



Organization for support to Icelanders and other Nordic Citizens in times of Disasters and Crises Abroad



Department of Administration and Consular Affairs
September 2008



Topics

- Overview of consular services
- Roles and resources
- The Helsinki treaty and the Bornholm agreement
- Organisational chart
- Stages of emergency
- “In practice”



Roles and resources

- The Ministry for Foreign Affairs is responsible for public safety concerning Icelandic citizens abroad
- Health authorities – Response teams
- The National Commissioner of Police – Response teams
- Icelandic International Search and Rescue Team – ICE SAR – (agreement with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs)



Treaty of Cooperation between Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden (Helsinki Treaty)

- Art. 34. Public Officials in the Foreign Services of any of the High Contracting Parties who are serving outside the Nordic countries shall, to the extent that it is compatible with their duties and when no objection is lodged by the country in which they are serving, also be of assistance to citizens of the other Nordic countries, should the latter not be represented in the territory concerned.

Signed March 23, 1962



The Bornholm Agreement

- Decision for more extensive cooperation in crisis situations made at the Nordic Foreign Ministers meeting in Bornholm on August 26, 2005
- Coordination between capitals
 - ✓ Technical level of crisis cooperation raised – phone meetings
- Cooperation at Embassy level
 - ✓ Joint evacuation plans and exercises
 - ✓ Joint operational center
 - ✓ Agreement as to which embassy provides assistance to Nordic citizens without embassy
 - ✓ Transportation arranged cooperatively
 - ✓ Exchange of information
 - ✓ Development of joint warning systems

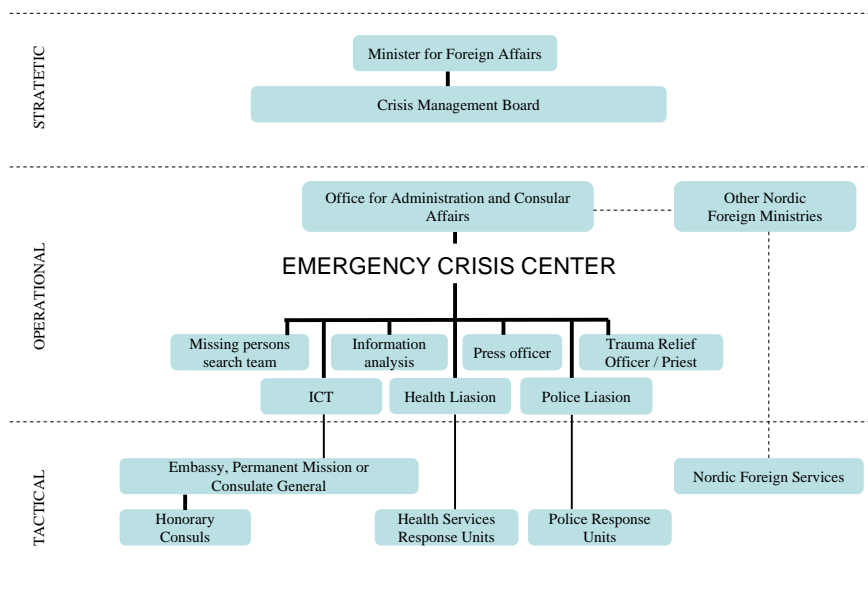


Consular Services: Icelandic Citizens in need for assistance

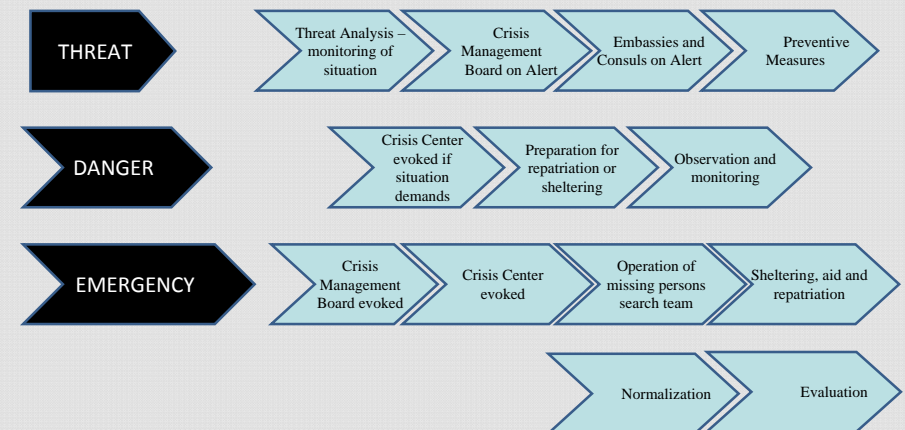
- Emergency hotline 24/7/365
- Medical incidents and hospitalisation overseas
- Death overseas
- Victims of crime overseas
- Assistance to Icelandic Citizens imprisoned overseas – criminal cases
- Assistance in custody cases og other civil cases
- Icelandic citizens missing overseas
- Individual repatriation - sick or trackless individuals
- Case by case assistance - when deemed necessary



Organisation chart for Crisis handling



Stages of Emergency





9/11 New York

- 80 Icelandic Citizens “missing”
- Crisis Center at the MFA in Reykjavik
- Call center and database generated
- Consul General in New York and Embassy in Washington



Tsunami in the Indian Ocean - 2004

- 200+ Icelandic Citizens “missing”
- Honorary Consuls crucial
- Icelandic authorities assisted the Swedish Foreign Service with the medical assistance and repatriation of Swedish Citizens



London 7/7 2005

- 190 Icelandic Citizens in the area
- Arduous work for the Embassy in London



The Invasion in Lebanon in 2006

- 12 Icelandic Citizens in the Area
- Citizens in danger in an area of conflict and civil disturbance
- Crisiswatch in the MFA in Reykjavik
- Close cooperation with the Nordic Countries
- The Icelandic Foreign Service granted assistance to the Danish and Finnish Foreign Services in the repatriation of their citizens





Refugees in the Mediterranean in 2007

- Icelandic captain, Icelandic company and a ship registered in Iceland
- Icelandic entities responsible for the safety of foreign citizens in dire danger
- Close cooperation with the UNHCR



Questions?