



**Protection  
and Rescue System**  
in Montenegro

Having adopted the National Strategy for Emergency Situations, the Protection and Rescue Law and established the [Directorate for Emergency Management](#) as an organizational unit of the Ministry of the Interior, the Coordination Team for Protection and Rescue, etc., Montenegro has created a set of necessary conditions for managing and coordinating the protection and rescue activities in the territory of Montenegro from one place. In such an organized protection and rescue system, there is a full integration of all human and material resources available to state bodies, local governments, companies, other legal entities, entrepreneurs and citizens. The protection and rescue activities are of public interest and include “a set of measures and actions taken in order to detect and prevent various hazards, as well as to mitigate and remove the consequences of natural disasters, technical and technological accidents, radiation, chemical and biological contamination, war destruction and terrorism, epidemics, epizootics, epiphytotics and other disasters which may endanger or affect the population, material goods and the environment.” (Protection and Rescue Law, Official Gazette of Montenegro, No. 13/07, 32/11 and 54/16, Article 1).



## WHAT ARE THE PRINCIPAL PROTECTION AND RESCUE GOALS?

### **The goals of the protection and rescue system are:**

- harmonizing domestic laws and regulations with the EU standards and creating conditions for their full implementation;
- establishing a modern and efficient system of management and coordination in the event of natural, technical-technological and other disasters;
- implementation of disaster risk reduction policy;
- ensuring efficient use of existing resources at all levels in the country;
- development of programmes for the development of protection and rescue services;
- reduction of harmful effects disasters have on people, material and cultural goods and the environment;
- ensuring international assistance in case of accidents, natural disasters, technical - technological and other disasters.

## WHO PERFORMS PROTECTION AND RESCUE OPERATIONS?

The protection and rescue operations are carried out by government bodies, local government units, companies, private businesses and other legal and natural persons.

The protection and rescue is carried out on the basis of Protection and Rescue Plans. These plans include the national and municipal plans for protection and rescue as well as the protection and rescue plans for companies, other legal entities and entrepreneurs (entrepreneurial plans). After being proposed by the Ministry of the Interior, the national plans are to be adopted by the Government, which ensures that they are mutually coordinated.

The municipal plans are enacted by the municipal assemblies, while the entrepreneurial plans are made by companies, other legal entities and entrepreneurs, subject to the approval of the Ministry of the Interior. The protection and rescue plans are created on the basis of risk assessment studies. The risk assessment studies are an integral part of the Protection and Rescue Plan.



## PROTECTION AND RESCUE MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION

Managing the protection and rescue services involves decision making related to undertaking a set of specific measures, activities and actions, as well as performance of protection and rescue tasks. The management is carried out in accordance with the protection and rescue plans and a prior experience in a specific situation in a particular area.

Coordination implies a coordinated action of all the protection and rescue participants at all stages of task execution within a given time and space as well as their timely information.

For the purposes of managing and coordinating the protection and rescue activities, the following teams were formed:

- 1) for the territory of Montenegro – the Coordination Team for Protection and Rescue;
- 2) for the municipal areas - the Municipal Protection and Rescue Teams.

The Government of Montenegro appoints the director, deputy director and members of the Coordination Team for Protection and Rescue, as well as members of the Operational Protection and Rescue Headquarters whose task is to coordinate the activities of the participants in the protection and rescue system.

## **The Coordination Team for Protection and Rescue:**

- manages the protection and rescue activities during the participants' implementation of the tasks identified;
- manages implementation of protection and rescue measures and coordinates the activities and procedures undertaken for protection and rescue purposes;
- monitors the status and organization of protection and rescue and proposes the measures for their improvement during the period of emergencies;
- issues the orders and decisions related to implementation of protection and rescue measures and activities, except for those which are to be issued by the Government;
- reports to the Government on the protection and rescue measures undertaken;
- performs other tasks prescribed by law.

## **The Protection and Rescue Operational Headquarters:**

- operatively coordinates the work of participants in the protection and rescue operations;
- operatively coordinates the implementation of measures and activities and procedures undertaken for protection and rescue purposes;
- coordinates the execution of orders and conclusions received by the Coordination Team for Protection and

## Rescue and the Government;

- operatively coordinates the deployment of operational units and use of protection and rescue equipment and means;
- coordinates the cooperation activities within the EU civil protection program (the Union Civil Protection Mechanisms);
- cooperates with the authorities of the neighbouring states responsible for managing and coordinating the protection and rescue activities;
- estimates the degree of vulnerability and the possibility of declaring a state of emergency;
- conducts other actions of importance for the operational coordination of the participants in the protection and rescue activities.



## **The Municipal Protection and Rescue Team:**

- manages the participants in protection and rescue activities within a certain municipality;
- manages and coordinates the implementation of the protection and rescue measures;
- organizes and coordinates protection and rescue actions;
- monitors the status and organization of protection and rescue in a given municipality and proposes the measures for their improvement in the field of organization, management, coordination, supply and other measures;
- issues orders and decisions regarding the implementation of protection and rescue measures and activities, except for those which are to be issued by the municipality;
- assesses the risk of the state of emergency situations and notifies the Protection and Rescue Operational Headquarters;
- submits reports on the undertaken protection and rescue measures and activities to the Coordination Team for Protection and Rescue;
- cooperates with the municipal protection and rescue teams from the neighbouring municipalities;
- performs other tasks prescribed by law.



## WHO PERFORMS PROTECTION AND RESCUE ACTIVITIES?

The protection and rescue activities are carried out by the following operational protection and rescue units:

- municipal protection and rescue services;
- special protection and rescue units;
- volunteer protection and rescue units;
- protection and rescue units organised by companies, other legal entities and entrepreneurs;
- civil protection units and
- special air unit for fire extinguishing.

The **Municipal Protection and Rescue Service** is a professional service which mainly performs: providing assistance to the local people in need and the injured; fire-fighting and rescue from fire-affected areas; rescue from ruins, landslides and snow avalanches; floods and other natural disasters relief; mountains and canyon rescue operations; road and civil aviation accident rescue.

**Special protection and rescue units** are composed of citizens who voluntarily carry out protection and rescue activities. They are organized by rescue societies, Red Cross organizations, Mountain Rescue Service, speleological societies, diving societies, canine societies, scout organizations, radio amateur clubs, etc.

**Volunteer Protection and Rescue Units** are organized for the voluntary participation of citizens in the protection and rescue of people and material goods which may be affected by the state of emergency, as well as for the promotion of protection and rescue efforts. Businesses, entrepreneurs and other legal and physical persons can set up the volunteer groups.

**Civil protection** is a part of a unique protection and rescue system composed of civil protection units and protection and rescue equipment and assets. The civil protection units are organized as general and specialized units. Each citizen is a civil protection conscript so that citizens aged 18 to 63 (men) or 55 (women) can, in accordance with the principle of voluntariness, be designated to civil protection units.



## WHAT ARE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF CITIZENS WITHIN THE PROTECTION AND RESCUE SYSTEM?

### **Each citizen is obliged to:**

- respect the protection and rescue measures and participate in protection and rescue activities;
- perform the material obligation at the invitation of the Ministry of the Interior or the Municipal Protection and Rescue Team, unless the material obligation relates to the assets and equipment which are intended for the country's defence or health care;
- by calling the emergency number 112, promptly inform the Operational Communications Centre 112 (OCC 112) at the Directorate for Emergency Management of the Ministry of the Interior of anything of significance for the protection and rescue.

## MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR – DIRECTORATE FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

### **The main tasks of the Directorate for Emergency Management are to:**

- coordinate the work of the protection and rescue system participants when it comes to organization, planning,

preparation and implementation of measures and activities aimed at reducing the risk of disasters;

- monitor and analyse the situation in the field of protection and rescue;
- train and develop the civil protection units, special and voluntary units, as well as supervise the work and equipment of operational protection and rescue units;
- inform and alert the citizens in case of accidents, natural disasters, technical-technological and other disasters;
- constantly collect, process and transmit the data related to the situation in the affected areas through the Operational Communication Centre 112;
- organize the removal, deactivation and destruction of unexploded ordnance;
- seek assistance from other states and international bodies and organizations in case of accidents, natural and other disasters;
- report to the neighbouring countries and international organizations on the dangers with a possible cross-border effect;
- cooperate with the relevant authorities of other states and international organizations and institutions, etc.

# WHICH ARE THE PROTECTION AND RESCUE MEASURES?

## The protection and rescue measures include:

- 1) evacuation;
- 2) sheltering;
- 3) care for the affected population;
- 4) radiological, chemical and biological protection;
- 5) rescue from rubble;
- 6) flood relief;
- 7) fire protection and rescue;
- 8) protection from unexploded remnants of war and explosive devices;
- 9) first aid and medical care;
- 10) protection and rescue of animals and products of animal origin;
- 11) protection and rescue of plants and products of plant origin;



- 12) search and rescue at sea;
- 13) search and rescue in civil aviation accidents and incidents;
- 14) field sanitation;
- 15) technical protection of persons, premises and facilities.

The material obligation involves making available one's vehicles, machinery, equipment, devices, energy sources and other material assets, land and facilities necessary for protection and rescue activities. Material obligation also entails setting up tools and devices used for informing and alerting in business and other facilities.



## WHO TO CALL IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY?

**Number 112 is the single European emergency call number.**

### **Call 112 when in need of:**

- emergency medical assistance;
- firefighter-rescuer assistance;
- police assistance;
- assistance from the Mountain Rescue Service and other special units;
- assistance from other participants in the protection and rescue activities.



## When answering a 112 call, the OCC operator should take the following information:

1. **WHO** placed the call (name, surname, address of a natural person, or name and head office of a legal entity),
2. **WHAT** happened (precise information about the type and the extent of the accident),
3. **WHERE** it happened (the precise location of the accident), the location should be confirmed on the Geographic Information System (GIS),
4. When it happened,
5. What are the immediate consequences,
6. Access to the site (possible traffic barriers, inaccessibility, etc.),
7. The presence or proximity of dangerous substances,
8. The presence or proximity of power plants and power facilities,
9. The number of affected and injured persons as well as the types of their injuries,
10. The assistance needed,
11. Current weather conditions in the affected area,
12. Measures undertaken,
13. Who else was notified by the caller.



**In case of an accident, the OCC 112 operator confirms the location of the caller on the GIS, if possible.**



## **IMPORTANT NUMBERS:**

**Directorate for Emergency  
Management of the Ministry of the  
Interior, Operational Communication  
Centre - OCC 112  
European Emergency Number - 112**

**Police - 122**

**Municipal Protection  
and Rescue Service - 123**

**Emergency medical services - 124**



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