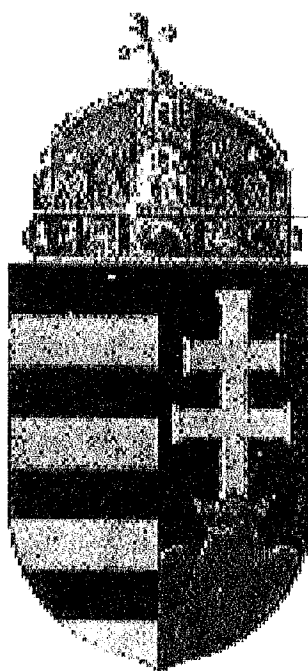


# **INFORMATION**



## **ON THE DIRECTION AND ORGANIZATION OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND THE TASKS OF THE NATIONAL DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT**

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**Ministry of the Interior  
National Directorate General  
for Disaster Management**

**INFORMATION ON  
THE DIRECTION AND ORGANIZATION OF DISASTER  
MANAGEMENT AND THE TASKS OF THE NATIONAL DIRECTORATE  
GENERAL FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT**

The Act No. LXXIV of 1999 on the Direction and Organization of Disaster management and the Protection against Major Accidents involving Hazardous Materials entered into force on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2000.

The codification of this Act is a result of the political, economic and social processes which have been going on in Hungary in the last decade and the implementation of the security policy objectives of the country.

Civil control has come to effect in the direction of the military and the law enforcement organs. These organizations have already been making important steps towards the establishment of new and up-to-date systems meeting also the NATO and Euro-Atlantic requirements.

In recent years, Civil Protection in Hungary has been renewed both conceptually and in relation to its tasks; has approached the European normatives to a significant degree and has become suitable for the coordination of civil emergency management. All this is formulated in the Act No. XXXVII of 1996 on Civil Protection, reflecting the European concept, according to which environment protection, prevention of disasters, nuclear safety and the protection of the population and assets – as a civil protection collective term – are connected.

It is also a significant step towards Europeanism that from 1996 the state fire service, organized in the former military command and operational system, has been replaced by the fire brigades of the municipalities. Thus, primary intervention is the responsibility of the local (settlement) level.

The primary state tasks of the Fire Service are the professional control, fire prevention, fire investigation, training and the installation of technical equipment, furthermore authoritative activity with supervisory competence.

Following Hungary's accession to NATO, in light of the recent crisis in Kosovo, the significance of security, including civil emergency planning, civil protection, disaster relief and crisis management, has increased. The threat of a global armed conflict in Europe has decreased to a minimum, however, the fulfillment of tasks related to local conflicts that develop on ethnic or other bases, to mass migration and the reception of large masses of refugees, and to peacekeeping and humanitarian activities arising from the above should be taken into consideration in the future too.

Simultaneously with but independently from the above, the role of management of crises, of civilization accidents, of nuclear emergencies, of natural disasters and of international assistance/relief in connection, has increased and attracted attention. The importance of safety and security of civilians is underlined by the fact that threats resulting from the production, use and storage of hazardous materials, have grown.

The increased feeling of threat resulting from uncertainty factors and vulnerability has changed the attitude of the citizens towards sources of threat in their neighborhood. All this necessitates a coordinated governmental operation and legal system which respond to the changed circumstances, and establishes a regulation system in the framework of which the citizens are willing to accept the participation and cooperation in crisis management.

As a continuation of changes that took place in the objectives, tasks and activities of the Hungarian fire service and civil protection organizations – considering the newly formulated security requirements and social expectations, the necessity of establishing a united national disaster management system has been a logical consequence.

The main objective has been to establish an united directional, organizational and coordination system so that the Government, regional organs and municipalities, governmental and other organs, forces, assets and capabilities can successfully participate, upon unambiguous legal authorization, in the management of any emergency that could develop into a disaster. The Act No. LXXIV of 1999 on the Direction and Organization of Disaster Management and the Protection against Major Accidents involving Hazardous Materials (passed by the Hungarian Parliament on 22 June 1999) entered into force, as a legal prerequisite of the above, in addition to the Act No. XXXI of 1996 on Fire Protection, Rescue and Fire Service and the Act No. XXXVII of 1996 on Civil Protection – in order to bind them together and, at the same time, to implement a higher objective.

It is the first united and independent Act in the history of Hungarian legislation that, in an epoch-making way, determines the direction system of disaster management and the activities of state organs of different levels in directing the protection, in order to prevent civilization or natural disasters and for the event of disasters.

The establishment of this comprehensive regulation in Hungary is of Hungarian interest just as it is an obligation undertaken in international agreements.

For the purpose of directing disaster management based on responsibility principle the Act specifically determines the precise tasks of each authority, state administration or elected function, for peacetime and for periods differing from normal circumstances. So the Act determines and defines the tasks and actions of the

- Government,
- Government Coordination Committee – as a governmental organization responsible for the preparation of Government decisions relating to disaster management and for harmonizing decisions,
- Minister of the Interior,
- Responsible Minister and the head of organizations with national competence
- Chairmen of county and capital defense/protection committees
- Mayors.

The Act provides adequate operational competence for the Government in the period of preparation for protection and prevention, as well as in the field of the direction of disaster management. In a declared emergency situation the measures introduced by the Government can be in force for 15 days that may be extended by the Hungarian Parliament exclusively. For the purpose of a more efficient protection the Government is authorized to activate civil protection organizations in disaster stricken areas, within the limits of provisions, and to reactivate reserves for military service.

A separate chapter deals with the structure, command and control, and tasks of the disaster management organization subordinated to the Minister of the Interior. It specifies the scope of authority and tasks of central, regional and local organs participating in disaster management and the sphere of responsibility and supervisory authority of the leaders of central organs.

In order to integrate Seveso II Directive in the Hungarian legislative system the Act deals, in a separate chapter, with the protection against major accidents involving hazardous materials, formulating the technical tasks of prevention and the mitigation of accidents, and measures aimed at the protection of the population. It is characteristic in the developed industrial countries to group the tasks of protection in this way

The statute defines the system of covering the expenditures of disaster management and the funds for protection.

Authorized by the Act, and to implement it, the Government issued the Decree No. 179/1999 regulating the composition, the general conditions of operation, the requirements, alert, convening, order of operation and detailed tasks of the Government Coordination Committee (hereinafter referred to as Committee), performing the interministerial coordination of tasks.

The Decree defines the detailed tasks of the members of the Government and state organs concerned during disaster management, and the tasks of the chairmen of county and capital defense/protection committees, and mayors, relating to disaster management.

This stipulation lays down the procedures how to declare an area disaster stricken, and of the delivery of disaster relief assets, furthermore the precise rules of logistics and financial support of disaster management, the

compensation and covering the expenses of persons participating in protection.

Considering the special responsibility of the Minister of the Interior for the direction of the system of disaster management, the Minister regulated, in his Decree No. 48/1999, the united order of protection relating to the subordinate organs, and the tasks and spheres of authority of the individual subordinate organs, and the leaders thereof.

Authorized by the Act, the Draft of a Government Decree defining the scope of hazardous materials and industrial activities, the system and requirements of protection against and planning for major accidents involving hazardous materials and tasks relating to public awareness, has been elaborated and will soon be submitted to the Government.

The Act No. LXXIV of 1999 ordered the establishment of an integrated disaster management organization consisting of central, regional and local organs, from the organizations of Civil Protection and the State Fire Service.

The central organ of the disaster management organization is the National Directorate General for Disaster Management, Ministry of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as Directorate General), address: H-1149 Budapest, Mogyoródi út 43., mailing address: H-1109 Budapest, P.O.B. 319.

The Head of the Directorate General is **Director General Dr. György Bakondi**, directly subordinated to the Minister of the Interior, his state rank being Deputy State Secretary, employment category: government servant. The Director General directs the regional organs of disaster management, that is, the disaster management directorates of counties, the Civil Protection Directorate of the Capital, having a special position, the Airport Fire Service Headquarters and the Fire Service Headquarters of the Parliament.

With the integration of the National Headquarters of Fire Service, Ministry of the Interior and the National Headquarters of Civil Protection, Ministry of the Interior, a new organization has been established in place of the two former cooperating organizations. This organization is free from duplications and overlapping, is more transparent and operates more efficiently and cost-effectively. This can also be seen in the change in the number of personnel: a staff of more than 300 persons of the two national headquarters has been reduced to less than 200 after the integration.

Disaster management directors of the counties are the heads of the county organizations, and direct the local organs of disaster management and of civil protection branch offices through the county organizations.

The Directorate General is financed by the state and has its own independent budget. It is responsible for directing the tasks of the professional State Fire Service and Civil Protection, stipulated in statutory provisions.

To meet the above requirements, it

- determines the professional requirements of prevention, technical rescue and disaster management, directs and controls the work of the subordinate organs;
- participates in the prevention, management and mitigation of the possible aftermaths of nuclear accidents, natural and man-made disasters, and in the organizational activity of protection and national level planning;
- develops planning, organizational and preparation principles of and requirements for disaster management, relating to classified periods, and elaborates planning and organizational tasks in connection with the rescue of the population, and directs the recovery activities of the subordinate organizations;
- provides transportation of organizations, designated for international assistance/relief, to the stricken area;
- fulfils authoritative and special authoritative, furthermore expert tasks within its sphere of competence and provides experts for authoritative activity;
- carries out tasks relating to training and use of personnel, to relief operations and planning of disaster management, and renders professional assistance for the municipalities to plan and organize their tasks and to prepare their personnel;
- establishes wide international cooperation in order to strengthen the scientific foundation of prevention, preparation, relief – and in some cases recovery –, and gains international experience;
- cooperates with the central organs of different Hungarian organizations participating in disaster management, and operates a 24/7 duty.

The Directorate General functions in a structure that includes authoritative organizations, emergency management, economic affairs, administration, and supervision and control.

The organizational structure of the county disaster management directorates is shown in Figure 2.

The reason for the establishment of the two professional organizations is to outline the importance of prevention from the components and partial tasks of disaster management, namely prevention, mitigation and recovery. Therefore the planning, organizational and directional tasks of prevention take place in the framework of a separate **organization of the Deputy Director General for Authoritative Affairs.**

The organization Deputy Director General for Authoritative Affairs is **directed by Brigadier General Attila Tatár.**

Within this organization, the **Department for Coordination** is responsible for providing technical, organizational and command and control support information, and for organizing the preparation for protection against major accidents.

It maintains contact with the Committee of Competent Authorities, providing the implementation of the Seveso II Directive No. 82/96 and plays the role of National Point of Contact. It also fulfils the general tasks relating to the professional supervision of fire service associations, voluntary firemen and firemen of the facilities.

The **Department for Authoritative Prevention** directs the authoritative, special authoritative and preventive disaster management activities of the county disaster management directorates, and supervises the fire prevention activity of the professional municipality fire brigades, fulfills tasks relating to licensing hazardous facilities and activities, and exercises different spheres of authority relating to special authoritative activities and consent.

The **Department for Technical Safety Authorization** authorizes the introduction and use of products and assets at the State Fire Service and Civil Protection, and verifies the technical safety of equipment and assets and the reliability of their operation.

The preventive and management tasks of emergencies, recovery and reconstruction thereof, are performed by a common organization, the **organization of the Deputy Director General for Emergency Management, led by Major General István Orovecz.**

The **Department for Civil Emergency Management**, operating within this organization, elaborates the principles of the disaster management information system; operates the Emergency Management and Communication Center and the main 24/7 duty, and participates in the preparation and conduct of domestic and international exercises. In emergencies or disasters it coordinates the tasks of population protection, fire service and technical rescue – that fall within the competence of the Directorate General – and coordinates the professional tasks of assistance in Hungary and abroad. This Department is responsible for the development of the command system of disaster prevention and civil protection in peacetime and classified periods. The Accident Information Section belongs to this Department. This Department also operates the Nuclear Accident Prevention Center.

The **Department for Rescue Organization** performs the professional supervision of the fire service, technical rescue and disaster prevention activities of the county directorates, the professional municipality fire brigades, the voluntary fire brigades and those of the facilities, and assists the work of the fire service associations. It plans and organizes the relevant preparation and advanced training of forces participating in rescue – own

personnel, law enforcement organs, defense/protection committees, municipalities – and directs the elaboration of Plans for Alerting and Relief/Assistance.

The **Department of Planning for Classified Periods** elaborates planning principles and requirements relating to classified periods for the Directorate General and the regional organs, and the mid- and long-term development concepts of disaster management, coordinates the activities of the municipality fire brigades during classified periods. It plans and organizes the supply of the population and the civil protection organizations with protective equipment, plans and organizes the professional tasks of the detection of the affected damage area, rescue, decontamination and control; develops professional requirements of local and shelter protection, directs, from professional aspect, the activity of those obliged to make plans.

The **organization of the Deputy Director General for Finance and Logistics Management, led by Colonel István Endrődi**, in accordance with financial and accounting regulations and within the framework of own funds, carries out the procurement, storage, maintenance and withdrawal of assets necessary for the performance of fire protection and civil protection tasks in peacetime and during classified periods, performs planning and directional activities in the field of economy and finance.

The **Head of Office of the National Directorate General for Disaster Management** coordinates several joint tasks of the **Departments for Human Resources and Education, and International Relations, the Office for Public Relations and Communication, the Department of Administration and Legal Affairs, and the Section for Administration and Protection of Classified Information**, he is directly subordinated to the Director General and performs functional tasks.

The **Department of Supervision and Control**, directly subordinated to the Director General, coordinates control and professional supervision activities of the respective organizations of the Directorate General and also has budgetary control functions.

All international tasks, the maintenance of contacts with national and regional organizations of disaster management are planned, organized and directed by the **Department for International Relations led by Counsellor Dr. Imre Ország**.

The organizational structure, functions of respective bodies and organizational units, scope of authority of individuals and the order of administration and operation are stipulated by the Organizational and Operations Statute. The detailed structure of the respective organizational units, subordination, ranks that can be acquired in the different positions, classifications and salaries, required skills and knowledge of foreign languages are laid down in the organizational board of personnel of the Directorate General. Detailed tasks of individual positions are contained in the Scopes of Activity.



Through the establishment of organizations of disaster management, subordinated to the Minister of the Interior, the institutional system of training disaster management personnel (of the Ministry of the Interior) has been transformed and completed. On the base of the former Fire Protection Training Institute, the Disaster Management Training Center has been established. At the Police Officer Academy a disaster management faculty has been set up, and disaster management has become a part of the system of tasks of the developing united senior training organization of the Ministry of the Interior.

Personnel conditions for the operation of the new disaster management organization are provided by taking over the personnel of the State Professional Fire Service and the Civil Protection. The preparedness, expertise, experience and commitment of the personnel grant guarantee for the performance of the new tasks.

The objective of the new disaster management organization is to successfully continue the work of the legal predecessors. To this end, we wish to maintain and renew the system of contacts of the former professional fire service and civil protection organizations and their national and international cooperation.

# Director General

Secretariat

Deputy Director General  
for the Authoritative Affairs

Department for  
Coordination  
Section for Industrial  
Accident Response  
Section for Municipal  
Coordination

Department for  
Authoritative  
Prevention

Department for Technical  
Safety Authorisation

Authoritative Organization

Emergency Management  
Organization

Finance and Logistics Management  
Organization

Office Organization  
Background Organization

Deputy Director General for  
Emergency Management

Department for Civil  
Emergency  
Management  
Section for Accident  
Information  
Emergency and  
Communications Center

Department for Rescue  
Organization  
Section for Rescue  
Section for Assessment  
and Operations Control

Department of Planning  
for Classified Periods

Deputy Director General for  
Finance and Logistics  
Management

Department for  
Economic Affairs  
Section for Budget  
Section for Finance and  
Accountancy

Technical Department

Department for  
Informatics and  
Telecommunication

Central Repair Unit

Department of  
Supervision and Control  
Section for Control  
Section for Supervising  
Section for Budgetary  
Control

Szent Istvan University, Ybl  
Miklos Technical College Faculty,  
Fire Protection and Safety  
Engineering Institut

Office of NDGDM

Department for Human  
Resources and  
Education  
Section for Human  
Resources and  
Employment  
Section for Education

Department for  
International Relations  
Section for International  
Relations  
Section for International  
Organizations

Department of  
Administration and  
Legal Affairs

Office for Public Relations  
and Communication  
Editorial Office  
Fire Service Museum  
Central Orchestra of  
the Fire Service

Section for  
Administration and  
Protection of Classified  
Information

Spokesman

Direction: \_\_\_\_\_  
Coordination: \_\_\_\_\_

# Organization Chart of County Directorate for Disaster Management

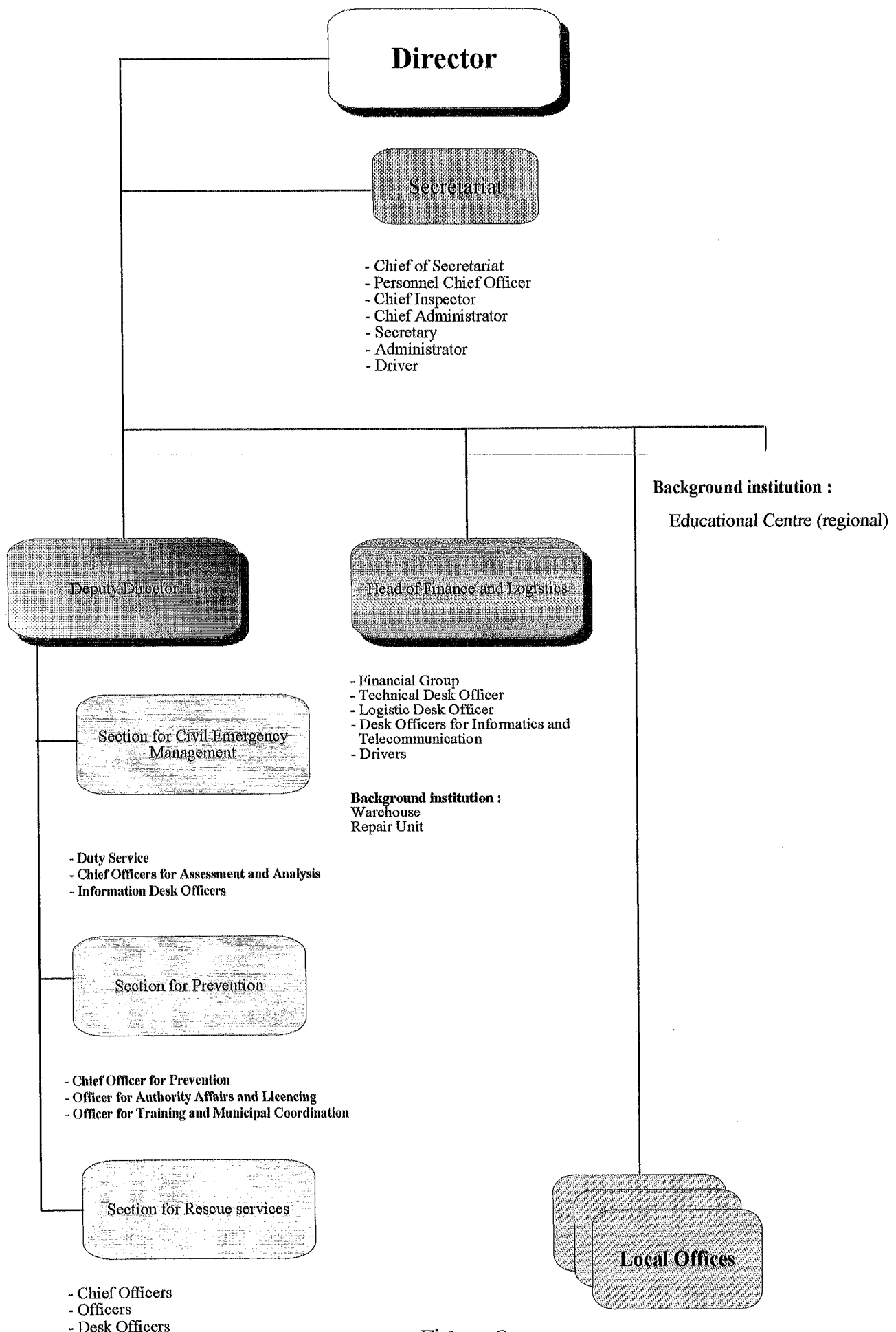


Figure 2