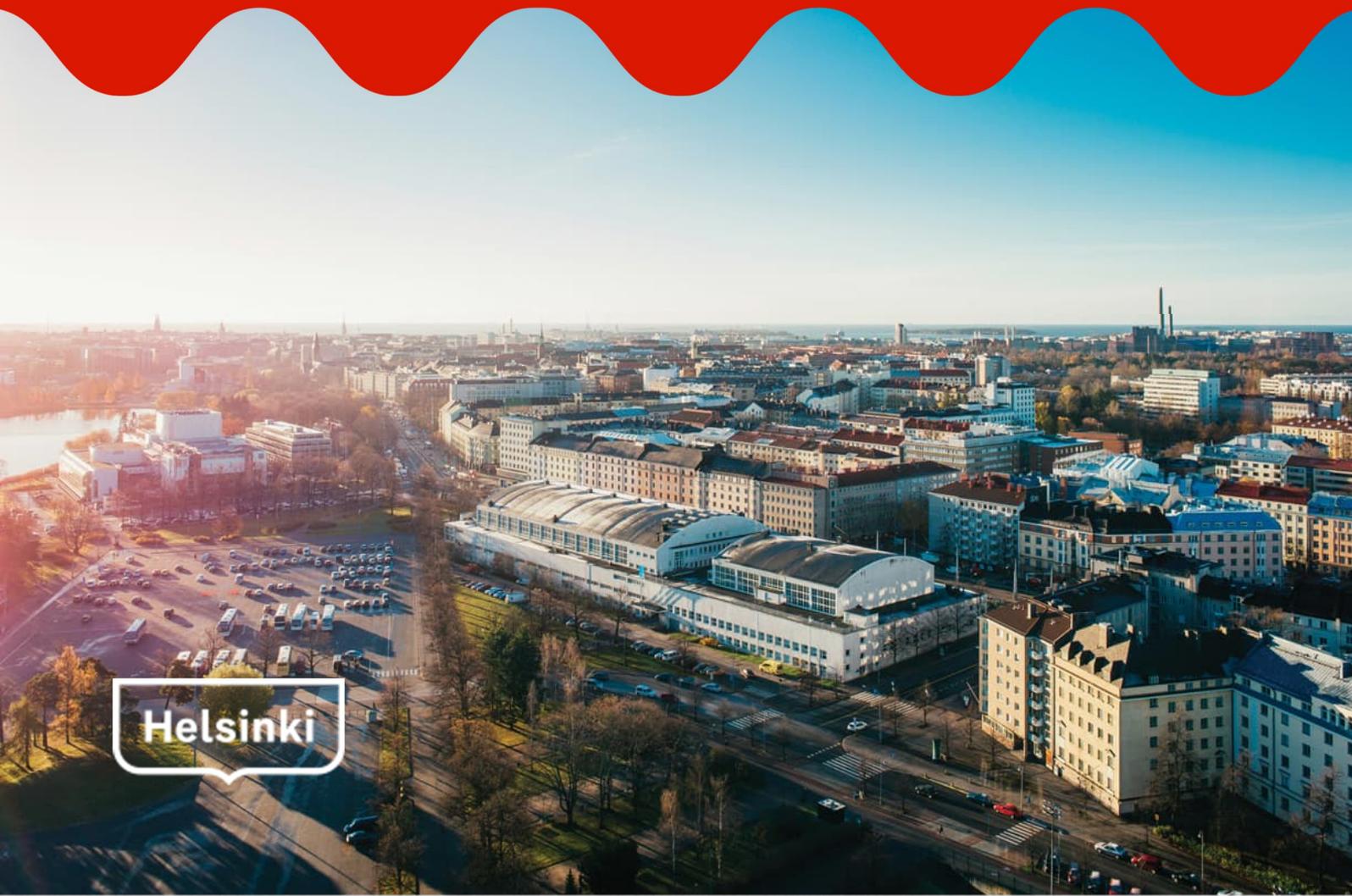




Preparedness plan of the Helsinki City Rescue Department

General arrangements for preparedness,
security of supply and continuity management



Helsinki



Preparedness plan

Approved by	Date	Maintenance coordinator
Rescue Commander Jani Pitkänen	5 January 2026	Preparedness and Continuity Unit

Measure	Date	Processed by:
Latest review of the plan		
Latest update of the plan		

Table of contents

1.	INTRODUCTION	4
2.	TERMINOLOGY OF PREPAREDNESS	5
3.	LAWS, REGULATIONS AND POLICIES GOVERNING PREPAREDNESS	6
4.	BASICS OF PREPAREDNESS PLANNING	8
4.1.	THREATS AND RISKS	9
4.2.	REDINESS LEVELS	10
5.	PREPAREDNESS OF THE RESCUE DEPARTMENT	12
5.1.	SECURITY OF SUPPLY	12
5.2.	PREPAREDNESS MEASURES	13
5.3.	POWERS	13
5.4.	COOPERATION WITH AUTHORITIES AND STAKEHOLDERS	13
5.5.	WORK OBLIGATIONS AND EMPLOYMENT TERMS	14
5.6.	MONITORING, MEASUREMENT AND DEVELOPMENT	15
6.	PREPAREDNESS AND CIVIL PROTECTION OBLIGATIONS OF MUNICIPAL RESIDENTS	16

1. INTRODUCTION

This **Emergency Preparedness Plan** of the Helsinki City Rescue Department describes how the Rescue Department prepares for serious and long-lasting incidents and emergency situations and how the continuity of operations is secured. This preparedness plan contains the public information contained in the Rescue Department's confidential **continuity management plan**.

Securing the continuity of the Rescue Department's operations, i.e. continuity management, is a strategic and operational activity approved by the senior management. The Rescue Commander is responsible for the internal preparedness, preparedness planning and continuity management of the Rescue Department. Service managers are responsible for the preparedness and continuity management of their respective operations. The preparedness function within the Preparedness and Continuity Unit coordinates and manages the internal continuity management process of the Rescue Department.

The main purpose of continuity management in the Rescue Department is to secure society's ability to function in terms of its own service provision, i.e. to perform its statutory tasks in a way that is as free of disruptions as possible. For the Rescue Department, this means identifying threats related to different types of incidents and securing its own operational and performance capabilities in an optimal way. If a threat does become a reality, a controlled return to normal must also be possible.

The City of Helsinki Rescue Department's preparedness plans are based on the Emergency Powers Act (1552/2011), the Rescue Act (379/2011) and other legislation, as well as the Helsinki Group's preparedness guidelines. The plans are updated every two years, but are also reviewed annually. This plan will therefore remain valid for two years.

The plans referred to as confidential in this document are based on Section 24(1)(8) of the Act on the Openness of Government Activities (621/1999). This refers to documents relating to accident and emergency preparedness and civil protection, where disclosure of information would damage or compromise security or its development, the implementation of civil protection or emergency preparedness, or violate the rights of victims of an accident, incident or an exceptional occurrence, or their memory or loved ones.

Helsinki, 5 January 2026

Jani Pitkänen
Rescue Commander

2. TERMINOLOGY OF PREPAREDNESS

The following definitions are based on the vocabulary of comprehensive security, Finnish Terminology Centre TSK 50.

Term	Explanation
A vital function	A function that is essential for the functioning of society. These include leadership, international and EU operations, defence capabilities, internal security, mental resilience, capacity and services of the population, and the economy, infrastructure and security of supply.
Security of supply	Actions aimed at safeguarding the production, services and infrastructure necessary for the livelihood of the population, the country's economy and its defence in the event of serious incidents and emergencies.
Incident	A threat or an event that endangers vital functions of society or strategic missions, and the management of which requires greater or more intensive cooperation and communication than is the standard between authorities and other actors.
Continuity management	An organisational process to improve security of supply by identifying threats to operations, assessing their impact on the organisation and its network of actors, and establishing a policy for the management of severe incidents and continuity of operations. The focus of continuity management is on disruptions to normal conditions, but the process can also include preparation for emergency conditions.
Continuity plan	A plan to support continuity management, which may include, for example, information about the organisation's key personnel, resources and services during an incident, and the actions to be taken in the event of an incident.
Emergencies	A state of society, as referred to in the Emergency Powers Act (1552/2011, section 3), in which there are so many or such serious disruptions or threats that it is necessary to enable the authorities to exercise powers outside their standard authority. The existence of emergency conditions is stated by the government in cooperation with the President of the Republic.
Threat assessment	An assessment drafted based on a threat model, which concretely addresses the source, target, mode of occurrence and likelihood of the threat, as well as its impact on the performance of duties, and the potential counter measures and the time needed to prepare them. The threat assessment is based on a threat model for the whole of society and the more specific threat scenarios.
Readiness	A state of being able to respond to different threats, achieved through preparedness. Sub-categories of readiness include, e.g. leadership and material readiness.
Preparedness plan	The plan resulting from preparedness planning.
Preparedness planning	Preparedness planning under normal conditions. The preparedness planning process surveys factors such as the impact of incidents and emergencies on the organisation's duties and operations, changes to operations and tasks, ensuring operational continuity and measures to return to normal.
Emergency planning	Actions to ensure that tasks are carried out in a way that is as free of disruptions as possible and that any abnormal measures that may be necessary are taken in the event of incidents and emergencies.

3. LAWS, REGULATIONS AND POLICIES GOVERNING PREPAREDNESS

The Rescue Department's preparedness is based on Sections 12 and 120 of the Emergency Powers Act (1552/2011) and on the Rescue Act (379/2011). In addition to these, the Rescue Department's preparedness planning interfaces with numerous both internal and external sets of guidelines, rules, regulations, policies and plans, most of which are confidential.

Rescue Department must be able to perform their statutory duties as well as possible in all types of security situations. The tasks provided for in Sections 27 and 32(1) of the Rescue Act shall, if circumstances so require, be prioritised pursuant to Section 32 of the same act.

The City of Helsinki is responsible for organising the rescue services in the Helsinki region. The services are provided by the City of Helsinki's Rescue Department, which is responsible for the rescue services in the Helsinki region, emergency medical care services, supervision related to accident prevention and self-preparedness, safety communications, and other guidance and advice.

Section 64 of the Rescue Act obliges the rescue services to prepare for the management of civil protection tasks falling within their division by means of adequate planning and advance preparations. Helsinki City Rescue Department is responsible for emergency preparedness planning and the development and planning of civil protection preparedness within its own division. Helsinki City Executive Office steers the preparedness work of the city organisation and is responsible for coordinating the comprehensive preparedness of the city.

The Act on Organising Rescue Services (613/2021, Section 3) requires that the level of services of rescue services must correspond to the national, regional and local needs, accident risks and other threats. In addition to this, consideration must be given to the emergency conditions referred to in Section 3 of the Emergency Powers Act and to preparing for these. Section 2 of the Ministry of the Interior's decree on the decision on the level and standard of rescue services (1225/2022) stipulates that the decision on the level and standard of service of a Rescue Department must be based on an up-to-date risk analysis. According to Section 6, the risk analysis must include the main threats and risks identified on the basis of an assessment of the operating environment and the monitoring of the rescue services' accident trends, as well as the changes in these for which the rescue services must prepare.

The preparedness of the Rescue Department is also steered by the Helsinki Group's preparedness guidelines, which establish common principles for the different organisations of the City Group. The sectors and organisational units must meet the minimum requirements of these preparedness guidelines through their planning for securing functional capacities.

Helsinki's new City Strategy 2025–2029 also sets guidelines for the work of the Helsinki City Rescue Department. The strategy highlights the role and importance of rescue services in a safe city. One of the cornerstones of the strategy is '*security and preparedness*'. The security and preparedness objectives based on the City Strategy include:

- Helsinki ensures the safety of its residents and the city in all conditions.
- Helsinki is preparing for threat scenarios ranging from local incidents to more widespread and severe threats.
- Helsinki strengthens its preparedness for increasing extreme weather events.
- We take into account continuity management and preparedness for incidents and crises in all aspects of the City's service provision planning, as well as in the skills and development of personnel.
- We are strengthening our civil protection.

The Helsinki Social Services, Health Care and Rescue Services Divisions' Service Strategy 2026–2029 is one of the key strategic documents related to the responsibility for the provision of services. It is complemented by a service level decision that guides the rescue services. In this strategic term, the strategic choices are focused on four themes:

- availability and effectiveness of services
- financial and operational balance
- sufficiency of competent personnel
- security and preparedness.

Increasing instability in the operating environment also affects services in the social services, health care and rescue services. Each theme describes the service promises, objectives and measures set for it.

Additionally, the comprehensive preparedness of the Rescue Department is guided by the Government resolution Security Strategy for Society (2025). It defines the cooperation model of comprehensive security, as well as the vital functions of society and the division of responsibilities between different sectors of government to safeguard them.

4. BASICS OF PREPAREDNESS PLANNING

Preparedness planning refers to planning for preparedness under normal conditions. The aim of preparedness is to reduce the likelihood of threats materialising, promote readiness to face them and create the conditions for a response. Readiness is therefore the state resulting from preparedness planning, which allows for response to different types of threats. The aim of the response, in turn, is to minimise the impacts of realised threats, promote the recovery of vital social functions and provide a basis for preparedness.

The main **purpose** of continuity management in the Rescue Department is to secure society's ability to function in terms of its own service production, i.e. to perform its statutory tasks as free of disruptions as possible. In practice, this means that threats related to serious and long-term incidents affecting the Rescue Department's operations have been identified and they have been prepared for in a way that ensures the best possible operational and performance capacity.

The **goal** of continuity management in the Rescue Department is to guarantee the availability of services to people, organisations and other actors in all security situations.

Continuity management **as a priority** means ensuring the continuity of the organisation's own operations in all security and preparedness situations by reinforcing operations with additional resources where necessary.

Ensuring the continuity of the Rescue Department's operations (continuity management) and security of supply are related to normal conditions, incidents and emergencies. Under normal conditions, we are maintaining basic readiness and preparing for incidents and emergencies. During incidents and emergencies, we will increase our readiness level and prepare to secure our critical operations and prioritise our actions (Figure 1).

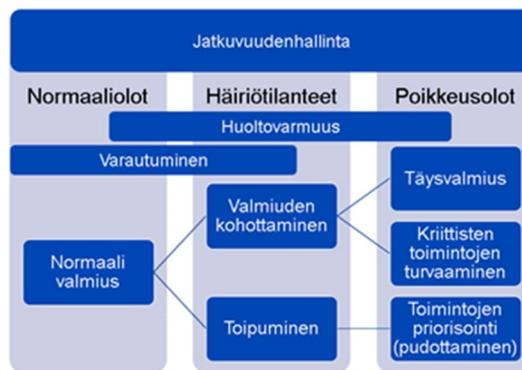


Photo 1 Framework for preparedness and continuity management (Halén, Rescue Department of Western Uusimaa)

Figure 1
Continuity management
Normal conditions
Incidents
Emergencies
Security of supply
Preparedness
Normal readiness
Raising readiness
Recovery
Full readiness
Securing critical functions
Prioritisation of activities (decreasing)

The preparedness planning and continuity management of Rescue Departments is carried out as a continuous process (Figure 2). This requires the appointment of responsible persons, clear definitions, and planning and reporting of operations. Exercises and training are also part of this process. It must also be possible to

apply the new operating models in practice and develop the operations. Regular monitoring, measurement and reporting are also an integral part of the continuity management process.



Photo 2 Steps of the Rescue Department's emergency planning process.

Figure 2

1. Description of the responsible parties
2. Definitions of continuity management principles
3. Continuity management planning
4. Deployment and application of operating models
5. Training, monitoring and assessment of the level of plans
6. Reporting
7. Development

Activities are continuously developed and the development measures decided upon are incorporated into operations. Thematic training and exercises will also be organised. The continuity management process also includes regular monitoring, measuring and reporting.

4.1. THREATS AND RISKS

The Rescue Department's comprehensive risk assessment is based on a number of different risk and threat analyses. The national risk assessment and the regional risk assessment for Uusimaa, which complements the national risk assessment at a regional level, serve as a common basis for preparedness for actors at regional level, which the actors supplement with more detailed local and sectoral risk assessments when necessary. In addition to the above-mentioned risk assessments, the basis for the Rescue Department's comprehensive risk assessment has considered the Uusimaa Rescue Department's risk analysis, among many other threat and risk assessments.

The assessment of incident threats must take into account the findings in the national and regional risk assessments. Additionally, the emergency conditions defined in the Emergency Powers Act (1552/2011) must be taken into account when assessing the threats during such conditions. The information provided by the Defence Forces to the rescue services, pursuant to Section 65(5) of the Rescue Act, necessary for assessing threats during war and their effects must be used in the assessment of war-time threats.

The Uusimaa Rescue Departments, i.e. the 'HIKLU' Rescue Departments, have carried out a joint risk analysis of the entire Uusimaa area. This risk analysis includes factors such as a description of the operating environment and the changes that have occurred or are foreseeable. It also contains the risks and threats identified on the basis of expert assessments, for which the Rescue Departments must prepare.

The following key factors for change in the operating environment have been identified:

- national reform projects
- weakening public finances
- diversification and ageing of the population

- increased social and societal inequality
- climate change
- rapid development of technology
- operational security of the critical infrastructure
- changed security environment.

Finland's external security environment has gone through a fundamental and long-term change. The Finnish Government Report on Internal Security (2025) emphasises the role of internal security authorities as first responders to many threats: the authorities have a key role to play in the event of various accidents and incidents.

With hybrid influencing on the rise – among other threats – it is particularly important for the Rescue Departments to have the ability and the prerequisites to act in all possible situations, as the valid legislation states that the authority duties of internal security cannot, in general, be neglected under any circumstances. The Government report also includes measures and policies affecting the Rescue Department, such as the development of civil protection and shared and secure situational awareness and communication links between the different internal security authorities.

As the capital city of Finland, Helsinki is a special environment, which also places special duties and challenges on its rescue services. As a growing metropolis, Helsinki has special sites and locations such as many underground construction sites, high-rise and dense construction sites, a high number of critical infrastructure sites, dense rail traffic (metro, local train network, tram network) and busy passenger harbours. Helsinki also hosts a high number of large public events and other assemblies, and is also a popular tourist city.

In accordance with Section 3 of the Decree of the Ministry of the Interior (151/2024), rescue services must compile the situation picture under their responsibility in a uniform manner in the area of a wellbeing services county, in the cooperation areas of rescue services and at national level. The Helsinki City Rescue Department has a special role in this matter too, as the City of Helsinki is responsible for the organisation of national situation and control centre arrangements and other special preparedness related to the national management of rescue operations, in accordance with Sections 1 and 2 of the Government decree (145/2024).

The vulnerability of critical infrastructure and exceptional weather and climate threats in Finland can cause simultaneous, quickly progressing and severe incidents requiring large amounts of emergency operations resources. The most extreme space weather events are increasing and, if realised, could cause extensive damage to power systems.

An accident during normal conditions or other short-term incident that occurs under normal conditions can develop into a long-lasting and serious incident. An incident can, in turn, develop into a major accident or an emergency. One example of this is the COVID-19 pandemic in Finland and around the world in 2020. During emergency conditions, there are always other accidents and incidents that affect the Rescue Department's functional capacity and performance.

The internal risks of the Rescue Department are assessed as part of the organisation's risk assessment. The organisation itself has the best understanding of the impact of threats to its operational processes, and the identification of these threats is done as part of the development of Helsinki's internal control, risk management and preparedness. The City of Helsinki's risk management process and the system supporting it provide information on risks that should be used when identifying threats to the continuity of core operations. If significant operational risks are identified in the risk management process, these risks have to be taken into account as part of preparedness planning.

4.2. READINESS LEVELS

The readiness levels of the Rescue Department are **basic readiness**, **enhanced monitoring**, **enhanced readiness** and **full readiness**. The level of readiness is changed based on a threat assessment. The decision to raise the level of readiness may be made in the event of a major disaster or a particularly severe and challenging incident. Changes to the level of readiness may include, for example, measures related to the management of rescue operations, monitoring of the situation and cooperation with authorities. These measures are decided on based on each operating environment and threat assessment.

Under normal conditions, the Rescue Department is in a basic state of readiness, i.e. it is ready to respond to various duties. Enhanced monitoring of a situation may be needed for more effective situation picture activities: in this case, the operational readiness of other resources may not have been raised.

In the event of an incident under normal conditions, the readiness level is raised by transitioning to enhanced monitoring or even enhanced readiness.

In emergencies, the Rescue Department switches to full readiness. This means that all the functions and resources of the organisation necessary to deal with the situation are in operation or ready for deployment.

The measures for raising readiness are planned in advance and will be supplemented as necessary.

5. PREPAREDNESS OF THE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

The Helsinki City Rescue Department's continuity management planning is carried out in three stages. The internal **continuity management plan** of the Rescue Department and its appendices describe the methods of preparedness, security of supply and continuity management for the whole Rescue Department. The **continuity plans** for services describe the corresponding measures for different services. The **rescue and preparedness plan** for rescue stations describes the corresponding measures for each station.

In addition to this, the civil protection and wartime emergency preparedness of the Rescue Department is described at the strategic and operational level in the **Civil Protection Plan** and the **Wartime Plan**.

All the above documents are confidential.

5.1. SECURITY OF SUPPLY

Adequate security of supply is an essential part of a Rescue Department's continuity of operations. The Government decision (1048/2018) on the objectives of security of supply states that the purpose of security of supply is to secure the production, services and infrastructure (essential basic needs) necessary for the livelihood of the population, the country's economy and national defence in the event of serious and long-term incidents and emergencies.

Preparedness for ensuring the security of supply is a long-term effort to ensure that the (statutory) tasks necessary for security of supply can be carried out in as disruption-free a manner as possible under all conditions.

The aim of the Rescue Department's security of supply is to maintain an up-to-date picture of material readiness and resources. The purpose of the Rescue Department's operations for security of supply is to ensure the necessary functions based on the statutory tasks of the Rescue Department and the related technical systems and their functionality for the local residents and society. Adequate security of supply is essential for operational continuity.

Material preparedness is a way to ensure the availability of critical material, i.e. raw materials and supplies necessary for the continuation of the Rescue Department's service provision, and to prepare for disruptions in the availability of these. Adequate material preparedness contributes to ensuring the Rescue Department's performance in different situations.

Security of supply is also about resources and how to allocate them. If necessary, the Rescue Department can use the following additional resources provided by the Rescue Act and the Emergency Powers Act:

- individuals aged 18–67 who are obligated in civil protection, subject to certain restrictions;
- private persons and other entities owning and managing land regions, premises, goods and equipment;
- capable persons assigned to assist in rescue operations, members of the rescue services' system and other entities in the rescue sector;
- other rescue departments;
- state and municipal authorities, agencies and institutions obligated in rescue operations;
- authorities responsible for providing official and expert assistance;
- volunteer organisations and individuals;
- state and municipal authorities, institutions, unincorporated county enterprises and other public bodies, and officeholders serving in them.

In addition to these, the performance requirements related to the different threat assessments have been identified in the scale criteria for the Rescue Department's preparedness. The scale criteria are related to impact assessment, preparedness measures and critical equipment and material allocation. The scale criteria do not apply to emergency conditions.

5.2. PREPAREDNESS MEASURES

Measures for preparing for both incidents in normal situations and emergency situations include, for example, preparedness planning, continuity management, advance preparations, training and exercises.

Preparedness planning and continuity management are ongoing activities, as described in chapter 4. Continuity management involves a wide range of training and exercise needs, which are based on the internal training plan of the Rescue Department and provisions such as Sections 47, 48 and 64 of the Rescue Act (379/2011) and Section 12 of the Emergency Powers Act (1552/2011), as well as the Ministry of Interior's Decree on external rescue plans (1286/2019), according to which the Rescue Department must hold exercises at least every three years in locations with a risk of major accidents.

When planning its preparedness training and exercises, the Rescue Department also applies the minimum requirements of the City Group's preparedness guidelines. Additionally, the Rescue Department has identified its own exercise and training needs, and participates in the exercises of its cooperation bodies when possible.

5.3. POWERS

The Rescue Act (379/2011) provides for the powers of the rescue authority, the Emergency Powers Act (1552/2011) provides for the powers of the authorities in emergency conditions and the Administrative Procedure Act (434/2003) provides for the implementation and promotion of good administration and legal protection in administrative matters.

Short-term incidents are handled by the Rescue Department with the powers and resources of normal conditions, but long-term incidents require wider cooperation between authorities. The responsibility for managing an incident under normal conditions may also fall to a non-rescue authority, such as the Finnish Border Guard or the police. The powers granted to managing incidents under normal conditions in the Rescue Act are currently very broad, which is why the rescue services duties are not dependent on the causes of the incident.

The exceptional powers of authorities in emergency conditions are laid down in Chapter 1, Section 4 and Chapter 2 of the Emergency Powers Act. The conditions for commencing the application of these regulations are decreed by the Government decree on commissioning and decrees on initiating the application of such regulations.

In emergency conditions, the operations of the Rescue Department are scaled up as required by the prevailing situation, taking into account the powers determined in Part II of the Emergency Powers Act. In emergencies, authorities may be authorised to exercise only necessary and proportionate powers to achieve the purpose laid down in Section 1 of the Emergency Powers Act. This means protecting the population; safeguarding the livelihood of the population and the national economy; maintaining the legal system, fundamental rights and human rights; and safeguarding the territorial integrity and independence of the country.

5.4. COOPERATION WITH AUTHORITIES AND STAKEHOLDERS

The management of incidents and emergencies and the measures must be planned in cooperation with other actors to ensure as disruption-free operations as possible.

Sections 46–47 of the Rescue Act (379/2011) oblige authorities and other actors to participate in rescue operations and their planning. In addition to this, Section 42 obliges the Rescue Department to cooperate with the authorities and the communities and residents in the area, and to participate in local and regional security planning work in order to prevent accidents and maintain security. Section 12 of the Emergency Powers Act (1552/2011) obliges the authorities of the state, wellbeing services counties, municipalities and their institutions and unincorporated county enterprises to prepare for emergencies.

Section 49 of the Rescue Act obliges other authorities, institutions and unincorporated county enterprise to provide official and expert assistance to the rescue authorities on request. In addition to this, rescue departments must, in accordance with Section 45, provide assistance to another rescue department in rescue operations, if necessary, and draw up the necessary cooperation plans. The Rescue Department draws up plans for the rescue operations and their management as required by the accident threats in the area. These include, for example, confidential security plans and exercises for high-risk sites and the monitoring of their implementation.

The Helsinki City Rescue Department works in cooperation with, for example, residents, residents' associations, the various divisions and limited liability companies of the City Group, contract fire brigades, rescue associations, the Hospital District of Helsinki and Uusimaa, other rescue departments and their partnership network and other authorities. The Rescue Department also participates in local and regional security planning to prevent accidents and maintain security. In Helsinki, the Rescue Department provides guidance, advice and security communication aimed at preventing fires and other accidents.

5.5. WORK OBLIGATIONS AND EMPLOYMENT TERMS

The Rescue Department's whole personnel are obligated to participate in rescue operations and any necessary support measures, if necessary.

Exceptional work and personnel situations include, for example, industrial actions or serious epidemics, where staff availability and the continuity of services may be substantially compromised. The management responsible for the operations decides when an exceptional condition is in place and to what extent the guidelines are applied. The situation should be discussed with representatives of staff associations, and the personnel should be informed about the exceptional measures to be taken in work and personnel situations. The cooperation procedure must also be followed in these situations. The right to take industrial action is a fundamental right for office holders and employees, but is more limited for office holders than for employees. The right of a wellbeing services county's office holder to take part in industrial action is governed by the Act on Collective Agreements for Local Government and Wellbeing Services Counties (669/1970).

The following describes the main employment conditions that may apply in the event of incidents and emergencies:

Stand-by

According to Section 4 of the Working Time Act (872/2019), the employer and the employee may agree on stand-by time and the compensation to be paid for it. If being on stand-by is necessary due to the nature of the work and for extremely compelling reasons, public servants and office holders may not refuse such work.

Additional work

According to Section 16 of the Working Time Act, Additional work and overtime require the initiative of the employer. When flexible working hours or flexiwork are in use, additional work and overtime must be expressly agreed upon. Additional work is work done in addition to regular working hours that is not overtime.

Overtime

According to Section 17 of the Working Time Act, the consent of the employee is required separately for each occasion that the employee works overtime. When additional work or overtime are essential due to the nature of the work and for **extremely compelling reasons**, public servants and office holders may not refuse such work.

Emergency work

According to Section 19 of the Working Time Act, an employer may require an employee to perform emergency work when an **unforeseeable event** interrupts or seriously threatens to interrupt regular operations or to put life, health, property or the environment at risk. Emergency work in addition to regular working time may only be required to the extent necessary and for a period of no more than two weeks. An employer shall, without delay, notify the occupational safety and health authority in writing of the cause, scale and expected duration of the emergency work.

Essential work

According to Section 12 of the Act on Collective Agreements for Local Government and Wellbeing Services Counties (669/1970), essential work means work which, in the course of industrial action, is essential to carry

out in order to prevent danger to the life or health of citizens or to protect property that is particularly at risk as a result of the industrial action.

Derogation from terms of employment in emergencies

Section 93 of the Emergency Powers Act (1552/2011) provides for derogation from the terms of employment in emergencies. In the fields of rescue services, healthcare services, police services, emergency response centre services and social work, exceptions to the terms of employment may be made in emergencies. This means extending working hours or deviations from scheduling where this is necessary to safeguard national defence, public healthcare, livelihood, security or the national economy. The temporary derogation from the employment terms concerns the provisions of the Working Time Act (872/2019) on rest periods and overtime, and the provisions of the Annual Holidays Act (162/2005) on the granting of annual holidays.

Any deviation from the terms of employment must not endanger safety at work or the health of the employee.

5.6. MONITORING, MEASUREMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

The status and development of the Rescue Department's preparedness, security of supply and continuity management are continuously monitored. The Rescue Department uses the KUJA (municipal continuity management) assessment model (developed by the Association of Finnish Cities and Municipalities and the National Emergency Supply Agency) and its Jatke quick test for monitoring.

The internal plans are updated every two years and reviewed annually. Development measures arising from the plans are actively implemented and monitored. The Rescue Department monitors aspects such as the progress of the measures in the continuity management development plan and the implementation of the preparedness training and exercise plan annually.

In accordance with Section 12 of the Emergency Powers Act, preparedness is managed and supervised by the Government and each ministry within its own sector. In addition to this, each ministry coordinates preparedness within its own sector. In the case of the Rescue Department, preparedness is managed, supervised and coordinated by the Ministry of the Interior. Furthermore, the Regional State Administrative Agencies (Finnish Supervisory Agency from 1 January 2026 onwards) will supervise and monitor things such as exercises concerning external rescue plans.

6. PREPAREDNESS AND CIVIL PROTECTION OBLIGATIONS OF MUNICIPAL RESIDENTS

Self-preparedness means the preparation of individual citizens, businesses, institutions and housing companies for a variety of accidents, incidents, crises and emergencies. If an incident does occur, it may already be too late to, for example, learn things or to build up a home emergency supply kit. The Ministry of the Interior promotes preparedness for incidents and crises by strengthening the population's competence and providing a preparedness guide for the whole population. This guide contains a wide range of advice on how to prepare for and respond to different types of emergency conditions. These guidelines can be found at [SU-
omi.fi/preparedness](https://suomi.fi/preparedness).

Chapter 3 of the Rescue Act (379/2011) obliges the owner and occupants of a building and business and industrial operators to take care of fire safety and self-preparedness. Taking care of these contributes to the Rescue Department's service provision and to society's ability to function.

Section 116 of the Emergency Powers Act (1552/2011) lays down the civil protection obligations of persons aged 18–67 living in Finland. These obligations include fire-fighting, rescue, first aid, maintenance, clearance and clean-up duties, as well as management and special tasks of the civil protection organisation, emergency response centre services or other similar tasks necessary for the protection of the population.

It is important for municipal residents to know their obligations under the Rescue Act and the Emergency Powers Act. Changes in society often also lead to changes in rescue and preparedness legislation. Residents can stay up to date by checking the latest legislation at <https://www.finlex.fi/fi/lainsaadanto> and by following the website of the Rescue Department at <https://pelastustoimi.fi/en/helsinki/frontpage>.



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