



FRS of Capital of Prague

Regional Directorate in Praha

FRS of Central Bohemia Region

Regional Directorate in Kladno

Territorial units: Benešov, Beroun, Kladno, Kolín, Kutná Hora, Mělník, Mladá Boleslav, Nymburk, Příbram

FRS of South Bohemia Region

Regional Directorate in České Budějovice

Territorial units: České Budějovice, Český Krumlov, Jindřichův Hradec, Písek, Prachatice, Strakonice, Tábor

FRS of Plzeň Region

Regional Directorate in Plzeň

Territorial units: Domažlice, Klatovy, Plzeň, Rokycany, Tachov

FRS of Karlovy Vary Region

Regional Directorate in Karlovy Vary

Territorial units: Cheb, Karlovy Vary, Sokolov

FRS of Ústí nad Labem Region

Regional Directorate in Ústí nad Labem

Territorial units: Děčín, Chomutov, Litoměřice, Most, Teplice, Ústí nad Labem, Žatec

FRS of Liberec Region

Regional Directorate in Liberec

Territorial units: Česká Lípa, Jablonec nad Nisou, Liberec, Semily

FRS of Hradec Králové Region

Regional Directorate in Hradec Králové

Territorial units: Jičín, Hradec Králové, Náchod, Rychnov nad Kněžnou, Trutnov

FRS of Pardubice Region

Regional Directorate in Pardubice

Territorial units: Chrudim, Pardubice, Svitavy, Ústí nad Orlicí

FRS of Vysočina Region

Regional Directorate in Jihlava

Territorial units: Havlíčkův Brod, Jihlava, Pelhřimov, Třebíč, Žďár nad Sázavou

FRS of South Moravia Region

Regional Directorate in Brno

Territorial units: Blansko, Brno, Břeclav, Hodonín, Vyškov, Znojmo

FRS of Olomouc Region

Regional Directorate in Olomouc

Territorial units: Jeseník, Olomouc, Prostějov, Přerov, Šumperk

FRS of Moravian-Silesian Region

Regional Directorate in Ostrava

Territorial units: Bruntál, Frýdek-Místek, Karviná, Nový Jičín, Opava, Ostrava

FRS of Zlín Region

Regional Directorate in Zlín

Territorial units: Kroměříž, Uherské Hradiště, Vsetín, Zlín

Emergency unit of FRS CR



The Emergency Unit of the Czech Fire & Rescue Service was formed in January 2009, now dislocated in Hlučín, Silesia, and in Zbiroh, the Pilsen Region. Former 157th Rescue Battalion of the Czech Army was incorporated to the FRS CR based on the Government Decision.

Tasks and targets

Rescue assistance

Rescue and humanitarian activities

- Search, extrication and rescue of persons from collapsed structures
- Rescue and diving work in water
- Earthwork (river-basin removal, communications unblocking etc.)
- Extrication of crashed or stuck vehicles
- Demolitions
- Fighting large forest fires
- Long-distance transport of water
- Decontamination of persons, equipment, material, and terrain
- Clean-up of oil products leakages
- Collecting and liquidation of dead animals
- Evacuation of people, transport of cattle and material
- Providing of emergency surviving to citizens

Restoring affected areas

- Emergency supply with drinkable water, powers and humanitarian material

- Water pumping with high-capacity pumps
- Medical support

Providing humanitarian assistance to abroad

- Water pumping
- Searching of persons in debris
- Blasting work
- Samaritans

Support for FRS CR

- Demolitions and grounds work
- Transport of material and equipment
- Other support

Education of FRS CR officers

Special training of firefighters

- Operation earthmoving and construction equipment
- Operation of motor chain saws
- Handling of animals
- Decontamination of firefighters
- Diving small vessels
- Work on wild water
- Technical organization of courses for divers of FRS CR

Driving licence training

- Training for a driving licence type B, C, D and E
- Training to obtain a "Permit to drive company cars".

Technical and specialised facilities



Technical and specialised facilities serving for research and special tasks in fire protection branch are incorporated into the Ministry of Interior, General Directorate of the Fire & Rescue Service of the Czech Republic.

Technical Institute of Fire Protection in Prague

This technical facility is intended for research and development in fire protection branch, for testing and certification of fire equipment and certain protective equipment, for investigation of fire causes, and for fire-technical expertise.

Technical Institute of Fire Protection is also the No. 221 Certified Body providing conformity assessment and certification of fire equipment, and the accredited test-room for fire equipment.

Institute of Population Protection in Lázně Bohdaneč

This purpose-built facility serves for education, scientific research, information and specialized activities in the field of civil protection, civil emergency planning, crisis management and the

Integrated Rescue System. It coordinates and directs activities of chemical laboratories within FRS CR, oversees their good laboratory practice and perform tasks as a chemical laboratory for Hradec Králové and Pardubice regional FRSs.

In the field of educational activities it organises professional, specialised and refresher courses. Also it organises and provides scientific conferences, seminars, workshops, methodological courses with international participation, and expert meetings for public administration authorities and IRS bodies.

Logistic and Repair Facility

This special facility provides activities of repair, service and inspection, and storage of supplies for FRS CR, incl. emergency reserve of the State Material Reserves, and performs state administration in the field of metrology of ionizing radiation through the Certified Metrology Centre.

The facility also fulfils the tasks of the National Humanitarian Assistance Base in provision of material humanitarian assistance in major emergencies and crisis situations in the Czech Republic or abroad, and operates the Fire Protection Exposition of FRS CR in Zbiroh.

Experts training



Education of future firefighters, contemporary staff of FRS CR, employees of company fire brigades, and voluntary firefighters is of great importance. It is provided primarily in educational facilities of FRS CR, with support of the Institute of Population Protection in Lázně Bohdaneč and the Emergency Unit of FRS CR. The Mining College-Technical University in Ostrava provides higher education in the field of fire protection.

This comprehensive staff-training program of specialised education in fire protection started in sixties of last century.

School and Training Facility of FRS CR (STF)

In training centres in Brno and in Frýdek-Místek and in the Borovany workplace it organises and conducts courses for obtaining and renewal of professional competence for members of FRS CR, commanders and staff of company fire brigades, engineers and technicians of special services of other fire units. It implements specialised courses for fire units and other bodies of the IRS, provides other forms of learning (e.g. lectures, seminars, workshops, instructional and methodological training, mentoring and training) in the field of fire protection, rescue services, population protection and crisis management, and provides conferences for FRS CR and other bodies of the IRS. The STF guarantees and provides international training within the concept of safe firefighting procedures (operation and deployment of the CCS Cobra - high pressure cutting and extinguishing equipment, using thermal imagers and positive pressure ventilation) and creates conditions for independent and joint training of all bodies of the IRS.

Special Secondary School of Fire Protection and High Special School of Fire Protection in Frýdek-Místek

It is the only special secondary fire protection school in the Czech Republic. It significantly participates in training and education of professionals, needed in bodies of the Integrated Rescue System. The High Special School of Fire Protection is designed to prepare professionals in the field of risk prevention and rescue. Since 2012, the school also organises a proficiency test of natural persons under the Act No. 133/1985 Coll. on Fire Protection.

(Note: The school is an organizational component of the FRS CR.)

Mining College – Technical University in Ostrava

At the Faculty of Safety Engineering it allows obtaining the bachelor, master and doctoral degrees of university education in a range of security disciplines. Teaching, research, information and specialised activities are focused in the area of fire protection, industrial safety, safety at work and in proceedings, territorial safety planning, crisis management, population protection, critical infrastructure protection, technical safety of persons and property.

(Note: The school is not an organizational component of the FRS CR.)

State fire supervision



Fire prevention presents an important part of activities of the FRS CR. Main task is to develop measures preventing fires, to ensure readiness for firefighting and creation of conditions for extinguishing fires. All these measures aim to minimize the risk of fire and its spread and thereby prevent subsequent loss of life, health and property.

Meeting the challenges in the field of fire prevention is ensured mainly as part of the power of the state fire supervision.

A general name of the state fire supervision includes each of the activities that are carried out by the competent authorities, representing the state. Relevant authorities in the field of fire protection and fire authorities providing state fire supervision are the Ministry of Interior - General Directorate of FRS CR, and regional FRSS.

The Act No. 133/1985 Coll. on Fire Protection, as amended, defines power range of state fire supervision, with details given in the Decree No. 246/2001 Coll. establishing fire safety conditions and performance of the state fire supervision (Fire Prevention Notice).

State fire supervision is performed by:

a) Check compliance with the obligations laid down in regulations on fire protection;

- b) Assessment of spatial planning documentation, documentation for the issuance of zoning, building design documentation for building management, documentation for permission to change the building before its completion and assessment documentation for the management of change in use of buildings, the regulations necessary adjustments to the security of the work in proceedings for redress and to allow exceptions in the range of fire safety solutions in accordance with special legislation;
- c) Verification of compliance with fire safety conditions arising from the reviewed documents and documentation referred to in subparagraph b), including those resulting from opinions issued;
- d) Assessment of fire safety of products if it is not established under special legislation, and assessing the functionality of dedicated fire safety equipment,
- e) Approvals of fire risk evaluations of activities with high fire risk;
- f) Investigation of fire causes;
- g) Inspections of preparedness and readiness of fire units;
- h) Imposition of measures to remedy identified deficiencies and reviewing the implementation of these measures.

Fire units



The primary mission of fire units is to protect lives, health and property from fires, and provide effective assistance in emergencies that threaten life and health of people, property or the environment, and require rescue, respectively relief work.

The fire unit means an organized system composed of professionally trained personnel (firefighters), fire equipment (vehicles) and material means of fire protection (car equipment, diesel generators, etc.).

Firefighters in the fire unit are divided into platoons, teams, teams of a reduced number, eventually groups. One platoon consists of 2-3 teams or groups. Each team consists of one commander and other firefighters. The group consists of a group commander and 1-2 firefighters.

Types of fire units:

- **Regional FRS unit**
It consists of professional firefighters - members of the FRS CR, serving at fire stations of particular region.
- **Company FRS unit**
It consists of company employees, who perform that activity as their profession. The unit is established by a legal person or by an entrepreneur, usually based on the decision of a regional FRS.
- **Municipal unit of voluntary firefighters**
Members of that unit do not perform their firefighting duties as their profession. The unit is established by municipalities in

their own powers.

- **Company unit of voluntary firefighters**
It consists of company employees, who do not perform their firefighting duties as their profession. The unit is established by a legal person or by an entrepreneur, usually based on the decision of a regional FRS.
- **Military fire unit**
It consists of employees or members of the Army of CR. Establishment, internal organization and equipment of military fire units by fire equipment and material means are in responsibility of the Ministry of Defence.

Basic tasks of fire units

- Firefighting
- Rescue work during emergencies,
- Civil protection and population protection:
 - Evacuation of inhabitants
 - Marking of areas where hazardous substances are present
 - Warning of inhabitants
 - Decontamination of affected inhabitants or property
 - Humanitarian assistance to the population, and providing their emergency survival.

Nearly 80,000 firefighters work in fire units, approximately 9,000 of them are professionals, and more than 71,000 are voluntary firefighters.

Population protection



Protection of lives, health and property, together with sovereignty, territorial integrity, and protection of democratic principles of the Czech Republic, are principal liabilities, and also the function of the state.

Population protection in the Czech Republic is defined by the Act No. 239/2000 Coll. on Integrated Rescue System and on amendment to some laws, as amended, **as provision of civil protection tasks, namely warning, evacuation, sheltering and emergency survival of citizens, and other provisions, ensuring protection of their life, health and property.**

GENERAL CAUTION warning signal

The Czech Republic has introduced the single warning signal General Caution to alert the population in the threat or occurrence of emergency.

This signal is a warble siren tone for 140 seconds and can be heard three times at approximately three-minute intervals. This acoustic tone siren is followed by emergency information, provided by mass media.

Evacuation

Evacuation is pre-planned from endangered places to places, where alternative accommodation and boarding for evacuees is provided, as well as housing of animals and storing of materials.

In evacuation, citizens are recommended to carry their evacuation luggage.

Sheltering

For sheltering people from contamination by radioactive dust, effects of penetrating radiation and toxic effects of hazardous substances, natural protective characteristics of structures, adjusted against penetration of such materials are used. While state of emergency or war is proclaimed, using of improvised and permanent shelters is planned.

Emergency survival

Measures of emergency survival are pre-planned as taking up measures after evacuation of citizens from endangered places. They include mainly emergency accommodation, emergency supplies of basic food and drinking water, emergency basic services and organisation of humanitarian assistance.

Conception of population protection

This is an essential conceptual material approved by the Czech Government for medium perspective (until 2020) and long-term perspective (until 2030) planning of population protection measures.

Crisis management



Crisis management is in terms of the security policy of the Czech Republic, conceived as a set of managerial activities of crisis management (Government, ministries and other central administrative authorities, the Czech National Bank, regional authorities and other bodies with activities in the regions, the authorities of municipalities with extended powers, and authorities of the municipalities) focused on analysis and evaluation of security risks and planning, organizing, implementing and controlling activities undertaken in preparation for crisis situations and their solutions, or protection of critical infrastructure. In the Czech Republic we distinguish crisis to those that are related or unrelated to the provision of Defence of the Czech Republic against external attack.

The scope and powers of emergency management, rights and obligations of legal and natural persons preparing for crisis situations and their solutions are governed by the Act No. 240/2000 Coll., on Crisis Management and amending certain acts (Crisis Act), as amended.

Emergency preparedness is ensured in the organisation (creation of organisational structures, emergency and contingency planning), technical (skills of technique and other material) and competence (education and training).

Solving the crisis situation is particularly associated with the implementation of rescue and relief work, the implementation of measures to protect disabled people and their emergency survival, measures to ensure functioning of public administration and critical infrastructure, etc.

On the basis of the Crisis Act a **state of danger** can be declared by the regional governor as an urgent measure, when lives, health, property, and environment are threatened, provided the intensity does not reach the danger of considerable extent, and it is not possible to avert threats by normal activities of administrative authorities, regional and municipal bodies, IRS bodies or entities of critical infrastructure.

In crisis of considerable extent the Government can declare a **state of emergency** for the whole country or a part of. When threatened the sovereignty or territorial integrity or its democratic principles, the Parliament of the Czech Republic may declare a **state of national threat**. The Parliament may declare the **state of war**, if the Czech Republic is attacked or if it is necessary to fulfil international obligations concerning common defence against aggression.

Crisis management activities are carried out in connection with protection of critical infrastructure. As critical infrastructure is understood an element of critical infrastructure, or a system or elements of critical infrastructure, threat or failure of which would have a serious impact on national security, securing basic necessities of life, human health or economy of the state.

Elements of critical infrastructure means a structure, facility, means, or public infrastructure, determined by cross-cutting and sectorial criteria in the fields of energy, water supply, food and agriculture, health, transport, communication and information systems, financial market and currency, emergency services and public administration.

Integrated Rescue System



The Integrated Rescue System (IRS) is designed to co-ordinate rescue and clean-up operations in case, where situation requires deployment of forces and means of several bodies, e.g. firefighters, police, medical rescue services and other bodies, or in case, where the rescue and clean-up operation is necessary to be co-ordinated from the level of the Ministry of Interior, regional governor level, or by mayors of municipalities with extended responsibilities.

The Integrated Rescue System means the co-ordinated actions of its bodies in preparation for emergencies, and when conducting rescue and clean-up operations.

The Act No. 239/2000 Coll. on the Integrated Rescue System and on Amendment of Certain Laws, as amended, is the basic legal frame.

Basic IRS bodies

- Fire & Rescue Service of CR
- Fire units based on the regional fire cover,
- Providers of medical rescue service,
- Police of CR.

Other IRS bodies

- Allocated forces and means of the armed forces,
- Other armed security services,

- Other rescue services,
- Public health authorities,
- Emergency, stand-by, specialised and other services,
- Civil protection facilities,
- NGOs and citizen associations that can be used for rescue and clean-up operations.

Other bodies are included in the IRS under the Agreement on planned assistance on request usually concluded with FRS CR. Other IRS bodies are required to communicate in determining extent of the planned assistance upon request, at the request of the IRS operation and Information centre

- a) persons authorized for providing the assistance and the way of their communication,
- b) forces and means to provide assistance,
- c) time required for providing forces and means, in case of requiring assistance.

Permanent co-ordination of the Integrated Rescue System are operational and information centres of the Integrated Rescue System, i.e. the operational centres of regional Fire & Rescue Services and the Operational and Information Centre of the General Directorate of Fire & Rescue Service of CR.

Fire units co-operate with other IRS bodies in a joint intervention with other IRS bodies in average in 90,000 cases of emergencies a year.

People in distress



Dial the emergency call is the most common way to call for help. Emergency call means a free choice of numbers in telephone networks, which are designed for emergency notification requiring life-saving or protection of health, property and the environment. Based on the information obtained from the emergency call, bodies of the IRS initiated their activities, in particular intervention in the incident place.

Emergency call works:

- continuously
- throughout the territory
- free of charge
- in all telephone networks
- from any voice terminal of telephone networks.

Emergency call numbers

- 112**
- Notification of each extraordinary situation, esp. when the caller doesn't know which of national emergency call numbers is suitable to use;
 - For foreigners (allows to speak in a foreign language);
 - Calls are dispatched in Operational/Call centres of FRS CR, together with emergency calls to 150.

The single European emergency number 112 works in all European Union countries. Its introduction was decided primarily to facilitate communication with emergency services

within the European Union.

As each country uses its own emergency numbers, foreigners in emergency have problems to call the right one, apart from language problems.

In the Czech Republic, 112 number works alongside with the national emergency numbers 150, 155 and 158.

- 150**
- Notification of fires, natural disasters, accidents and emergencies when fire extinguishing, extrication, disposal of HazMat etc. is necessary;
 - Calls are dispatched in Operational/Call centres of the FRS CR, together with emergency calls to 112.
- 155**
- Intended to call in case of sudden health problems, injuries or in accidents with health consequences;
 - Calls are dispatched in operation centres of medical rescue services.
- 158**
- Designed for calls in case of disturbances of public order and security, notification of criminal offenses and the need for investigation of traffic accidents or calls for assistance for safety and fluent traffic;
 - Calls are dispatched in operation centres of the Czech Police.
- 156**
- For emergency calls to operational centre of municipal (city) police.

Membership in NATO



Czech Republic has been the member of NATO since 12th March 1999.

NATO was founded in 1949 by signing the North Atlantic Treaty. This political - military organization has primary purpose in protection of freedom and safety of all members by political and military means. The most important decision-making body in NATO is the North Atlantic Council (NAC).

The Fire Rescue Service of the Czech Republic is responsible for civil emergency planning. The main tasks of Civil Emergency Planning in NATO are expressed as basic safety obligations of the Alliance, and include civil and military operations and security operations in response to emergencies, support of national authorities in civil emergencies, and protection of the civilian population.

General coordination is provided by the Civil Emergency Planning Committee (CEPC), which reports directly to the North Atlantic Council. The Experts from the Directorate General of Fire Rescue Service of the Czech Republic play active role in its tasks during CEPC regular and plenary

meetings. The CEPC coordinates four planning groups that bring together representatives of national institutions. These groups meet regularly, and plays an important role for Civil Emergency Planning in NATO. One of those groups is the Civil Protection Group (CPG), where the primer responsibility lays on the Directorate General of Fire Rescue Service of the Czech Republic.

In 1998 the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Relief Coordination Centre (EADRCC) launched its activities. Its main task is to coordinate the response of NATO member states and partner countries to natural and technological emergencies within the Euro -Atlantic area. The Czech Republic supported the EADRCC twice by providing the Voluntary National Contribution.

NATO issues are regularly discussed in the Czech national Committee for Civil Emergency Planning, which is a permanent working body of the National Security Council of CR. Directorate General of Fire Rescue Service of the Czech Republic also coordinates the activities of other Czech authorities involved in NATO CEP issues.

Wide range of cooperation



The Czech Republic joined the European Union on 1st May 2004. Since this date activities and cooperation of the Fire Rescue Service of CR with other Member States in the EU, third countries and international organisations in the field of civil protection has intensified. This cooperation is particularly ensured by relevant departments of the General Directorate of the Fire Rescue Service of CR, whose task is to represent the Czech Republic in the Working Group of the Council of the European Union for Civil Protection (PROCIV), in the European Commission Civil Protection Committee (CPC) and other Commission's expert groups related to civil protection and security at national and international level.

Within the EU this cooperation is dealt by the Community Mechanism for Civil Protection (the Decision No. 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and Council), whose general objective is to strengthen cooperation between the Union and the Member States, to facilitate coordination in the field of civil protection, and to improve the effectiveness of systems in the field of prevention, preparedness and response.

One of the challenges arising from the Community

Mechanism for Civil Protection is to provide 24/7 point of contact to the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC). This task in our country is performed by the Operational and Informational Centre of the General Directorate of FRS CR. This Centre is also the focal point for The Common Emergency Communication and Information System (CECIS). CECIS facilitates communication between the EARCC with National Authorities making response to disasters faster and more effective.

The FRS CR also provides the international contact point for critical infrastructure protection, the European critical infrastructure and the European Programme for Critical Infrastructure Protection.

All tasks associated with membership in the EU in the area of civil protection are coordinated by the General Directorate of FRS CR and the relevant departments of the Ministry of Interior, the relevant departments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (especially in cooperation with the Permanent Representation of CR to the EU) and other ministries and other central administrative authorities.

Humanitarian assistance to abroad



Providing humanitarian assistance to foreign countries is an integral part of Czech foreign policy. Humanitarian assistance has been provided either on bilateral level, or through international governmental and non-governmental organisations. Humanitarian assistance to abroad is provided at the request of an affected country, which directly requests assistance, through embassies, or international organisations.

The Ministry of Interior is responsible for the Czech Republic's involvement in international rescue operations in emergencies abroad, and providing of humanitarian assistance to foreign countries, in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The task of the General Directorate of FRS CR is especially organisation of rescue and material assistance to foreign countries, serving as a point of contact for requesting humanitarian assistance abroad by an affected State or an international organisation, and providing information on forces and means to the relevant international organisations.

Conditions for providing of humanitarian assistance to abroad are regulated by the Act No. 151/2010 Coll., on international development cooperation and humanitarian assistance to abroad, and amending related laws.

Basic forms of assistance

- **Rescue** – taking part in international rescue operations or dispatching an independent rescue team.

Rescue humanitarian assistance of CR is provided through the Fire & Rescue Service of CR, which has established special

operations units (so-called civil protection modules) that are registered in an international database of the European Union. In addition to these detachments, the Fire & Rescue Service of CR is ready to assemble rescue teams for fighting forest fires or to assist in the heavy snow fall, and more.

The main task of USAR units (from the English Urban Search and Rescue Team - search and rescue detachment in residential areas) is rescuing people from collapsed buildings due to various phenomena, especially an earthquake or explosion. USAR Detachment is always ready and capable of modification for a different kind of rescue work.

Detachment members are trained according to international standards. In October 2010, the Czech USAR detachment gained the INSARAG certificate of UN-OCHA (the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs), declaring HEAVY level (highest level of readiness). Based on this certificate the CZERT USAR (Czech Emergency Response Team with specialisation USAR) will be able to participate actively in international rescue operations in countries affected by disasters resulting in collapsed buildings.

- **Material** – providing material according to the needs of an affected country
- **Financial** – providing funds to Czech or international organisations, or directly to relevant authorities of an affected country
- **Consulting** – dispatching of specialists and experts, or providing the necessary information
- **Combined** – combines the previous four forms of assistance.

Rank insignia of members of the FRS CR



Sergeant 3rd class



Sergeant 2nd class



Sergeant



Warrant



Warrant officer



Chief warrant officer



Second lieutenant



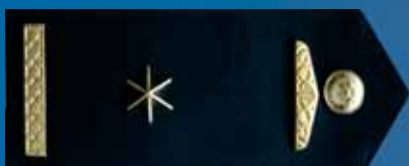
First lieutenant



Lieutenant



Captain



Major



Lieutenant colonel



Colonel



Brigadier general



Major general



Lieutenant general



**ODBORNÝ ČASOPIS POŽÁRNÍ OCHRANY,
INTEGROVANÉHO ZÁCHRANNÉHO SYSTÉMU
A OCHRANY OBYVATELSTVA**



112 Magazine

It provides information from the field of fire protection, of Integrated Rescue System bodies' activity, of population protection and crisis management problems. Determined mainly to employees of state and local administration and to companies and entrepreneurs, active in Integrated Rescue System bodies, and in fire protection and population protection area. The magazine is published monthly in Czech with English and German annotations, and is distributed to subscribers only.

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