

Study material

Subject title: **CRISIS MANAGEMENT**

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Topic 4: Integrated Rescue System in the Czech Republic

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Introduction

In the last decade, Czech Republic has undergone a number of changes in society. The Czech Republic has been also affected by number of extraordinary events. Extensive floods, industrial accidents, and finally increasing threat of international terrorism. Negative impacts of those events on society have been considerable. There were efforts to improve the prevention from extraordinary events and efforts to improve conditions for liquidation of the consequences led to adoption of new legislation in year 2000. That legislation is in the professional community known under name of „crisis laws „or „crisis legislation,,.

1. Basis terms in Integrated Rescue system

The Law No. 239/2000 Coll., on the Integrated Rescue System and on amendment of certain codes, in latter wording, is the basic legal frame. The Law No. 239/2000 Coll., on the IRS in § 2 and Law No. 240/2000 Coll., on crisis management in § 2, determine some basis terms:

The Integrated Rescue System (IRS)

is determined for co-ordination of rescue and clean-up operations in case, where a situation requires operation of forces and means of several bodies, e.g. firefighters, police, medical rescue service and other bodies, or in case, where the rescue and clean-up operation is necessary to be co-ordinated from the Ministry of Interior or by a leader of region's level, or by mayors of municipalities with extended responsibilities.

As the Integrated Rescue System are therefore considered the co-ordinated proceedings of its bodies during preparations for emergencies, and during rescue and clean-up operations.

It is system of procedures coordination of IRS during time of preparation for crisis situations and in times of action. This is not an organization in the form of institutions, but it is an expression of prearranged rules of cooperation between its bodies.

Integration means that the individual bodies of the IRS provide its resources (equipment, materials, and people) to create purpose driven group of forces and resources for disposal or elimination of crisis consequences. Integration of various bodies into such group create conditions for the most effective and most efficient use of available resources.

Rescue operation

It is an activity to prevent or limit the immediate effects of risks caused by extraordinary events, especially in relation to threat of life, health, property or the environment, leading to disruption of causes inducing this extraordinary event.

Remedy work

...are activities to eliminate consequences of extraordinary events. This activity mainly concerns removal of damaged buildings in danger of collapsing, landscaping, cleaning riverbeds, and decontamination of contaminated people, animals, land and materials.

Material aid

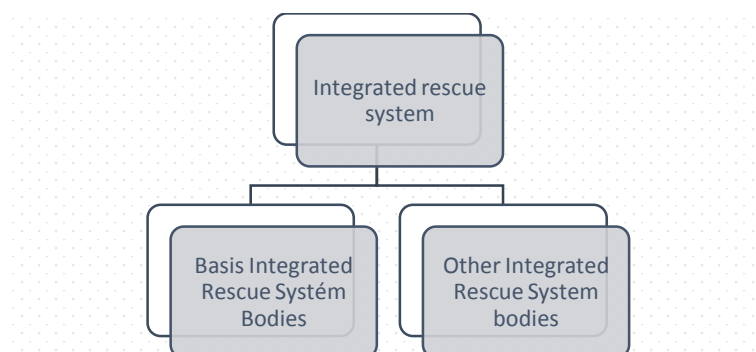
Means providing material resources during rescue and remedy work and exercises on command of commander of intervention, mayor or District Commissioner; material aid can be also provided voluntarily and without call, provided with agreement of intervention commander, mayor or district commissioner.

2. Structure, management system and cooperation

Legislation concerning IRS comes from certain provisions of the Constitution of the Czech Republic and the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms, respectively of the Constitutional Act on the security of the Czech Republic (no. 110/1998 Coll.).

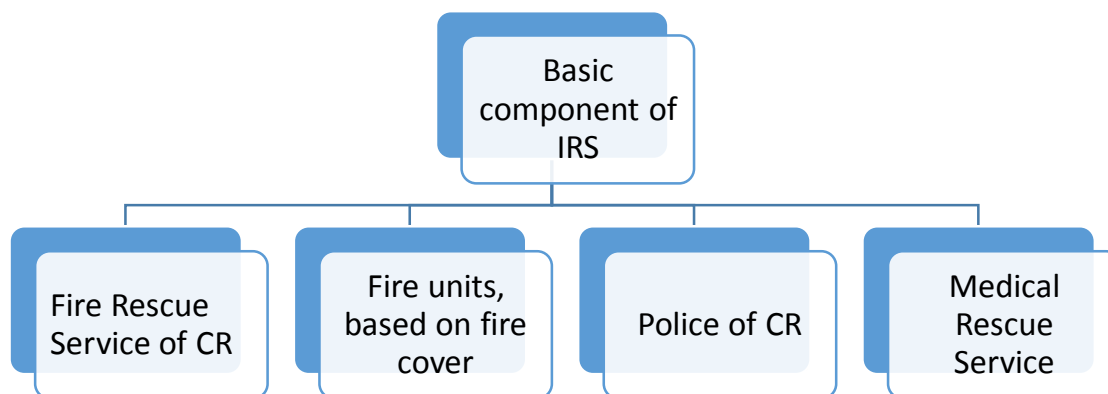
Competence, in the area of IRS given by Competency Act (no. 2/1969 Coll.), is delegated to the Ministry of Interior. Ministry of Interior is a guarantor of legislation of IRS. The area of IRS is covered by Act on Integrated Rescue System (no. 239/2000 Coll.) and its two implementing regulations and implementing government regulation. Legislation on IRS was built together with the crisis Law (no. 240/2000 Coll.) and the Law on economic measures for crisis situations (no. 241/2000 Coll.). These three laws are interconnected by a many links and context.

Basis legal document for Integrated Rescue system is **Law No. 239/2000** on the Integrated Rescue System and on amendment of certain codes, in latter wording, is the basic legal frame.



INVESTMENTS IN EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT

Basis IRS bodies:



In case that basic bodies of IRS are not able to manage the crisis situation by own forces and equipment, or it is obvious that due to range of crisis situation is not able to manage its, are used other IRS bodies in accordance with the laws.

INTEGRATED RESCUE SYSTEM

Basic IRS bodies:

- Fire Rescue Service of the Czech Republic and Fire units, based on fire cover,
- Police of Czech Republic,
- Medical Rescue Service.

Other IRS bodies:

- **Specified forces and means of armed bodies,**
- Other armed security services,
- Other rescue services,
- Public health protection authorities,
- Emergency, stand-by, specialised and other services,
- Civil Protection establishments,
- NGOs and civil associations, which can be used for rescue and clean-up operations.

INVESTMENTS IN EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT

Coordination of Integrated Rescue system in joint intervention - organizational and operational management.

Each organization use hierarchically structured authorization for decision making from the head of the organization to ordinary worker or official. That management is usually called organizational management and is expressed by the organizational rules.

Rescue, military, security and other organizations also have organizational management – it is called operational management.

Using of Integrated Rescue System is running under operational management and permissions is set in legislation for:

- operational centres of Integrated Rescue System,
- permissions of an officer in charge,
- mayor of the municipality with extended powers,
- Governor of the Region,
- and other subjects.

The operational and information centres of the Integrated Rescue System

The task of the operational and information centres of Integrated Rescue System are performed by operational and information centres regional fire rescue service. Physically, they are in all major regional cities.

- Except of operational and information centres of Integrated Rescue System exist emergency call technical centres that primarily provide operation of emergency communication via European Emergency Call Number 112.
- The Single European Emergency Call Number 112 has been operated in all European Union countries.
- Implementation of the Single Emergency Call Number 112 was decided in 1991 by Decision No. 91/396/EEC, above all to ease communication with emergency services intra-EU, in connection with significant increase of both private and business trips throughout Europe.
- As each country uses its own emergency numbers, foreigners in emergency have problems to call the right one, apart from language problems.

TASKS OF OPERATIONAL AND INFORMATION CENTRES:

- cooperation with Operational and information centres of other regions and bodies of Integrated Rescue System,
- receive and evaluate of information on fires and other extraordinary events,
- notification of Integrated Rescue System bodies and other public authorities,

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- calls and puts forces and means,
- requires and organizes personal and material assistance for legal person and cooperate in solving crisis situation and Security Council of the Region,
- performs warning and informing population (R & D).

Tactical, operational and strategic level of management during extraordinary event.

There are three levels of management that differ according to the subject that conduct coordination of rescue and remedy work:



- tactical management level – coordinator is an officer in charge,
- operational management level – coordinator of one of the operational and information centres of some of the basic bodies of the IRS,
- strategic management level – coordinator is a mayor of municipality with extended powers, Regional Commissioner or Minister of Interior.

An emergency call is considered as calling free of charge in telephone networks. Specified emergency call numbers accessible for salvation of life, health and property, are determined in the dialling plan, and stated in telephone directories.

Emergency call numbers

112

- Notification of each extraordinary situation, when solved by several rescue bodies IRS, and in cases when announcer doesn't know which of national emergency call numbers is suitable to use;
- For foreigners (prepared to dispatch calls in foreign languages);
- For using in mobile networks even without a SIM card or with no credit;

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- Emergency call is using all mobile networks to hand;
- Calls are dispatched in Operational/Call centres of FRS Czech Republic, together with emergency calls to 150.

150

- Notification of fires, natural disasters, accidents and emergencies;
- Calls are dispatched in Operational/Call centres of the FRS Czech Republic, together with emergency calls to 112.

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- Appointed for emergency calls in case of health problems, injuries or in accidents with medical subsequence; Calls are dispatched in operation centres of Medical Rescue Service.

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- Appointed for emergency calls in case of disturbances of public order and public safety, notification of crimes, of traffic accidents, calls for assistance for safety and fluent traffic;
- Calls are dispatched in operation centres of the Czech Police.

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- For emergency calls to operational centre of municipal (city) police. The Single European Emergency Call Number 112 has been operated in all European Union countries. Implementation of the Single Emergency Call Number 112 was decided in 1991 by Decision No. 91/396/EEC, above all to ease communication with emergency services intra-EU, in connection with significant increase of both private and business trips throughout Europe. As each country uses its own emergency numbers, foreigners in emergency have problems to call the right one, apart from language problems.
- Governmental Resolution No. 391 from 19th April 2000 decided implementation of the Emergency Call Number 112 in the Czech Republic. By the same it was decided that the Emergency Call Number 112 would be operated together with national emergency call numbers 150, 155 and 158.

Source: http://www.firebrno.cz/uploads/dokumenty/.PDF_info_pro_obcany/FRS_CR_basic_info_UK_.pdf

3. The responsibilities of public authorities in relation to the IRS

The scope of the regional authorities, the authorities of Municipality with extended powers and municipal authorities of other municipalities during coordination of rescue and remedy work by the Act No.239/2000, on IRS are the performance of the public administration under delegated powers.

The scope and responsibilities of the Regional Office and the Regional Commissioner:

- Regional bodies organize, regulate and unify the IRS within the region,
- Regional Commissioner approves the emergency plan of the region, external emergency plans and an alarm plan of IRS of Region.

Regional Commissioner ensures preparedness of the Region for crisis situation solution. Apart from his executive competences he organizes trainings and coordinates rescue and remedy works (§ 28 clause 3), he ensures control competence through the Security Council of the Region toward Integrated Rescue system. The IRS bodies are obliged according to Government regulations to put up annual report about its activities to Security Council of the Region.

The tasks of the municipal office and the mayor

Act on IRS assign municipal authorities to provide preparedness of the municipality for extraordinary events and to participate in rescue and remedy work and to protect population.

For this purpose, the Regional Authorities of each municipality have majority of tasks aimed at protection of population (especially warning, evacuation and emergency survival).

In area of rescue and remedy work fulfils these tasks:

- organizes preparedness of the municipality for extraordinary events,
- participate in rescue and remedy work together with the IRS.

Mayor of Municipality during the crisis state:

- provides warning and informs people, staying on the Municipal territory, of imminent danger
- organizes evacuation of people from the endangered Municipal area together with an officer in charge or with Mayor of Municipality with extended powers.
- organizes activities of the Municipality under conditions of emergency survival of population.
- is entitled to call legal and natural persons to provide personal or material assistance.

Obligations of legal and natural entrepreneurs are dual nature. Firstly, active, that is primarily concerned with their participation during intervention and fulfilling of certain obligations to its employees.

INVESTMENTS IN EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT

Secondly, passive, obligation to toleration, in particular limitations in area of population protection (tolerate an evacuation, etc.), tolerate property access, and similar actions (Act No. 240/2000 Coll.)

Obligations of Legal and Natural Undertaking Entities

Legal and natural undertaking entities are obliged to provide material means inevitable for crisis situation solution on request of the officer in charge, Mayor of the Municipality or Operating and Coordination Centre of IRS.

If a legal entity is included into the emergency plan of the Region or into external emergency plan, it is obliged to provide protective measures for its employees and organize rescue work together with its employees.

Obligations of Natural Entities

During the crisis situation natural entity is obliged

- to obey instructions of the authorized crisis management authority to register at determined place for possible imposition of labour obligation and labour assistance,
- to report at the Municipality, in the administrative area where he/she will possess,
- as temporary change of residence
- to endure limitations resulting from crisis measures determined during the crisis state,
- to perform imposed labour obligation or labour assistance,

Act No. 239/2000 Coll., on IRS authorizes the Mayor of Municipality and officer in charge to request from natural entities personal or material assistance.

Use of IRS at international cooperation

- Agreement on the regional level

Regions in accordance with the Act on the IRS have right to provide mutual assistance between neighbouring regions of different countries, on the basis of border agreements according to Act on the IRS.

The regional authority is obliged to conclude such agreements "with the territorial unit of a neighbouring state", therefore, it is an agreements at the regional level.

It requires publication of the agreement in the Government Bulletin for regional and municipal authorities.

- Providing assistance abroad

By the Act on IRS is Ministry of Interior given competence to decide in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on humanitarian aid provided by the state abroad and participation in international rescue operations.

Providing humanitarian aid

According to Government Decree No. 302/2004 humanitarian assistance is coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, while the decision to provide financial resources for humanitarian aid has the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Information system that informs of humanitarian needs or rescue operations is provided by special contact points operated by state.

Conclusion

The events of recent years clearly demonstrated need of having "Integrated Rescue System". It has been shown that it is necessary to improve this system and verify its functionality.

It is essential to have well prepared not only the integrated rescue system, but also every citizen has to have necessary information about its functioning – available in case of necessity. Citizens need to be aware of their obligations arising from legislation and they also have to be sufficiently informed.