

LOCAL SECURITY – GUIDEBOOK



1. Introduction

	number of inhabitants (millions)	area km ²	number of policeman	number of professional fireman/number of fire stations	number of medical rescue units
Czech Republic	10,58	78.866	40.152	10.802/238	588
Estonia	1,32	45.227	ca 5000+ ca 1500 voluntary	ca 2200 + 2000 voluntary / 72+119 stations	102
Finland	5,513	338. 424	7.800	4.000/90 + voluntary: 14.600/730	545

2. Emergency services

EMERGENCY SERVICES IN CZECH REPUBLIC

POLICE OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

On their first day of service, the members take the following Police service oath:

'I promise upon my honour and my conscience that in performance of the service I will be impartial and that I will strictly comply with legal and service regulations and with my superiors' orders and that I will never abuse my position within the service. I will always and everywhere behave so as not to harm by my actions the reputation of the security forces. I will duly and earnestly fulfil my service duties and I will not hesitate to risk my own life to protect the interests of the Czech Republic.'

Police of the Czech Republic is the national law enforcement agency of the Czech Republic. It was established in 1991 under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Interior. It is tasked with protecting citizens, property and public order and crime prevention.

Police of the Czech Republic works within the Ministry of the Interior. It consists of a police presidium, units with nationwide competence, regional police directorates and units established within regional directorates. There are 14 regional police directorates. Their territories copy the territories of 14 regions of the Czech Republic.

- The Police Presidium mainly determines the development objectives of the Police, sets out the concept for Police organization and management and determines the respective tasks of individual Police services, such as Public Order Police Service, Traffic Police Service, Foreign Police Service, Air Support Service, Bomb Disposal Service, Protection Service, Criminal Police and Investigation Service and other specialized services. The Police Presidium also coordinates activities when performing tasks beyond territorial or material competencies.
- Units with nationwide competence fulfil specific and highly specialized tasks across the whole territory of the country. Some of them provide specific support to other police units, while others are specialized, for example, in combating organized crime or corruption and serious financial crime, providing protection to the president of the Czech Republic and other constitutional office holders or organising police training, preparation for duty and police sports.
- Regional Police Directorates have specific territorial jurisdiction. These Directorates serve the public in their allotted territories. Within the Regional Police Directorates may be other territorial units subordinated to them.

Police mainly:

- protects the safety of persons and property
- cooperates in ensuring public order and takes measures to restore it
- investigates and detects criminal offenses, identifies their perpetrators and implements crime prevention measures
- discusses and detects offenses
- supervises road safety and fluency
- provides border protection
- ensures protection of constitutional officers and of the President of Czech Republic, security of protected persons, protection of embassies, protection of residential buildings of Parliament, the President of the Republic and other important buildings
- launches a national search
- persecutes persons who have escaped from custody or imprisonment
- leads the fight against terrorism
- in cooperation with municipalities participates in ensuring local public safety
- performs the tasks of the state administration

1. The Public Order Police Service

The Public Order Police Service is the mainstay of the Police of the Czech Republic. It makes up the largest part in terms of number of police officers and is the most versatile in terms of the scope of activities. In the cities as well as in the country, Public Order Police officers protect the safety of people and property, protect public order, perform tasks in criminal, minor offense or administrative proceedings, and oversee the safety and flow of road traffic and the safe transportation of people and cargo by rail.

In minor offense and criminal proceedings, officers focus mainly on petty property crime and other torts which are most common and troublesome to the public. They also implement preliminary measures at a crime scene and search for wanted or missing persons or objects.

The district police stations represent points of direct contact between the Public Order Police and the public. These exist in a network all over the country, with a corresponding network of local police stations in the Capital City of Prague. Police stations are staffed by officers on 24/7 duty, so they are ready to take action at any time. Officers on duty receive reports, requests and other suggestions and are a permanent point of contact for everyone served by the Police. District stations are also established at major railway stations. Police officers assigned to such stations are there to take action, for example, against thieves robbing passengers in railway stations or on trains, or robbing shipped cargo. These officers also escort trains carrying high-risk groups of people or especially valuable or hazardous cargo.

Patrolling and guarding are the most visible activities of the Public Order Police. Police officers perform these duties in their districts of competence or in allocated sectors or at allocated sites.

Public Order, Intervention and Response Units

Part of the Public Order Police Service are Public order units, intervention units and response units.

- Public Order Units are a part of the Public Order Police Service. They perform specific tasks aimed at protecting persons and property, helping maintain public order and taking immediate action to restore public order if seriously compromised. Public Order Unit officers have special equipment and armaments, including impact-resistant outfits, protective helmets, masks and shields, batons, intervention detonators and teargas grenades. They are mainly deployed in security operations whose scope and character requires the involvement of significant numbers of police and resources. Anti-conflict teams play a major part in this context. They communicate directly with people participating in high-risk events to try and prevent them from illegal conduct. Public Order Units are also deployed in search operations and perform some tasks of the Integrated Rescue System in cases of natural disaster or industrial accident.
- Public Order Police Intervention Units are called to protect or restore internal order and security, or to perform rescue operations. However, their main task is to intervene against dangerous offenders who have committed extremely serious crimes, in particular to assist when such offenders are apprehended or arrested. They also perform preliminary measures against terrorists, kidnappers or hijackers. They may be even assigned tasks related to the protection of buildings or the transport of dangerous substances, objects or valuables.
- Public Order Police Response Units support regular patrols and take action against offenders directly at a crime scene. For example, they respond to alarms indicating intrusion into protected buildings and to 158 emergency calls.

Police Divers

The Police of the Czech Republic also employ dozens of qualified divers. They are assigned not only to waterway stations but also to intervention and rapid deployment units, and all of them are trained for diving in open water to a depth of up to 40 meters. They conduct underwater searches for victims of crimes or accidents, objects related to criminal activities or used for committing crimes. Specialists from some bases can also dive in confined and chemically or biologically contaminated waters, and at depths of more than 40 metres.

Police Cynology and Hippology

The police cynology (training dogs and dog handlers) and hippology (training horses and riders) play an important role in carrying out police duties, even today.

More than a thousand police dogs, mostly bred in police kennels and trained in the police dog training centres, assist in police work. Most of the dogs are trained for patrolling and searching for people and objects. Some dogs specialize, for instance, in searching for drugs, arms, ammunition or explosives, for people hiding in vehicles or for human remains.

The police hippology was restored in 1991. Mounted police patrol especially in difficult-to-access and environmentally sensitive areas. They prove particularly effective in search operations and in maintenance of public order. They are often deployed in centrally commanded missions at demonstrations or some sporting, cultural or other social event at which there is a danger of mass riot or other unlawful activity. A police horse gets its due respect even from the most passionate rioters. Training a police horse and a rider takes about one year, and prepares both for the situations a mounted police officer might encounter in the field.

2. Traffic Police Service

The role of the Traffic Police is essentially to supervise the safety and flow of road traffic and to check whether traffic rules are followed. Traffic Police patrols also control the technical condition of vehicles and inspect it at the kerbside.

Depending on the current traffic safety situation, Traffic Police officers may perform special checks targeting, for example, compliance with the ban on driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs or maintaining the speed limits. The Traffic Police also escort oversized cargo in transit, supervise whether truck and coach drivers are adhering to the mandatory safety breaks and deal with all the road traffic offenses they detect. All these measures have a single major goal – to reduce the number of road accidents and, most of all, to reduce the number of victims.

Road accidents are investigated by specialized Traffic Police offices. The Traffic Engineering Section of the Traffic Police Service performs helps with the road network and traffic control, gives opinions on the location of traffic signs and facilities, and implements preventive measures to reduce the number of traffic accidents.

The Traffic Police take special care to supervise the safety and flow of traffic on motorways and fast roads. At high speed, each violation of traffic rules becomes extremely dangerous, and so the consequences of road accidents are serious. Traffic Police officers assigned to motorway units therefore have special fast-speed cars and motorcycles equipped with advanced radar speed meters, audio-visual recorders and other technology at their disposal. With the help of such equipment, the Police are able to effectively intervene against drivers who present a serious threat to themselves as well as other road users with their driving behaviour.

Using unmarked cars, Traffic Police officers are able to carry out special checks and covertly monitor whether road users are following the traffic rules.

3. Criminal Police and Investigation Service

The task of police officers assigned to the Criminal Police and Investigation Service is to investigate circumstances pointing to a potential crime and to establish the identity of the offender. They are responsible for detecting criminal activities, if concealed, and based on their own findings, criminal complaints and other cues, must investigate every suspected crime. They must also take action to prevent criminal activities.

Investigating the facts of a suspected crime, the detectives gather together all the resources required, preserve traces and collect statements. In doing so, they are authorized to demand expert statements and opinions, to survey objects or the crime scene, to make audio and video recordings of persons and to take their fingerprints. When an intentional crime is being investigated, detectives may also use operative search measures, including the surveillance of persons and objects, deployment of a covert agent and engaging in feigned transactions, which means, for instance, pretending to purchase an object originating from a crime or designated to commit a crime.

Detectives typically specialize either in the investigation of general crime, which includes, among other things, crimes against life, health or property, or white collar crime, which includes currency, economic or tax fraud. Detectives also specialize either in operative search activities or in the actual process of criminal proceedings. The former specialization includes, among other things, searches for wanted and missing persons and objects. The latter specialization is investigation, i.e. the criminal prosecution of a specific individual who is subject to criminal charges.

Criminal Police and Investigation Units

All Regional Police Directorates have a department for the investigation of general and white collar crime. Additionally, there are specialized Criminal Police and Investigation Service units with nationwide jurisdiction. Their work focuses either on detecting and investigating specific and extremely dangerous crimes, or on providing professional services to other police units.

One unit with nationwide competence specializes in the detection of organized crime. The unit focuses on criminal structures that commit the most serious violent crimes, human trafficking, the trafficking of arms, radioactive or other hazardous materials, profiting from illegal migration or counterfeit currency and other payment means. It also focuses on extremism and its manifestations in all forms, as well as criminal activities in the area of information and communication technologies. This unit also detects corruption and financial crime. Here the focus is primarily on tax crimes and the most serious forms of corruption, such as in connection with public contracts, and money laundering. At the same time, it is the authority responsible for tracking down property originating from criminal activities. The National Anti-terrorism Contact Point operates as a part of this unit as a specialized communication, information and analytical office and anti-terrorist centre.

Another unit with nationwide competencies operates as the National Drugs Headquarters. The unit is responsible for the detection and investigation of the most serious crimes related to the illegal production and distribution of narcotic and psychotropic substances and poisons, mainly focusing on their organized and international forms, and conducting criminal prosecutions against members of criminal chains, which are the main source of illegal drugs.

The Criminal Police and Investigation Service also has a special unit dedicated to documenting and investigating the crimes of Communism. Its mission is to investigate crimes committed in the period from 1948 to 1989 whose offenders evaded justice at that time for political reasons.

Mentioned criminal police and investigation service units with nationwide competencies have branches in different locations around the country and are able to intervene anywhere where required.

Units for special activities of the Criminal Police and Investigation Service provide services to other police units or other security forces. So-called special activities include wiretapping and the recording of telecommunication operations or the surveillance of people and buildings. Special activities also include performing actions in criminal proceedings, deploying agents and carrying out feigned transactions. Special activity unit officers also provide protection to persons under the Act on Special Witness Protection and Protection of Other Persons in Connection with Criminal Proceedings.

4. Forensics and Expertise Service

Investigating each crime, detectives look for answers to the three basic questions:

- Did it actually happen?
- Was it a crime?
- Who committed the crime?

In their search for answers, they are assisted by modern forensic equipment and expert opinions from various branches of science.

A crime scene is examined by a forensic technician who searches, documents and preserves traces required for criminal proceedings. Forensic experts at the Institute of Criminalistics Prague or at the forensics and expertise departments of individual Regional Police Directorates investigate the preserved traces.

Forensics can be divided into several categories. One comprises photo, video and audio analysis, i.e. analysis of data stored on video and audio media. Another one is working with forensic sciences, which includes forensic chemistry, biology and physical chemistry. The first examines, for example, the causes of fires and environmental accident, the second examines biological traces of human, animal or plant origin and the last discipline deals, among other things, with so-called micro-traces. These are traces of microscopic size, whose occurrence at the scene of a crime cannot be avoided or prevented by offenders and cannot be easily eliminated by them. Tool mark examination and traceology are two of the oldest disciplines. Tool mark examination provides for the identification of tools and instruments based on the marks left by them on various objects. Traceology examines the movement traces of humans, animals and vehicles and also the impressions of various body parts, such as teeth, or of parts of clothing or other objects. Forensic identification is another category. Forensic dactyloscopy (fingerprint analysis) is one the most common forensic methods. Comparing the images of papillary lines on the inner sides of fingers, palms and feet allows for an unequivocal personal identification.

5. Rapid Response Unit

The Rapid Response Unit is a specialized unit of the Police of the Czech Republic whose primary mission is to fight terrorism. It operates on both a national as well as international basis. Its scope of competencies includes intervention against kidnappers and hijackers, dangerous organized criminals and offenders of other particularly serious crimes. Protection teams from the Rapid Response Unit protect Czech embassies and their employees in those countries where required by the local internal security situation. The unit develops tactical procedures for intervention actions aimed at eliminating terrorists and dangerous armed criminals, as well as best practice for crisis negotiation.

The training of police officers assigned to the Rapid Response Unit includes, among other things, intervention against terrorists, or kidnappers with hostages. Their training includes tactical manoeuvres to protect and escort people in high-risk areas. Police officers serving in the Rapid Response Unit must always maintain excellent physical and mental fitness as well as their shooting and close combat skills. They must be able to work at height and have excellent driving skills. Some are further specialized as explosive experts, divers or snipers.

The Rapid Response Unit is on call non-stop and is able to take action any time.

6. Aviation Service

Police pilots are assigned to rescue, intervention, search, patrol and reconnaissance flights. They assist in controlling traffic and participate in searches for missing persons, dangerous criminals or stolen vehicles. They also help find evidence or obtain documentation when investigating crimes.

The police air force simultaneously plays an important role in the Integrated Rescue System. Crews take to the air in response to serious traffic accidents, fires, floods and other natural disasters or emergencies. The Aviation Service co-operates with the Fire Rescue Service of the Czech Republic in extinguishing large fires, especially in hard-to-access terrain or in evacuating people from areas affected by natural disasters. It also co-operates with the Mountain Rescue Service to transport rescue teams to the sites of avalanches, for example.

The Aviation Service has modern helicopters fitted with special equipment for various assignments. For example, aircraft supporting police activities are equipped with search lights and a camera system including thermal imaging equipment. Aircraft designed for use in the Integrated Rescue System are

equipped with an on-board crane, a rescue net for evacuating people from water and a belly hook to carry water sacks for extinguishing fires from the air. The police air forces also have aircraft with advanced ambulance equipment which are used in airborne rescue missions.

Operation Centres

Operation Centres provide the non-stop, standardized and co-ordinated operation and performance of police tasks. They support police officers on duty and co-ordinate their actions. Operation Centres operate the National Emergency Line 158 and cooperate with the administrator of the European Emergency Line 112. In co-operation with other parts of the Integrated Rescue System, the centres coordinate joint actions and perform their assigned tasks when dealing with emergencies. They announce and coordinate police campaigns, such as traffic regulation and security measures. They also release data requested by individual police forces from police registers. Their tasks also include the provision of traffic information for road users.

Police Education and Training

The Act on the Service of Members of the Security Forces determines the minimum level of education required for each service rank of officers of the Police of the Czech Republic. Only a candidate who has accomplished at least secondary school education and passed the respective school-leaving examination may become a police officer. Immediately after admission to service, a new police officers undergoes basic professional training which gives him or her the knowledge, skills and attitude required for police duty. Basic professional training focuses on the legal aspects of police duties, tactical procedures for achieving the purpose of police actions, mastering the technical equipment assigned to officers on duty and the requisite administration procedures.

At his or her initial admission into the police service, a police officer is employed to serve for a limited period. Only after having successfully passed the service examination in which their knowledge is tested are police officers employed to serve for an unlimited period. Throughout the time of their service, police officers have opportunities for personal development through training or specialized courses organized by police training centres, educational centres and police schools, or through study at the Police Academy of the Czech Republic. Police officers constantly develop their professional competencies as a part of their regular service preparation.

Police education and training, service preparation and police sports are managed by the Department of Police Education and Service Preparation, which likewise provides for the professional education of the Police's civil employees.

Regional Police Directorates

By the Act on the Police of the Czech Republic, 14 Regional Police Directorates were established whose service districts coincide with the regional districts of the 14 greater regional self-governing units, i.e. the regions of the Czech Republic. Each Regional Police Directorate is an organizational branch of the Government and a separate accounting unit. At the head of each Regional Police Directorate is its Regional Director.

The organizational units of all Regional Police Directorates, except for the Regional Police Directorate of the Capital City of Prague, are territorial departments. Their service districts coincide with the territory of the respective districts and they are based in the former district towns. The service districts of the territorial departments of the Regional Police Directorates, as well as service districts of the Municipal Police Directorates, are then subdivided into the service districts of the district departments.

Operating within all Regional Police Directorates are the Criminal Police and Investigation Service, Public Order Police Service, Traffic Police Service, Foreign Police Service and the Weapons and Security

Material Service. Each Regional Police Directorate has, among others, its own personnel department, internal inspection department and integrated operations centre.

EMERGENCY SERVICES IN FINLAND

Police

The Finnish police are tasked with:

- upholding social order and the judicial system;
- maintaining public order and safety; and
- preventing and investigating crime, and referring investigated offences to a prosecutor for consideration of charges.

To maintain safety, the police work in partnership with other authorities, and local organisations and residents. The police will also perform such other duties as are separately provided for them by law, and provide anyone with assistance if it falls within their area of responsibility.

By maintaining public order and safety, the police seek to combat and prevent disturbances and violations of the law. If a disturbance has taken place, the police will seek to deal with it and investigate any offences. The efforts to ensure traffic safety are a part of the police's work in maintaining public order and safety.

In partnership with other organisations, the police will draw up security plans, which improve everyday safety, reduce and prevent crime and disturbances and contribute towards the creation of a safe and comfortable local environment.

Every year, the police issue approximately 900,000 permits and licences, mainly passports, firearms permits, and identity cards.

Police powers and the key principles of police work have largely been defined in the following acts: Police Act, Coercive Measures Act and Criminal Investigation Act. In the provisions on police powers, account has been taken of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and of the fact that the Finnish police should have enough scope to work effectively with international partners in the fight against crime. In addition to legislation, police operations are guided by police ethics and the citizens' expectations.

As an organisation, the Police are subject to performance guidance, which includes a performance plan with annually approved priorities and targets.

<https://www.poliisi.fi/en>

Organisation of the Finnish Police

The Government steers police operations through goals included in the Government Programme and through Government Resolutions.

Steering and monitoring are the responsibility of the Ministry of the Interior. The police organisation is two-tiered: Operating under the Ministry of the Interior, the National Police Board directs and guides police operations. Police departments and national units report directly to the National Police Board. National Police Board is in charge of the performance management of police units.

The national units of the police operating under the National Police Board include the *National Bureau of Investigation* and the *Police University College*.

National Bureau of Investigation is tasked with combating international, organised, professional, financial and other serious crime, conducting investigations, and developing crime prevention and crime investigation methods.

https://www.poliisi.fi/en/national_bureau_of_investigation

The *Police University College* is responsible for police training recruitment; selection of students; organising diploma and advanced studies; further training given in the training institute, and research and development in the police field. <https://www.polamk.fi/en>

The duty of the *local police* is to maintain public order and security; to take measures to prevent crime; to investigate crimes and other events threatening public order and security; to direct and monitor traffic and promote traffic safety, and to implement any other duties prescribed to the police by law or that they are obliged to carry out.

Local police service consists of 11 police departments. The Police Chief is the head of the police department. Local police services are provided at main police stations, police stations, police service points and joint service points. Local police are responsible for police licence services, which are offered at police service points, as well as at several joint service points across the country. Licence services provided by the police are linked to core policing operations, the maintenance of public order and safety, crime prevention and the promotion of traffic safety. https://www.poliisi.fi/contact_information

In Finland, dispatching of emergency services is managed centrally by Emergency Response Centres, jointly operated by the police, rescue services and social welfare and healthcare services. The Emergency Response Centre receives all calls made in emergencies requiring urgent assistance and calls the authorities needed for the situation in question. When you need urgent police assistance, call the emergency number 112.

<https://www.112.fi/>

Medical Emergency

An emergency medical care unit cares for a victim to a sudden illness or an accident at the scene. As necessary, emergency medical care involves the transportation of the patient to hospital or to a health station.

The first contact when in need for emergency medical care is the emergency response centre, tel. 112. The centre makes a risk assessment during the call on the basis of the information reported. The appropriate emergency medical care team is dispatched to the scene according to the risk assessment.

The organization of emergency medical care is the responsibility of 21 hospital districts in Finland. Service level orders prepared by hospital districts define the manner of the organization of emergency medical care and the content of care. The tasks of emergency medical care are regulated by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health.

For example the Helsinki and Uusimaa Hospital District (HUS) divides emergency medical care services among seven districts. The operations are steered and managed by the emergency medical care doctor in charge. The Helsinki City Rescue Department and HUS have a cooperation agreement on the organization of emergency medical care services. The emergency medical care call centre in the area of the Helsinki University Central Hospital (HUUS) in Helsinki operates at the central rescue station. Ambulances are placed at all eight rescue stations of the Rescue Department.

https://www.hus.fi/en/medical-care/medical-services/emergency_care/Pages/default.aspx

Helicopter Emergency Medical Services

FinnHEMS is responsible for Helicopter Emergency Medical Services (HEMS) in Finland in cooperation with the University Hospital Districts.

FinnHEMS has six operating bases: in Vantaa, Turku, Tampere, Kuopio, Oulu, and Rovaniemi. At each base, the on-duty crew has a helicopter and a ground unit at its disposal. In the Vantaa, Turku, Tampere, Kuopio, and Oulu crews, the medical personnel always includes an on-duty physician specialized in emergency medical services (EMS), and the Rovaniemi crew includes two paramedics.

From these six bases, helicopter emergency medical service (HEMS) units reach 70 per cent of Finns within 30 minutes of dispatch.

<https://finnhems.fi/en/>

Firefighters

Rescue departments carry out rescue service and firefighting duties in their respective regions.

There are 22 rescue departments in Finland, which are managed by municipalities. Under the Rescue Act, the municipalities in each rescue service region agree on the organisation of rescue services. Rescue departments carry out rescue services duties in their respective regions. Regional rescue services are responsible for the standard of service of the rescue services, appropriate organisation of the operations of the rescue departments and chimney sweeping services.

<http://www.pelastustoimi.fi/rescue-services/rescue-departments>

Volunteer, institutional, industrial and military fire brigades (contract fire brigades) also participate in performing rescue service duties as agreed between the brigades and the rescue department.

<http://www.pelastustoimi.fi/rescue-services/contract-fire-brigades>

There are about 90 full-time fire stations operating 24/7 and about 730 other fire stations. About 4,000 full-time employees and 14,600 people employed by contract fire brigades take part in rescue operations.

Besides rescue operations, rescue departments may also carry out first response and emergency medical care duties if this has been agreed with the health authorities.

The Department for Rescue Services guides and directs rescue services

The Department for Rescue Services at the Ministry of the Interior guides and directs rescue services and maintains oversight of their coverage and quality, is in charge of the organisation of rescue services at national level and coordinates the activities of various ministries and sectors in the field of rescue services and their development. The Department also decides on providing international assistance in this field.

Regional State Administrative Agencies maintain oversight of rescue services and their coverage and quality in its region.

The rescue authorities for the State are: Director General of the Department for Rescue Services and the public officials of the Ministry of the Interior and Regional State Administrative Agencies appointed by him or her.

Rescue personnel trained in Kuopio and Helsinki

The Emergency Services Academy Finland in Kuopio is responsible for providing training for rescue service and emergency response centre personnel, and training in international civil protection and civilian crisis management. The Emergency Services Academy Finland also provides preparedness training for various authorities.

<https://www.pelastusopisto.fi/en/>

In addition, the Helsinki Rescue School trains firefighters and sub-officers according to the needs of the City of Helsinki Rescue Department.

Fire Protection Fund grants assistance for projects to improve fire safety

The Fire Protection Fund operating under the auspices of the Department for Rescue Services grants assistance for projects to improve fire prevention and rescue operations. Revenues for the Fire Protection Fund are collected through a fire prevention charge payable annually for all immovable and movable property that has been insured against fire in Finland.

EMERGENCY SERVICES IN ESTONIA

Police

Almost 5,000 people work for the Police and Border Guard Board every day to ensure that Estonia is a safe place to live, work and visit. Besides the Police and Border Guard Board team, about 1,500 volunteers help, giving their free time and energy as assistant policemen and volunteers helping with rescue at sea.

The functions, rights and responsibilities of Police and Border Guard Board are imposed by the Police and Border Guard Act and the institution's statute. Seen in the broadest view, organization's main functions are related to preserving law and order, investigating and preventing crimes and misdemeanours, guarding the border, rescue at sea, determining the grounds and status for people staying in Estonia, and issuing identity documents.

Behind these main category headings are hundreds of different positions, such as beat police officer, investigator, interpreter, rescue swimmer, armoury manager, pilot and web constable

Every day and night – an average of 400 times during a 24-hour period – patrols come to the aid of people.

Each year, Estonian police investigates 26,000 crimes and conducts proceedings on 130,000 other offences.

PBGB issues half a million identity documents in each year.

At any given moment, PBGB is guarding 338 kilometres of eastern border, which is also the external border of the European Union.

No matter what the line of work, team has one goal in common – we are there to help. Policemen work to ensure that all people feel safe and secure in Estonia, can study, pursue self-betterment, make Estonia a secure environment for developing economy and culture, and that the blue black and white flag continues to fly atop Pikk Hermann Tower, displayed on police uniforms and in all of our hearts.

Mission

Through cooperation, we create security

Vision

We are open, oriented to development and people, an expert partner in creating security with high ethical values.

Values

Police and Border Guard Board officials abide by the following values in their work:

- Openness. We are smart and creative and have the courage to think differently, find solutions to problems and be constantly developing. We also have the courage to admit errors and take responsibility for our actions.
- Humanity. We care about ourselves and others and value co-workers and people we come into contact with.
- Wisdom. We are working to ensure a better future and security already today. We can see our role and responsibility and find new and clever solutions.

More information: <https://www.politsei.ee/en/>

Role of Police in Western Harju Partnership region

Estonian police system is centralized. Our region belongs to the West-Harju police station, where every constable has its own area. There is no municipal police in our region, but it is possible to become a voluntary assistant police officer after completion of corresponding training. There are total 129 voluntary police officers in Western Harju police station and they were nominated as best voluntary rescuers in 2017 for doing total of 21 774 hours of voluntary work in 2016.

Activities of the Western Harju voluntary police are rather broad - they are working in detention centers, security office and border guard and have increasingly closer cooperation with district constables. Together for example address checks are made as well as evening patrols in local areas. Voluntary police also participates in police raids, prevention events in school and gives reflectors to pedestrians in dark seasons. Volunteers of the Western Harju Police Department are also involved as trainers in trainings of police officers and voluntary policemen.

In rural areas, voluntary police is authorized also to independent patrols either by foot or with vehicle. In 2017 total 1190 hours of patrol was done by volunteers of the Western Harju Police. The support and goodwill is also shown by the local authorities, who have already signed six cooperation agreements.

Medical Emergency

In Estonia, ambulance is free for all persons staying in the territory of Estonia, including foreigners and uninsured persons. From 2019, the Estonian Health Insurance Fund finances and concludes ambulance management contracts with ambulance service providers. Ambulance service providers are selected through open competition. Currently, in Estonia 10 ambulance service providers in 10 different service areas provide the service. To call an ambulance, the single emergency number 112 provides ambulance, rescue and police assistance.

Estonia has a total of 102 3-member ambulance crews, which in turn are divided into 6 reanimobile, 15 physician and 81 nursing teams. The ambulance crews are located over 56 ambulance bases. In addition, a first aid team is operating on three small islands in Estonia, led by a telemedicine doctor. Telemedicine is a growing IT solution where emergency ambulance teams are consulted by a hospital emergency physician. There is also an ambulance field manager who is in charge of operational communication with various bodies at the scene (police and rescue). About 285,000 ambulance visits are made in Estonia each year. In 2019 the total ambulance budget is approximately 47 million EUR.

Firefighters

The Estonian Rescue Board is a government agency under the Ministry of the Interior that develops and maintains a secure environment in Estonia, anticipates threats and promptly and professionally assists people in the event of an accident. With approximately 2200 employees, the Estonian Rescue Board is the second largest public sector body.

The Estonian Rescue Board has departments that develop, plan and manage activities and Regional Rescue Centers and the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Center implementing the activities. North, South, East and West Regional Rescue Centers organize day-to-day rescue work, fire safety surveillance, emergency prevention, and crisis management.

The mission of the Estonian Rescue Board

- We prevent accidents, save lives, property, and the environment.

The vision of the Estonian Rescue Board

- By 2025, the Estonian Rescue Board will have reduced the number of accidents and damage to the level of Nordic countries with the help of everyone.

The mission and vision of the Estonian Rescue Board contribute to the development of the organization, as it enables purposefully striving for a common goal by applying everybody's individual potential. Awareness of the mission and vision among the members of the organization helps to promote cooperation and teamwork skills, develops the analytical skills

of staff, and encourages management, as well as all other employees, to think about the future.

Volunteer rescuers

Volunteer rescuers voluntarily participate in rescue or preventive work. In agreement with the employer, volunteers can do rescue or preventive work also during working hours.

Volunteer rescuer is an active person knowing the rescue field. He or she offers their family, neighbor, and community

- the sense of security;
- prompt assistance in the event of an accident;
- an example;
- correct attitudes and behavioral guidelines.

Volunteer rescuer

- responds to an accident that occurred in the home location or other rescue problem;
- prevents dangerous situations;
- trains others and increases their awareness of danger.

He or she is

- professional assistance of the Estonian Rescue Board in the event of rescue events and prevention;
- an active member of the community.

As of 2018, there are 119 volunteer brigades' teams and 3 reserve rescue brigades in Estonia, of which 1932 volunteer rescuers!

Role of rescue in Western Harju Partnership Region

The national rescue associations are funded by central government and are operating primarily in urban areas and industrial zones. In sparsely populated rural areas, the response times of these are not the best and therefore in last ten years voluntary rescue units have been established. Voluntary rescue organizations receive a little state support for operational costs plus additional financing for every call. Voluntary rescue associations also get second-hand fire trucks and equipment from national rescue units.

Voluntary rescue units can apply for project funding for smaller investments from LEADER measure or National Foundation of Civil Society etc.

In Western Harju Partnership area there are 4 voluntary rescue associations including 5 rescue units.

Voluntary rescue units participate actively in open air festivals/fairs/sport events etc, also schools and kindergartens are visited often. Youngsters have been not very well addressed by now.

3. Examples of good practice

CZECH REPUBLIC

System of voluntary fireman

Community work of voluntary fireman

Municipal police

Municipal Police in the Czech Republic is a municipal body that safeguards local security on the level of the municipality. The activity and rights of the Municipal Police is defined by law.

Municipal police is established (and closed down) by the municipal council according to a valid decree. The police work is performed by the police officers, who are employed by the municipality (they are not in service like state policeman). Municipal police belongs to other components of the Integrated Rescue System.

Municipal police is managed by a mayor or another member of the municipal council according to a mandate from the municipal council. A particular police officer is usually appointed to be the head of the municipality police and is referred to as the city police commander.

The local government itself covers the budget of municipal police.

In general Municipal police has more limited rights than the State police.

Municipal Police in particular:

- contributes to the protection and safety of people, properties and public order,
- supervises obeying the rules of civil life
- supervises compliance with general regulations and decrees in the municipality,
- takes care of the road safety and traffic,
- participates in crime prevention in the municipality,
- supervises the order and tidiness of public areas in the municipality,
- explore offences other administrative delicts, which are under the responsibility of the municipality,
- keeps records of lost and found objects,
- manages municipality camera system.

Municipal police cooperates with the State Police of Czech Republic.

Everyone has the right to contact the municipal police officer and ask for help and the police officers are obliged to provide the assistance required within their duties.

Based on an agreement between the municipalities, the municipal police may extend their powers also to the territory of other municipalities, which don't have established municipal police.

Municipality police officers are entitled to:

- request explanation,
- require proof of identity,
- ask anyone for help in order to accomplish a specific task,
- bring a person to face justice,
- seize a weapon,
- disable access to designated locations,
- open an apartment or other enclosed space,
- seize a thing,
- use technical equipment to prevent vehicle departure,
- enter the business premises,
- use commitment device, dog or police weapon,
- make audio, video or other records from publicly accessible locations,
- stop vehicles on roads in specified cases,
- control traffic on the road,
- measure the speed of vehicles on the road,
- proceed alcohol or other addictive substances test,
- decide to remove a vehicle that is an obstacle to road traffic.

In the Rychnov region, the Municipal police is established in Rychnov nad Kněžnou, Kostelec nad Orlicí, Dobruška and Týniště nad Orlicí. Police officers also cover other municipalities, if they have a contract with them.

The Municipal Police in Rychnov nad Kněžnou and the Kvasiny Industrial Zone (SKODA car factory) currently have 1 commander, 20 police officers and 4 staff operating a camera system. There is also worker who is in charge of using the devices to prevent the departure of the vehicle.

Rychnov nad Kněžnou police operates in the municipalities of Solnice, Kvasiny and Synkov-Slemeno.

Foreigners and immigrants in SKODA

ESTONIA

Neighbourhood watch

Neighbourhood watch starts with caring and raising awareness among community members.

There is no sign that will prevent a crook from climbing in through the window, as both crooks and those who prefer not to come in contact with the latter at home, know. And yet, statistics show that crime has generally fallen in areas that have joined with the neighbourhood watch. One result of joining the neighbourhood watch is that the area becomes very uncomfortable for criminals. Awareness of its members and their active involvement is the cornerstone of home security according to neighbourhood watch.

As feedback from neighbourhood watch training, people have brought out a sincere surprise moment as trainers have directed the community members to look at their immediate vicinity through the villain's eyes.

While as a homeowner, it seems safe and private to plant a tall fir hedge around your house, behind that same tall hedge, without an open sight, a crook will feel safe too. It is useful to walk around your area a few times a year with so-called stealing eyes.

As a general rule, the commission of a criminal offence presupposes the temporal and spatial connotation of at least three conditions or three elements: first, the existence of a motivated offender, second, a suitable target, which may be in the form of an object or person, and thirdly, lack of eyewitnesses (Felson & Cohen, 1979). Informed communities can do much to prevent these conditions from colliding.

The Neighbourhood Watch movement began in America decades ago. In Estonia today, neighbourhood watch is primarily about uniting residents to reduce anonymity in the area and help their neighbours. Although the neighbourhood watch movement is primarily concerned with crime prevention, their purpose is, in fact, to address security and public order in a broader sense.

Neighbourhood watch is based on science-based theories, including CPTED - Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design. The goal is to create a safe environment and improve the quality of life through the awareness in designing surroundings. Joining the neighbourhood watch movement encourages people to report observations and disturbances in which they did not intervene before. We are all safer knowing that our neighbour will not remain an indifferent spectator in the event of an emergency.

When joining the neighbourhood watch, the senior of the sector signs a neighbourhood watch agreement on behalf of the sector, with the rest of the parties being the Police, the Estonian Neighbourhood Watch and the local government, and in Tallinn also Tallinn Municipal Police. Often people have valuable insights and information about crimes and misconduct that unfortunately remains at the level of neighbours' talks and does not reach the authorities, who could help to resolve it. Direct positive contact with the local government, police and other partners will certainly help to increase the sense of security around home.

The agreement with the Estonian Neighbourhood Watch Association means, above all, comprehensive assistance and information for organising joint work between neighbours and other parties of the agreement. In addition to the above, the Association publishes information materials, rewards more active neighbourhood watch sectors once a year, and provides security training to members of the neighbourhood watch group, which is free of charge for the members. The Estonian Neighbourhood Watch has several contractual partners who offer benefits on their products and services to the neighbourhood watch members.

A variety of activities have been launched under the neighbourhood watch - some sectors have regular neighbourhood watch patrols, others have leisure activities for young people every summer, and some have environment cleanup events. The Neighbourhood Watch Association always supports initiatives from sectors and contributes with advice, sometimes with power. The neighbourhood watch sectors problem is also a problem of the

Neighbourhood Watch Association and it is the job of the Association to find possible solutions in cooperation with the sector.

Nine percent of the population have taken part in neighbourhood watch, which has become a pillar of neighbourhood security in Estonia. According to Kantar Emor public opinion survey on internal security (2019), 56 percent of the population would gladly join neighbourhood watch.

The positive effect of the neighbourhood watch movement has proven itself in Estonia today. Everyone can contribute to make their lives safer.

The neighbourhood watch suggests paying attention to the following in households: firstly lighting, and secondly, landscaping - so as not to restrict visibility and make the environment even darker than it already is in the fall. Third, go out for a walk and talk to your neighbours. Care about what's happening in your area, notice the changes, and respond carefully as needed: care-notice-react.



Stories of Voluntary Police Officers



Voluntary Police Officer of the Northern Prefecture Jaago Männiste:

In my childhood, everyone wanted to be a militia, a firefighter or a cosmonaut, and so did I. After graduating from high school, I was seriously considering going to the Academy of Public Security, but Tallinn Technical University still won that fight. Today, my main job is managing computer systems.

However, I did not want to remain a bystander, and my desire was to make society better and safer. This is how I became a Voluntary Police Officer in 2004. When I started, there was no proud uniform yet, we were wearing our clothes, a reflective vest that resembled a potato bag, on top. But that didn't bother me, I still found time to go out with the regional constable on weekend evenings. By today, it has reached up to thousands of hours of patrol and prevention work.

Bystanders may think that I have to have more than 24 hours in a day, otherwise it would be difficult to explain how I get so much done. I am happy to go to the patrol on my own in the neighbourhood, and concern about the welfare of the neighbourhood is close to my heart.

One of my hobbies is shooting, which has given me the opportunity to pass on my knowledge in this field, even to the police officers themselves. I have gone through a lot of training, including instructor papers. My skills and knowledge are highly valued by my colleagues, I have been told to be calm, not nervous and explain things in the best way. I feel that I am always welcome, I think that reasons can be found in my positive attitude

towards life and good sense of humour, but over and over again it gives me a warm feeling inside.

Why do I do this? Probably because the passion to improve things has not faded inside me and I feel that my work will benefit people. This is my second life and my second home. And I feel I am good at my job, as proven by my high achievements in the Police Professional Skills Competition.

People have a different perception of police work, often depending on which side of the law they are on - when they are fined for speeding while driving, Police seems annoying , but for victims of domestic violence, bringing a beater into a detention center creates gratitude.

The soul of a volunteer is great, the feeling that today I helped a neighbour's child safely across the road, yesterday I prevented a drunk person from sitting behind the wheel, saving his own life in particular and so on, gives power, that is what nourishes my soul. I wish there were more of us- us and those who do it with heart.



Voluntary Police officer for the Southern Prefecture Anne Mätlik:

Being a volunteer is something great and valuable. As a Voluntary Police Officer, I can teach young people, educate adults, and why not update the knowledge of the elderly. In addition to helping the community, I can also assist police officers in their tasks and in ensuring safety. In addition to that, I feel that I am appreciated by colleagues and always welcome to give lectures to children in schools.

Being a Voluntary Police Officer has greatly developed me in my personal life and made me a better person. In particular, I am grateful for the various tasks and opportunities that have

been entrusted to me, which require the development and use of existing skills as well as new skills. Through volunteering and constant interaction with people, I have been able to increase my confidence, realise and grasp my abilities and their boundaries, and constantly learn new skills.

In the work of assisting police, I am most attracted to prevention and youth work and I am mostly involved in these areas. However, I consider equally important all other lines of police work, and I will never say no to traffic enforcement tasks or service assistance when there is a need for help.

Perhaps the most vivid thing I remember about my work with young people is the personalisation of Lion Leo at various events and the Estonian Special Olympics Torch Run in Otepää.

Openness and empathy are the keywords that inspire me most in my work as a Voluntary Police Officer.



Auxiliary Police officer for Western Prefecture Ursula Rahnik:

The leader of the group of voluntary police officers describes the volunteer as follows:
Ursula has been contributing as a police officer since 22.06.2017. I would characterise Ursula

in such a way that she is firmly committed to making a contribution when she is a member. She doesn't want to be just a name or a number on the list of assistant police officers. So, on average, Ursula patrols twice or more every month. You can always depend on her. Even if I don't want to ask her sometimes because she was just on patrol, in need, when others have refused, I still get the word "yes" from Ursula.

Last year we rewarded Ursula as the best newcomer among us. This year, Ursula has contributed 26 times and 213 hours to various police activities. With these figures, Ursula is currently becoming one of the biggest, if not the biggest, volunteer contributor in Saaremaa.

Ursula's reach is also wide in the sense that she is not unfamiliar with contributions outside the county. She has attended electronic music festival Weekend and other events that require security. Constant self-improvement is also a matter of course for Ursula, who regularly attends training and exercises.



Voluntary Police officer of Eastern Prefecture Mari-Liis Lukk:

I applied for the position of Voluntary Police Officer because I was in a dilemma before graduating from high school, about what I wanted from life and which profession to choose for the future. One of the many options was to apply for the Police Specialty at the Estonian Academy of Security Sciences, but my suspicions continued to bite me, so at first I decided to test my suitability as a Voluntary Police Officer. It soon became clear to me that being a police officer would not be for me, at least not yet. But I continued as a Voluntary Police Officer and have now been a volunteer for over two years. In this short time I have gained a great deal of knowledge and experience. In addition, through this process, I have grown into a law-abiding person who can notice and help. I am motivated to volunteer by a bright-eyed team and knowing that I can be useful to society. An energetic and active team and teamwork like the one we have in the Jõhvi Voluntary Police Group is hard to find. They know how to notice and support, not to mention how to involve. However, I consider drunk and speeding drivers to be the greatest source of danger to our community, as I have come into contact with them a lot as a volunteer. This is also the reason why I am most keen on participating on alcohol intoxication control events, where I can contribute to the elimination of those drivers on our streets whose thoughtless behaviour can cause irreversible damage.



Kadri Ann Salla: "Experience as Voluntary Police Officer has made me a better person"

It all started in elementary school when I realised that I had to become a cop. By the end of high school, everyone already knew my wish, and my classmates were picturing me with revolver belt chasing criminals five years later. Unfortunately, life choices have kept me out

of the police system for a while, but by now I have found myself volunteering and working in the field of internal security.

I became a Voluntary Police Officer in 2012 on the recommendation of a friend who saw this as a good opportunity to test ourselves in the field of law enforcement. I have been an active police officer for a year (have worked for more than one calendar month worth of hours) and have been involved in both patrol and prevention and youth police activities. It has been an extremely exciting and enriching experience that has greatly expanded my view of life. My experience as a Voluntary Police Officer has improved me in many ways. Firstly, volunteering to make our country and community work makes me a better citizen. Secondly, I feel that I have become bolder, more patient and more tolerant, and that makes me a better person.

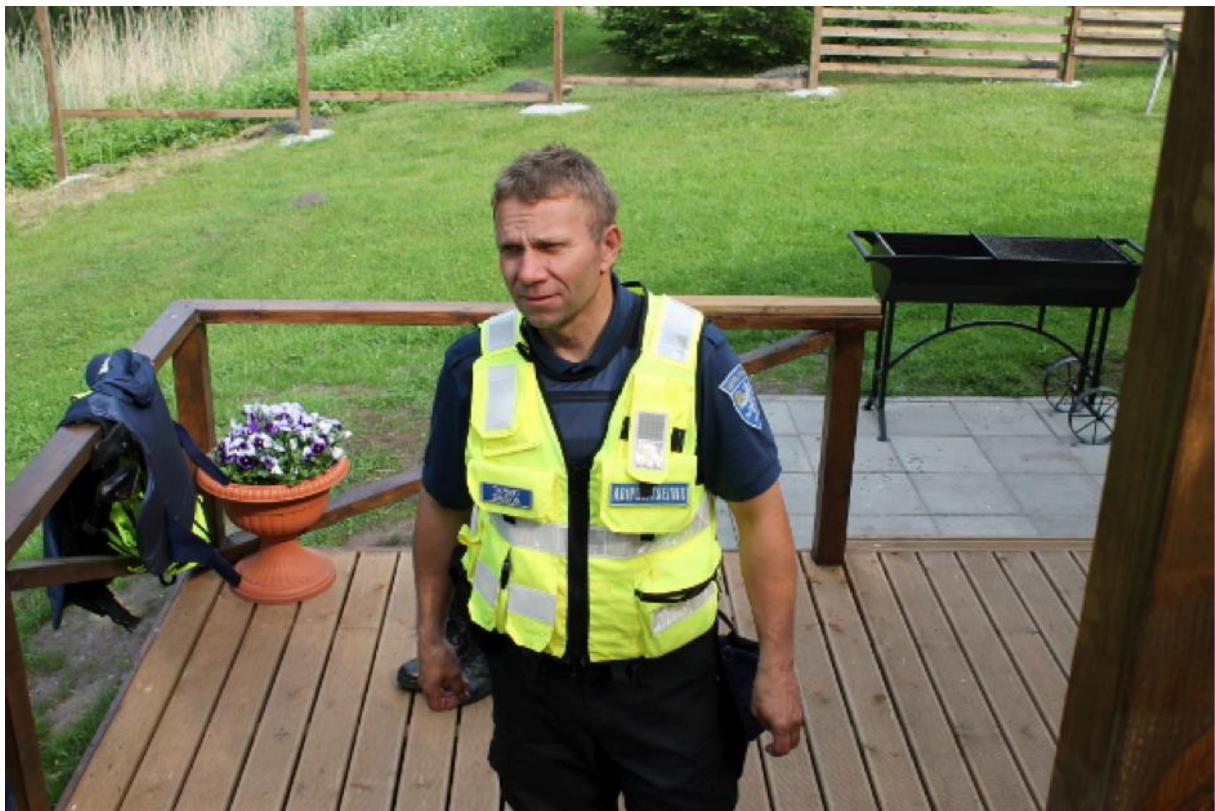
Thirdly, I have broadened my horizons and understanding of society's pain points and people's problems, making me a more knowledgeable professional in my work. Adding a personal interest to the argument, it is obvious that being an Voluntary Police officer is a very worthwhile and rewarding endeavour for me.



Toomas Nigola: "It's natural for me to offer my help"

Like many others, I joined the Auxiliary Police during the spring 2007 riots. Having been raised as a patriotic and responsible in the home and the scouting movement, it was natural for me to offer my help in a situation where it seemed necessary. The same motivation continues to

motivate me to put on the police blue or Defense League green uniform, depending on the situation, and to dedicate time and energy to improve common security. In a situation where the ranks of cops have become worrisome due to the work of budget-scissors, I don't consider it to be too much to do a few patrol shifts or a police operations once or twice a month. I have repeatedly been proud of the Estonian police in situations where citizens of neighbouring countries (both eastern and southern) have acknowledged that they cannot get out of punishment for violation when offering a bribe or as someone in the press once said: "Estonian Police - it's like German Police". The fact that we have a pretty nice order in general, in my eyes is a value to appreciate and keep. As a Voluntary Police Officer I feel that I can play my part and bring about a positive change.



Tarmo Simson's second life

It is claimed that man has one life. In my seven years of assistant police, I am convinced that quite a few people can have multiple lives. I believe that a village man who fell asleep at a local bus stop could say he was given a second life after the patrol woke him up and sent him to a remote farmhouse just a short distance away. On a cool night he might not have seen his tomorrow anymore.

What kind of a life live the three girls, one a little over ten, the other younger, who call the police at night to ask for help at their home because a drunken father is rampaging in the room. This call for help speaks of the hope and will for a new and better life, which may have begun with the very night of restful sleep at home.

What happens in a young man's soul when he stands next to his friend's lifeless body? Only a few hours ago they were having fun, laughed, took drugs. That friend is gone. Does the survivor realise that at this very moment he was given the opportunity to live a different life?

Perhaps I give too serious and harsh examples from the dark side of life. These incidents are a reality that the average person does not even realise exist until the situation affects them. The police are called to help with sad and very difficult events. At the same time, the help of the police can be a new opportunity for someone to go to a different and better way, to start another life.

Also, the choice to volunteer to face the described harsh reality through stepping into the status of Voluntary Police Officer means a second life. It is a departure from my daily routine of home, work, hobbies, etc. Being a witness to the above (and many other) cases, it makes you look at everything ordinary around us in a completely different way. This is the case all the time, not just after I have received a call: "Hi, Tarmo, can you participate in x-patrol on day n?" Yes, of course I can, it's my second life.

Be prepared! App

The mobile app "Ole valmis!" (Be Prepared!) was launched by the Estonian Women's Voluntary Defence Organization on the 23th of March 2019. App is available in Estonian, English and Russian. The app is in line with the 2018 Estonian "Code of Conduct for Crisis Situations".

The main principles preparing for crisis situations together with your family and community:

- THE ABILITY OF YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY TO COPE IN CRISIS SITUATIONS DEPENDS, ABOVE ALL, ON YOU!
- THE BEST WAY TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY IS TO PREPARE IN ADVANCE FOR CRISIS SITUATIONS!
- ONLY YOU KNOW YOUR FAMILY'S NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES!
- COOPERATE WITH YOUR NEIGHBOURS AND COMMUNITY WHEN PREPARING FOR CRISES!
- BE PREPARED TO COPE INDEPENDENTLY FOR A WEEK!

How to prepare for crises with your family

- Be aware of which crisis situations may endanger you, what their impact is on your everyday life, and how to prepare for them together.
- Talk through how to behave in different situations. For example: do all family members know when and how to call for help;
- in which situations is it definitely necessary to leave the home and in which situations must one remain indoors;
- where can you go temporarily in case of danger (neighbours, friends, relatives, to the countryside, summer cottage);

The mobile app “Ole valmis!” (Be Prepared!) contains tips on how to behave in different situations. For example, what to do in the event of a power outage; if you are lost in the woods or how to provide first aid. You can also find information about fire and water safety, natural disasters, disruption of vital services, cyber security and different security threats.

The app includes a list of home and evacuation supplies with what you should be able to cope independently for a week. You can test your supply level and call different useful numbers directly from the app.

The app can be downloaded from Google Play or App Store.

Code of Conduct for Crisis Situation

In Estonia there is prepared codes of conduct for crisis situation, that is forwarded to all citizens of the country. This will help people to prepare for different crisis situations and protect themselves, their loved ones and their property during crises. This collection provides people with practical advice on how to prepare oneself and one's home for crisis situations, what kind of resources should be mobilized at home and how to act in the event of a crisis.

The code of conduct has been prepared in cooperation with experts from many institutions and organisations, led by a task force for civil protection that was formed by a decision of the Government. A contribution into the preparation of the code of conduct was made by the Government Office, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, the Ministry of Rural Affairs, the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Estonian Rescue Board, the Police and the Border Guard Board, the Estonian Internal Security Service, the Emergency Centre, the Headquarters of the Estonian Defence Forces, the Defence League, the Environmental Board, the Environment Agency, the Women's Voluntary Defence Organization, the Health Board, the Association of Estonian Cities, the Tartu Ambulance Foundation, non-profit organisation MTÜ Estlander and PR Partner OÜ.

Preparation of the code of conduct was funded by the Operational Programme for Cohesion Policy Funds 2014–2020, priority axis 12 Administrative Capacity, action 12.2 Development of Quality of Policy-Making.

Please take a look: https://kriis.ee/contents/ui/theme/pdf/Elanikkonnakaitse_A4_en.pdf

Preparedness for Crisis in Soomaa region



Those who live in the area of Soomaa National Park on the boundary of Viljandi County and Pärnu County experience what we can call crisis situations every year, during the seasonal flooding in early spring, which is sometimes moderate and sometimes beats high-water records. Throughout generations, local residents have been forced to take those floods into account and are prepared for lengthy isolation and outages of power supply and communications.

Indrek Hein, who has lived in Soomaa for 40 years, describes his daily routine as constant preparedness for the unexpected, but he does not complain because he is used to it: this is what living in harmony with nature means. He will not be easily broken by events which a city dweller would perceive as extreme crisis situations. Spending a week or two without electricity supply is not a problem for Indrek as things still get done: “Of course, power supply in the house is convenient, but when there is an outage, it’s OK, it is ordinary for this region.”

Constant preparedness means that Indrek has a supply of food for at least three weeks at home as well as a battery-powered radio, enough gasoline in his car for unexpected drives and a pretty decent stock of matches, candles and batteries. A generator is something Indrek has not bought because he got used to living without electricity. He has a simple mobile phone with a long-lasting battery, and even if it runs out, Indrek is not afraid of communication service outages.

Naturally, not everyone can and would like to follow Indrek’s example. Our expectations of daily availability of the communication infrastructure as well as relying on power transmission, natural gas supply and water supply systems are absolutely justified. But it is still worth to be prepared for crisis situations so that they don’t catch you unawares.

Coping with unexpected incidents requires only some planning and thinking beforehand. Take your time to learn which crisis situations you might possibly find yourself in and what to do if it happens. Think of how particular situations could affect you, your family and loved ones, and suggest that you establish guidelines and roles together. With your family, discuss where you can go in case of danger (neighbours, friends, relatives, country house, summer cottage). It would be useful for all the family members to know how to shut off the gas supply at home and turn off the power. Make sure that everyone in the family knows where to find the things you would need the most in a crisis, for instance, what to take with them if they are leaving home, or what you should stock up on. The best way to protect your family and yourself is to get prepared for potential crisis situations in advance because it is you who knows your family's needs and capabilities.

Crisis preparedness creates a sense of security for citizens - example of Western Harju parish

Western Harju parish, consisting of one city and 45 villages with its 12,507 inhabitants, is headed by mayor Jaanus Saat. Autumn storms and snowfall are autumn topics. Western Harju parish municipal government has made preparations to prevent and be prepared for various crisis situations, whether it be slushy roads or fallen trees. Pursuant to the Emergency Act, an emergency plan has been prepared and approved by the Estonian Rescue Board. A broad-based crisis commission for Western Harju parish has been formed and contract partners for road maintenance have been selected. In times of crisis, the municipality is primarily responsible, by law, for drivability of local roads, which means that the municipality's roads are accessible every season and the availability of vital services is not disrupted. It is important that people get to work, that children get to school and kindergarten and that everyday life is safe. How do we inform citizens about a crisis situation? In the event of a crisis or emergency, timely communication to the public must be ensured. The municipality has implemented an SMS notification system for this purpose. In order to join it, a resident can enter their phone number on the website of Western Harju municipality. In the event of a crisis, this number will receive a notification or code of conduct from the Crisis Committee. Entering a phone number is optional, but the municipality calls on the residents of the municipality to enter their phone number, as it is a reliable and fastest channel of information in a crisis. Of course, the municipality also uses all other channels of communication when necessary.

Crisis exercises - for whom and for what? Mayor Jaanus Saat as chairman of the crisis committee has participated in several crisis trainings both as an observer and as a cooperation partner or player. He also participated as a representative of the local government in a board training organised by the Police and Border Guard Board, where he

had to assist in the evacuation of the population of Paldiski in a crisis, for which the time limit was two hours. The experience was educational, as there were a number of hazards and bottlenecks that could not be anticipated - such as informing the general public, arranging transportation for people with social problems, even when the stairwells of apartment buildings are closed. Among else, it was necessary to think about what to do with the pets of the evacuated people. This training drew attention to the importance of informing, the existence of contacts between different partners and thoughtful behavioural guidelines.

Co-operation with the German Red Cross. Thanks to his good relationship with the German Red Cross, he had the opportunity to attend a crisis training organised by them in September, which required the evacuation of the town of Itzehoe with a population of 2000, including a nursing home. The German Red Cross has a large number of volunteers to help in such crisis situations, whose help is invaluable in providing information, providing psychological help and solving everyday life problems. The event was visited by the Minister of the Interior of Schleswig-Holstein, who acknowledged the organisers and volunteers for the event. Estonia has room for improvement in this area, and efforts should be made to have more volunteers in both the Estonian Red Cross and the Defence League.

Co-operation with the Estonian Red Cross. As a volunteer of the Estonian Red Cross, Western Harju Parish mayor had the opportunity to participate in a training organised by the Finnish Red Cross in August to train members of the Baltic Sea Region Disaster Preparedness Group for major emergencies. The training was preceded by 35 hours of independent work and online testing. The lectures and assignments took 56 hours and covered a wide range of topics. Representatives of Finland, Germany, Lithuania, Poland, Latvia, Denmark and the Swedish Red Cross also participated in the training. In November this year, a training will be organised by Western Harju parish to test the emergency preparedness of the local officials, members of the crisis committee and partners, to test communication between the parties and to arrange and understand crisis communication.

A sense of security can appear in two different ways: an illusion lead by ignorance, or a genuine sense of security that comes from thorough preparation. Let's hope that nothing bad happens, but if it happens, we can handle it.

FINLAND

The Finnish National Rescue Association SPEK

The Finnish National Rescue Association SPEK is a national, non-profit expert organisation in fire and rescue services, individual emergency planning and civil protection. SPEK works actively to improve the safety of Finnish homes and the society in everyday life and in emergency conditions. <http://www.spek.fi/In-English>

SPEK's goal is a safe society. The objective of their work is to help people and organisations to prevent accidents and dangerous situations, to take the appropriate precautionary measures and to know what to do in emergencies.

SPEK promotes protection of people, property and the environment from the risks caused by accidents and disasters. SPEK also develops the fire and rescue field, preparedness and civil defence.

SPEK does a lot of work with 'ordinary people' with the theme of self-preparedness. Self-preparedness means prevention of dangerous situations and a capacity to protect people, property and the environment in any given dangerous situation. Good preparedness should prevent dangerous situations, take into account any irregularities in normal conditions and prepare people for any emergency conditions.

Everyone can be prepared against any accidents and dangerous situations in their home. The following is a list of things you may ask yourself:

- What kind of dangerous situations may occur in my home?
- How could they be prevented?
- How do I get out of my home if there is a fire?
- Do you know how to give first aid?

SPEK has also developed two training models for promoting people's self-preparedness: they are called *village safety* and *72 hours* and trainings are offered free-of-charge regularly for local communities interested.

Village safety – safe countryside

Village safety is community-oriented safety work for the countryside and urban villages. The objective with village safety is to boost the residents' self-preparedness in case of various eventualities, such as power cuts, accidents and fires.

Being able to take the initiative is particularly important in sparsely populated rural areas owing to the longer distances as it may take a long time for rescue services to arrive. Therefore preparedness in villages is important, and information on measures that improve safety must be made available.

If you are interested in practical measures to take to increase preparedness in villages, go to www.kylaturvallisuus.fi (website only in Finnish).

72 hours - could you cope on your own?

The 72h concept is designed to meet the preparedness requirements of urban citizens. Households are the basic units of preparedness; responsibly seeing to one's own safety skills, fire safety at home and having a home emergency preparedness kit makes it easier to cope with everyday life.

The concept steers people to set up a 72h preparedness kit: three days is the period of time universally recognised by the authorities and rescue organisations where self-preparedness can dramatically assist the authorities' relief effort.

Want to know more? Visit www.72h.fi (website also in English).

Being a police officer more popular than ever before

A record number of people interested in the profession have applied for police training: over 5,000 applicants for the 2019 training program. There are a total of 400 places for Bachelor of Police degree this year, with means almost 13 applicants per place.

- This year's application rate is the highest ever for basic police training. Over the last couple of years, there have been about 4,000 applicants, so the interest is growing significantly, says the Headmaster of the national Police University Kimmo Himberg.

Five years ago, there were just over 2,400 applicants so the number of applicants has more than doubled in five years. However, at that time there were only 180 starting places. As of 2017, there have been 400 starting places.

- The police profession is diverse and offers a variety of career paths. The Police studies can be started right after the high school as well as after university studies. We have successfully promoted the profession and the studies at many fairs, school and garrison visits with the police department. The school's social media channels also provide a lot of information and atmosphere from the campus.

Police studies last about three years, and gives the qualification, for example, as a senior constable. Graduates may work in both criminal investigations and in surveillance and alert functions.

There are four application periods for police training during the year. This year, less than 300 students have begun their Bachelor of Police training, and those selected for the last year's starting group will be announced in September. Applicant numbers are compiled according to the year of enrollment, not by calendar year.

Not everyone can apply for police training. Requirements include Finnish citizenship and a B-category driving license. In addition, the applicant must have a good reputation as required by the police. The applicant must not have any such interests that jeopardize the proper and independent performance of his / her duties. Impartiality will be assessed on the basis of the safety report of the applicant done by a local police.

Physical conditions include swimming skills. The selection test also measures the applicant's endurance and agility. Bench pressing is also part of the selection test. The muscle strength of female applicants is tested by pulling the upper sole, which is 70% of the weight of the performer. Men can opt for a 100% weight lifting top if they choose to take the jaw pull test. The medical examination has certain minimum values for the applicant's hearing and vision. The applicant must also take a drug test.