

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE FOREIGN RESCUE MISSIONS TO GREECE (7.9. 1999).¹

Instructions: Frequently, the civil defense forces of a country are not sufficient to handle a major disaster, like an earthquake, especially during the first stages of the emergency period when the time element is crucial for the saving of human lives. The consequence of this is for the disaster-affected country to accept the emergency aid from abroad. One such occasion was the earthquake of 7 September 1999 which struck the Athens area and when Greece accepted the international assistance of rescue missions from Switzerland, Germany, Turkey, Cyprus, France, Russia, Hungary and Israel.

Having as an aim the maximization of the utilization of foreign rescue mission assistance in comparable situations, either by Greece or other beneficiary countries, the Emergencies Research Center, a private, non-profitable, scientific organization, is conducting a research project on behalf of the Earthquake Planning and Protection Organization which is the funding agency. The project design provides for interviews and data collection from representatives of affected municipalities, domestic emergencies services, journalists, scientists **and foreign rescue missions**.

The leaders (coordinators, directors, chiefs, etc.) of the above missions are called upon to complete a questionnaire (see below), in English (if possible), with frankness and objectivity, avoiding the use of stereotypic diplomatic responses, and to return it to the Emergencies Research Center either electronically (erc@otenet.gr), by post (Varvogli 7, Athens 113 61), or by FAX (003010-8256268). In case there has been a change in the leadership of the mission which was sent to Greece (e.g. transfer, retirement etc.), we call upon the current director of the rescue services to complete the questionnaire in collaboration with the original leaders (coordinators or deputy coordinators) of the Mission to Greece.

We would like to underline that the responses to the questionnaire will be anonymous and will be used only for the drawing of general conclusions regarding civil protection and disaster management and will not be identified with the particular international rescue missions.

1. Country of origin of rescue team_____
2. Name of the rescue team (full name and acronym)_____

3. Year the rescue team was established_____
4. Legal status of the rescue team (state, private, other, what?)_____

¹ Μετάφραση από τα ελληνικά.

5. Total resources available to the rescue team **at home** (human, dogs, airplanes , helicopters, vehicles, equipment etc.)

General Category of Resources	Specific categories, types, models (a, b, c, etc.)	.Number of each specific category/type/model etc.
Human resources		
Rescue dogs		
Airplanes		
Helicopters		
Vehicles (trucks, cars, etc.)		
Vehicles (motorcycles)		
Life detection equipment		
Special cutter tools for heavy loads		
Special tools for lifting heavy loads		
Personal protection equipment		
Specialized technical-support equipment for approaching entrapped victims		
Medical support for immediate care of survivors		
Other, what?		

6. Please specify the resource-composition of the **rescue mission** that was sent to Greece in order to support the rescue efforts of the Greek rescue teams following the Sept. 7, 1999 earthquake in Athens.

General Category of Resources	Specific categories, types, models (a, b, c, etc.)	.Number of each specific category/type/model etc.
Human resources		
Rescue dogs		
Airplanes		
Helicopters		
Vehicles (trucks, cars, etc.)		
Vehicles (motorcycles)		
Life detection equipment		
Special cutter tools for heavy loads		
Special tools for lifting heavy loads		
Personal protection equipment		
Specialized technical-support equipment for approaching entrapped victims		
Medical support for immediate care of survivors		
Other, what?		

7. What are some of your general observations and conclusions regarding the utility, adaptability and efficiency of the above resources for the specific post-earthquake situation?_____

8. Can you please tell us what is the proportion of field experienced/non-field experienced personnel in your foreign missions and the reasoning for such a proportion?

Proportion with field experience_____

Reasoning for the above proportion _____

9. In the case of the specific Athens earthquake (7.9.1999), was there a coordination of your rescue mission efforts (either before or after the mission) with the competent authorities of the United Nations or the European Union?

Yes _____ NO _____

10. Do you believe that such coordination is necessary? Yes _____ No _____

Please specify the reasons for your response _____

11. Please mark with X the sites where your rescue team saw action following the 7.9.1999 Athens earthquake (multiple response is possible):*

- _____ Ricomex factory
- _____ Building on 111-113 Souliou Avenue (Menidi/Acharnes)
- _____ BIOKYT Company (100 Dekelias Avenue, Menidi/Acharnes)
- _____ FIALOPLAST Company (Menidi/Acharnes)
- _____ Fourli factory (Lower or Kato Kifisia)
- _____ Nursery School (Menidi/Acharnes)
- _____ Faran factory (Lower or Kato Kifisia)(
- _____ Building in Metamorphosis (Psichari & Chrysolora Avenues)
- _____ Building in Nea Philadelphieia (Pindou & G. Papandreou Avenues)
- _____ Building in Menidi (Alexander the Great Avenue)
- _____ Other front (Please specify)

*If you do not recall the specific EQ sites or you have not kept records as to where your rescue team saw action, please specify the **number** of sites by general category:

Factories _____

Buildings _____

Other (what?) _____

12. Please indicate the days and hours during which your rescue team (s) worked by placing an X in the corresponding squares. If all the members of the rescue team arrived together, worked in a single site and returned home together, please complete only Schedule A. If the members arrived and left at different times and worked at different sites and in various sub-teams, you can complete more than one work schedule.

A. Work Schedule for whole rescue team (or Rescue Team A)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Tue																								
Wed																								
Thu																								
Fri																								
Sat																								
Sun																								
Mon																								
Tue																								

B. Work Schedule for Rescue Team B

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Tue																								
Wed																								
Thu																								
Fri																								
Sat																								
Sun																								
Mon																								
Tue																								

C. Work schedule for Rescue Team C

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Tue																								
Wed																								
Thu																								
Fri																								
Sat																								
Sun																								
Mon																								
Tue																								

13. Please specify the number of operations in which your rescue team participated either as autonomous teams or in cooperation with other rescue teams at the various sites following the 7.9.1999 EQ. _____

14. What was the outcome (number of people pulled out of the ruins) of all the rescue operations in which your team participated either autonomously or in cooperation with others?

	Number of alive people pulled out of the ruins	Number of dead people pulled out of the ruins
Working autonomously		
Working with other rescue teams		
Total number		

15. How would you assess the level of cooperation between your rescue team and the Greek rescue teams?

_____ Very unsatisfactory	_____ Quite unsatisfactory	_____ Average	_____ Quite satisfactory	_____ Very Satisfactory
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If not satisfactory (i.e. it was average or below average), please specify the reasons (gaps, problems etc.) and suggest ways that these problems can be overcome_____

16. How would you assess the level of cooperation between your rescue team and the other foreign rescue missions?

_____ Very unsatisfactory	_____ Quite unsatisfactory	_____ Average	_____ Quite satisfactory	_____ Very satisfactory
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If not satisfactory (i.e. it was average or below average), please specify the reasons (gaps, problems etc.) and suggest ways that these problems can be overcome_____

17. In what degree do you believe that the resources, capabilities and know-how of your rescue team were utilized by the Greek Authorities during the rescue operations;

_____ To a maximum degree	_____ To a great degree	_____ To an average degree	_____ To a little degree	_____ To a minimum degree
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If not to a maximum or great degree, please specify the reasons (gaps, problems etc.) and suggest ways that these problems can be overcome_____

18. Were you satisfied with the level of coordination between the Greek and the foreign rescue teams during the 7.9.1999 post-earthquake emergency period?

_____ Very much	_____ Enough	_____ So, so	_____ A little	_____ Not at all
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If you were not satisfied with the level of coordination, please specify the reasons (gaps, problems etc.) and suggest ways that these problems can be overcome_____

19. Do you have anything else to suggest that would contribute to a more effective utilization of the foreign rescue missions by the Greek Authorities during the post-earthquake emergency period? If yes, what?

20. How do you think the problems of communication (language) between the domestic and foreign rescue teams can be resolved?

21. Have you participated as a Team in past rescue missions to Greece following earthquakes?

Yes_____ No_____ If No \longrightarrow Question 23

22, If yes, please check the earthquakes during which your rescue team participated?
(multiple response possible)

- _____Thessaloniki (June 1978)
- _____Alcyonides (February 1981)
- _____Kalamata (September 1986)
- _____Pyrgos (March 1993)
- _____Grevena/Kozani (May 1995)
- _____Aigio (June 1995)

23. During the last decade, has your country sent rescue missions to other countries abroad besides Greece?

Yes_____ No_____ If No \longrightarrow Question 25

24. If yes, please specify the type of disaster, the epicenter (city), the country and the year of the disaster?

[illegible]

25. Please check which of the following holds for the training of the members of your country's rescue team?

___All the members are trained for response-readiness in a variety of disaster situations (e.g. earthquakes, floods, forest-fires, industrial accidents, terrorist attacks etc.)

___Training is specific and the members are trained for response readiness in specific disaster situations (this is to say that there are special teams for earthquakes, floods, forest fires, industrial accidents, terrorist attacks etc.)

___Other (specify)_____

What are the reasons for your choice of training?_____

26. What are the formal educational qualifications for service /working in the Rescue Teams of your country?

27. What is the content of the basic curriculum program for the members of your Rescue Team?

28. Does the program of study provide for special basic or in-service training of prospective members of rescue teams in "disaster medicine", "psycho-social aspects of disasters etc.? If YES, please specify the duration (in hours) of this special training.

Types of special basic or in-service training	YES	NO	If YES, what is the duration (in hours_
Disaster medicine			
Psycho-social aspects...			
Other types (specify).....			

All the rescue teams are urged to send us whatever materials relating to their 7.9.1999 rescue mission to Greece (e.g. assessment reports etc.) or whatever other materials relating to the organization and the activities of the rescue team in their countries or abroad.

Thank you for your cooperation

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Head of Research Project