

Državna uprava za zaštitu i spašavanje (DUZS; National Protection and Rescue Directorate of the Republic of Croatia (NPRD))

The Act on the Amendments to the Act on the Organization and Scope of responsibilities of Ministries and National Administrative Organizations (Official Gazette no. 30/2004) enabled the establishment of National Protection and Rescue Directorate (hereinafter: the Directorate). The Protection and Rescue Act that was passed on November 26, 2004 on laid foundations for the creation of an integrated protection and rescue system in the Republic of Croatia. On the basis of the aforementioned Act, the Directorate takes over the activities of civil protection, fire-fighting and Fire-fighting and Civil Protection School from the Ministry of Interior, as well as the activities of the monitoring and information service from the Ministry of Defence which is then transformed into the European single emergency number 112.

The National Protection and Rescue Directorate consists of five services, three of which are operational (Civil Protection Sector, Fire-fighting Sector, National Information and Communication Sector). Within NPRD there is also the School for Fire-fighting and Protection and Rescue, as well as Personnel and Legal Affairs sector which deals with all personnel, legal and financial issues for all other Sectors.

In 20 counties of the Republic of Croatia the NPRD functions through 20 county offices for protection and rescue; in each of them there is a County 112 Centre. The total number of experts employed in NPRD is 689.

The Civil Protection Sector coordinates the participation of operational protection and rescue forces (central state administration bodies competent for certain segments of response; legal persons that are included into protection and rescue plans pursuant to protection plans) and other participants of protection and rescue activities in the field of civil protection.

The Fire-fighting Sector coordinates operational activities of participants (central state administration bodies competent for certain segments of activities in fire-fighting interventions, pursuant to adequate plans) in extinguishing fires and other fire-fighting interventions. It coordinates directly fire-fighting interventions that take place in the area of two or more counties in the Republic of Croatia.

The Fire-fighting, Protection and Rescue School plans, prepares, implements and monitors the activities of education, training and in-job training within the protection and rescue system; it carries out education and in-job training of professional fire-fighters for the needs of the Directorate and other state administration bodies, as well as for the needs of legal and physical persons. It also carries out training and in-job training for high-level fire-fighting commanding officers, for the needs of the Croatian Armed Forces and other forces participating in fire protection, as well as for the needs of civil protection activities.

The NPRD has international cooperation on bilateral, regional and wider international level. The bilateral agreements on cooperation in the field of protection from disasters are signed with a total of 11 agreements.

A special attention is paid to regional cooperation, and the Republic of Croatia is active in several regional institutions. Special attention is also given to activities within the framework of larger international associations, especially EU and NATO.

The Republic of Croatia renders assistance to stricken nations upon request, like for example in the case of forest fires in Montenegro in 2002, fires in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia and Greece in 2007, forest fires in Israel and Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2010, floods in Slovakia in 2006, floods in Hungary in 2010, Montenegro severe weather conditions in 2011, forest fires in Greece and Montenegro in 2012.

In the past several years the National Protection and Rescue Directorate has organized the following international training and other activities:

Training within the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism:

- Designing, planning, conducting and evaluating Community Mechanism Introduction courses - CMI (Tender no: NO ECHO/B.1/FRA/2011/02) - as a part of Consortium, May 2012 - May 2015
- Planning, conducting and evaluating five Civil Protection Modules Training Courses (with reference to the Invitation to tender no: ENV.A3/SER/2008/0025, Official Journal reference 2008/S 78 – 104906), Mar 2009 - Sep 2009

Exercises within the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism:

- Design, plan, conduct and evaluate five table top exercises for key personnel of civil protection modules / Technical Assistance Support Teams (TAST)" (Reference: ENV A.3/SER/2009/0020; Official Journal reference: 2009/S 89–127607 of 09/05/09), Sep 2010 – Apr 2011

IPA Programme on "Civil Protection for candidate countries and potential candidates"

- Lot 2: "Design, plan, conduct and evaluate two regional exercises, and arrange the participation of 8 beneficiaries' teams in the Mechanism exercises – Civil Protection Cooperation for the candidate countries and potential candidates" (No 22020701/2010)576760/SER/C3), December 2011 – December 2012

Training within the framework of the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative (DPPI):

- Disaster Management Course, Mar 2002
- Training of Trainers Workshop, Sep 2002
- Specialized Disaster Management Module: Aircraft Major Incidents, Nov 2002
- Specialized Disaster Management Module: Forest Fires, Jan 2003

- Disaster Management Course, May 2003
- Specialised Module 3: Tunnels, Sep 2003
- Specialised Module 4: Floods, Nov 2003
- Project Cycle Management Course, Oct 2003
- Specialised Module 1: Aircraft Major Incidents, Jan 2004
- Specialised Module 2: Forest Fires, Mar 2004
- Regional Disaster Management Course, May 2004
- Specialised Module 3: Planning, Nov 2004
- Specialised Module 1: Tunnels, Feb 2005
- Regional Disaster Management Course, Apr 2005
- Specialised Module 2: Aircraft Major Incidents, Nov 2005
- Regional Disaster Management Course, Feb 2006
- Specialised Module 3: Planning, June 2006
- Specialised Module 4: Floods, Nov 2006
- Specialised Module 1: Planning, January 2007
- Disaster Risk Reduction training, Feb 2010
- Disaster Risk Reduction Training of trainers training, June 2011

Training in cooperation with IFRC:

- Regional Disaster Response Team in cooperation with IFRC and Bosnia & Herzegovina, Oct 2006

Course within the NATO PfP framework:

- International Environmental Disaster Operations, May 2008

Other Exercises:

- Joint NATO EADRCC / Croatia exercise "Taming the Dragon – Dalmatia 2002", May 2002
- Joint NATO EADRCC / Croatia exercise "Idassa 2007", May 2007

Seminars:

- Seminar on Lessons Learned from operations and exercises conducted by the EADRCC, May 2004
- NATO crises management seminar, Oct 2006.