

Recommendations by the Accident Investigation Board of Finland concerning nature disasters

Recommendation number	Issued	Recommendation	Status
A2/04Y/S1	31.5.2005	The Government's crisis management system should take into account the various situations in which Finnish citizens could become victims of disasters abroad. This should be taken into account in the updating of emergency preparedness legislation, in the orders and regulations based on the legislation as well as in the ministries' internal directives.	E
A2/04Y/S2	31.5.2005	If the team of the governmental crisis response chiefs is intended to be used in operational command tasks, the Government should issue provisions for the powers and tasks of the crisis response chiefs, including the requirement of operational command and its observance in personnel selection, in standby and readiness as well as in cooperation, training and exercises.	E
A2/04Y/S3	31.5.2005	The Government should examine the need and methods for developing personal data legislations in such a way that in exceptional situations the victims' relevant personal data is available for processing in rescue, evacuation and aid activities while observing the principles and obligations for protection of privacy.	U
A2/04Y/S4	31.5.2005	A basic readiness plan should be prepared for the Government enabling the rapid start of rescue and assistance for Finnish citizens in a disaster occurring abroad. The ministries and their subordinate branches of administration participating in this activity, as determined in the basic plan, should draw up readiness plans which are required in order to start their own activities and which enable the authorities' activities without delay in such situations.	E
A2/04Y/S5	31.5.2005	In order to maintain readiness, ministries should see to it that the crisis response chief has an assigned deputy, standby requirements are in effect, and that the ministry's response team has been established and has relevant instructions as well as a check list for the first 24 hours in an exceptional situation.	E
A2/04Y/S6	31.5.2005	The Government situation centre should be activated as a command instrument capable of operating continuously and it should see to it that inter-authority networking, facilitating the relaying of situational awareness information to the Government situation centre is implemented. Along with this, a plan for establishing an operational command and coordination unit should be prepared.	E
A2/04Y/S7	31.5.2005	The basic principle, according to which the government's normal organizations are in operational command for as long as possible even in exceptional situations, should not be changed. Therefore, ministries in mutual cooperation should update their crisis preparedness plans, check the required resources and personnel, train and exercise the relevant personnel and should also take the required steps to eliminate shortcomings.	E
A2/04Y/S8.1	31.5.2005	The Ministry for Foreign Affairs should see to it that: 1) the ministry's crisis planning takes into account the requirements of operational capabilities and skills posed by a catastrophe comparable to the one experienced,	U
A2/04Y/S8.2	31.5.2005	2) missions abroad are trained to act in exceptional situations and a sufficient personnel reserve for them consisting of experienced civil servants is established,	E
A2/04Y/S8.3	31.5.2005	3) Nordic cooperation and EU cooperation is intensified with exceptional situations in mind,	E
A2/04Y/S8.4	31.5.2005	4) the operational capabilities of the ministry's crisis response centre as well as public information and communication are raised to a level enabling good service to citizens,	E
A2/04Y/S8.5	31.5.2005	5) risk analysis is also developed to take into account natural disaster risks more extensively than at present.	E
A2/04Y/S9.1	31.5.2005	The Ministry of Interior should see to it that: 1) in exceptional situations there are no gaps in communication between the ministry's key departments,	E
A2/04Y/S9.2	31.5.2005	2) the training of rescue branch crisis leaders and personnel also takes into account the activities abroad in various logistics and coordination tasks, required for the Finnish assistance personnel's effective operation,	E
A2/04Y/S9.3	31.5.2005	3) the activity of the Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) unit is intensified by establishing permanent funding for it,	U
A2/04Y/S9.4	31.5.2005	4) the operational role of the FinnRescueForce (FRF) is clarified and its rapid deployment capability is improved.	U
A2/04Y/S10.1	31.5.2005	The Ministry of Social Affairs should see to it that: 1) together with other actors, public health care is integrated in the aftercare of major accidents and disasters occurring abroad or in Finland. As the key expert in medical treatment, the Hospital District of Helsinki and Uusimaa (HUS) must be included in the planning of treatment and must be given adequate resources for this activity,	E
A2/04Y/S10.2	31.5.2005	2) medical teams that are in high readiness and capable of rapid action even in normal conditions are sent to the disaster area during the initial phase,	E
A2/04Y/S10.3	31.5.2005	3) by going through various threat scenarios exceptional situations are prepared for and that activity is jointly exercised with the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the rescue branch, public health care and welfare, the FRC, other organizations and pharmaceutical companies, airlines, insurance companies as well as with travel agencies,	E
A2/04Y/S10.4	31.5.2005	4) in order to fully utilize the nation's health care and evacuation capacities, relevant principles are clarified and the necessary arrangements are implemented,	E
A2/04Y/S10.5	31.5.2005	5) the need for airborne evacuation as such as well as evacuation equipment in domestic and foreign accidents is determined in cooperation with the Ministry of Transport and Communications,	E

E=executed, U=unfinished, N=will not be executed, - = unknown

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A2/04Y/S10.6	31.5.2005	6) the preconditions for psychosocial support needed by the victims and their families as well as the essential means of livelihood and services are guaranteed at a qualitatively and quantitatively sufficient level. For this purpose national directives need to be renewed and regularly updated and compliance to them has to be seen to. As regulations are reviewed, it must especially be seen to that a) structures and methods for providing services ranging from immediate emotional and material support to care of demanding crisis situations and traumas are developed in order to guarantee proper support and care and essential economic support, b) long term service and care guidelines are established to support children and the young, c) issues related to protection of privacy and information transfer are clarified so as to safeguard the continuation of services, income and medical care, d) current legislation is revised taking into account the responsibilities and tasks of ministries, provinces, medical districts and municipalities as well as other actors in order to guarantee psychosocial support and services to the population in a major accident or disaster.	U
A2/04Y/S11.1	31.5.2005	The Ministry of Trade and Industry should, in cooperation with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, take steps to: 1) develop the tourist industry's security and risk analysis together with travel agencies,	U
A2/04Y/S11.2	31.5.2005	2) obligate the tourist industry to communicate to their customers on risks, including natural disaster risks. This communication must clearly point out the individual's own responsibility for security, the need for insurance and the very principle of international law that while travelling abroad, the primary responsibility for people's safety lies on the authorities of the country in question.	U
A2/04Y/S12.1	31.5.2005	The Ministry of Transport and Communications should see to it that: 1) the Finnish Broadcasting Company initiates measures to develop Radio Finland in such way that it can also satisfy the information requirements of those Finns temporarily abroad especially in crisis situations,	N
A2/04Y/S12.2	31.5.2005	2) mobile phone networks could effectively be used for official public information in crisis situations,	U
A2/04Y/S12.3	31.5.2005	3) a continuously operating natural disaster warning system, which monitors their genesis and effects, be established in Finland.	U