

NATIONAL CIVIL PROTECTION STRATEGY



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NATIONAL CIVIL PROTECTION STRATEGY

2019

The National Civil Protection Strategy 2019 has been approved by Spain's National Security Council.

The elaboration process has been led by the Directorate-General of Civil Protection. With which they have collaborated Ministries, University centers and Organisms involved in the matter.

FOREWORD BY THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR

Over the past few decades, those public policies which we know today as civil protection policies have undergone highly significant changes. Since the initial actions undertaken in the framework of civil defence—conceived to protect the population in the event of hostilities—civil protection has evolved to occupy, today, pride of place among public security policies, with a view to protecting people and their property in the face of all kinds of emergencies and disasters, whether resulting from natural causes or human action.

This defining characteristic of civil protection as a public policy undergoing constant adaptation to a changing context calls for strategic instruments that take into consideration emerging threats and challenges. At present, the principal challenges include climate change and its consequences as a factor heightening other risks; the national demographic situation and its evolution; zoning and land use; and the need to address situations of particular vulnerability for social or personal reasons, in the face of emergencies and disasters.

In a global world presenting challenges that pay no heed to borders, civil protection policies must also be a clear expression of international solidarity, through the support lent to other countries in emergency prevention, preparedness, and response. Spain's European, Mediterranean, and Atlantic identity is reflected in this international dimension of our civil protection. Our country is a leading member of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, and cooperates with third countries from both a bilateral and multilateral perspective. Of particular note is our collaboration with Ibero-America through the Ibero-American Association of Governmental Bodies for Civil Protection and Civil Defence, a collaboration which draws upon our traditional close relationship with these countries.

The approval of the National Civil Protection Strategy presented herein means that, for the first time, Spain has a strategic framework for addressing these and other challenges, aligning and integrating all the actions of the General State Administration in the sphere of Civil Protection. Moreover, this Strategy implements an aspect of Act 17/2015, of 9 July, on the National Civil Protection System, which provides for the general coordination of political action in this sphere through the definition and monitoring of integrating strategies. Furthermore, among other challenges and threats, the National Security Strategy, approved by Royal Decree 1007/2018, of 1 December, focuses on protection in the face of emergencies and disasters. This instrument, approved by the National Security Council, also constitutes an important new element in the strategic development of National Security policies.

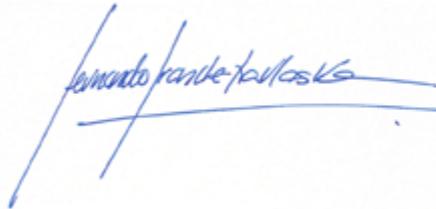
In Spain, the National Civil Protection System functions correctly because we believe that civil protection is a State matter in which all of us—both public administrations under whose purview it falls, and civil society as a whole—collaborate and cooperate with one another to address any risks that may arise and to deal with their consequences. Therefore, it should

FOREWORD BY THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR

be stressed that this strategic framework has been defined with the consensus of all the public administrations represented on the National Council for Civil Protection. Moreover, this document has been made public with the clear intention of promoting transparent and open public management, thus facilitating the necessary participation of all our citizens in collective efforts to address emergencies and disasters.

The National Civil Protection Strategy takes into account cross-cutting factors affecting all kinds of risks and their management, as well as other factors that are specific to each one. In addition, it defines lines of action responding to new challenges, which encompass the entire emergency management cycle: prevention, planning, response, and recovery. Furthermore, the Strategy provides both for the creation of a body to monitor and assess it, and the terms or circumstances for its review.

In conclusion, this first National Civil Protection Strategy constitutes an innovative element in the sphere of public security policy, and incorporates an approach based on what is known as human security. This approach considers individuals to be the key reference points of the Strategy's action, broadening the spectrum of threats and risks to human security, and enabling us to tackle new scenarios and advance towards creating true social resilience.



Fernando Grande-Marlaska Gómez

Interior Minister



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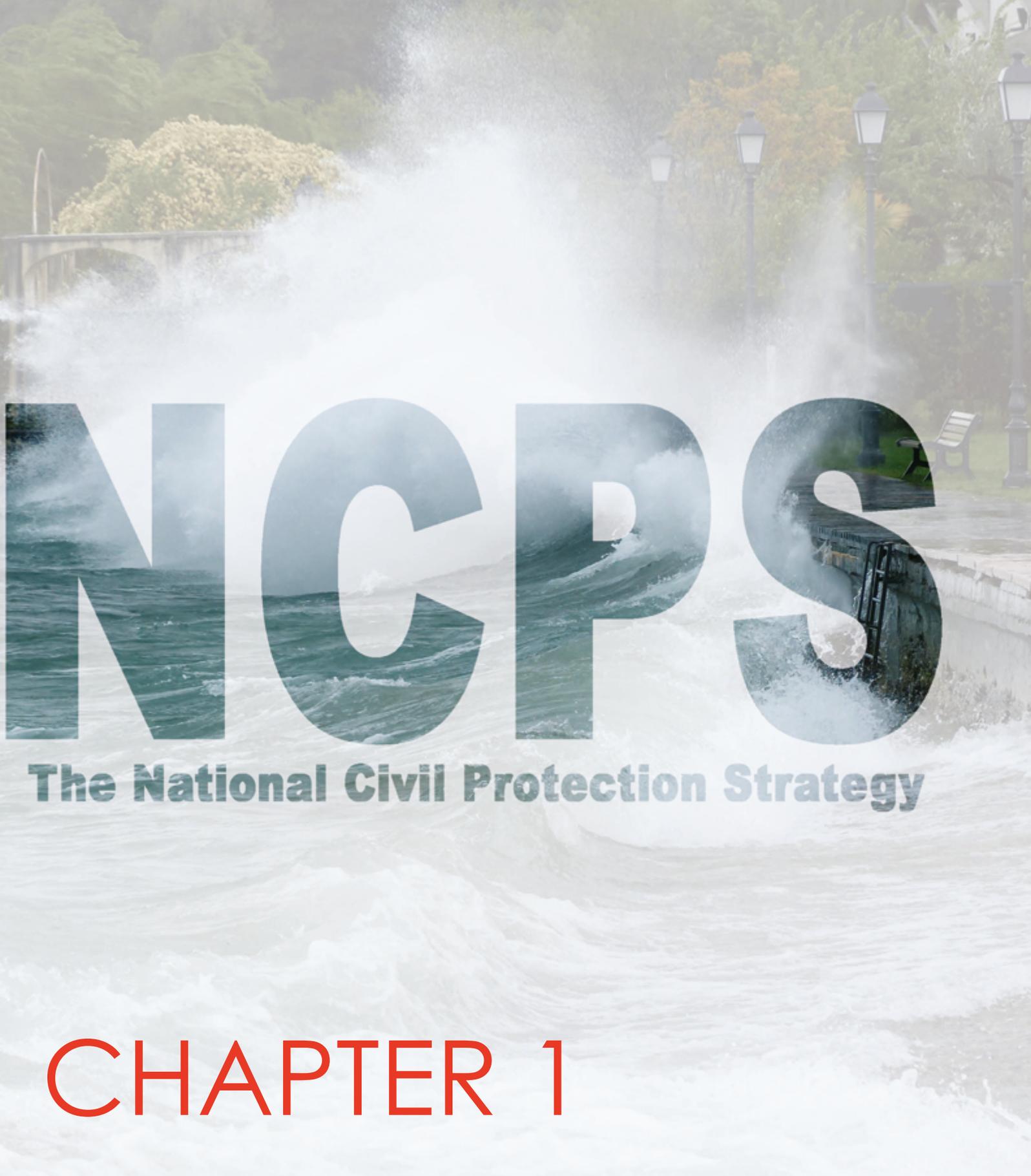
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NCPRS

The National Civil Protection Strategy

CHAPTER 1

AN OVERVIEW OF CIVIL PROTECTION

Introduction

In a changing and interdependent global world, the causes and consequences of various types of natural or technological threats directly affecting people and their property cross borders. This reality represents a challenge which public Civil Protection strategies and policies may not ignore.

According to the scientific evidence, the historic evolution of the earth has seen climatic alterations of differing origins and nature that have transformed seas into deserts or provoked changes to ecosystems, leading to the extinction of some animal and plant species, among other effects. However, in this new age of industrial development, climate change has been defined by the direct impact of human activity, causing that process to alter.

On the other hand, we face a new period in which the technological advances of the last century have facilitated global communication among diverse and different societies in an increasingly connected and interdependent world. In this context, integrated emergency management represents a global challenge involving the entire international community. The United Nations' International Strategy for Disaster Reduction provides a tool for encounter and consensus by which to deal with a situation which, to a greater or lesser extent, concerns all.

Despite the global nature of the challenge, States are assigned primary and principal responsibility for activity intended to limit the risk of disasters, and it is precisely at the national level, in the framework of the International Strategy redefined at Sendai in 2015 (the Sendai Framework), where the policies needed to confront the threats affecting us must be defined and implemented.

That State responsibility for citizens' security goes hand-in-hand with a need to shift toward a conception that extends beyond security understood in traditional terms, a focus linked to so-called "human security" which treats individuals as central references in its action and which is also an extension in respect of the threats or risks affecting it.

To move forward in the direction of public action based on that human security, focus must be placed upon Civil Protection policies and services and the importance of considering the diversity of the society on which its action is projected. Therefore, confronting the new scenarios and furthering the creation of true social resilience demands a strategic focus that, among the factors increasing the risk, includes those social, economic or personal conditions which may make people particularly vulnerable to disasters and emergencies.

Spain's overall risk level is moderate. Forest fires, flooding and adverse weather phenomena do periodically cause major damage which may affect the security of persons and their property, furthermore contributing to environmental deterioration. Lesser risks include those of seismic, volcanic and technological origin, although any effects may be considerable because these events are of limited probability but of high impact in terms of their consequences.

Spain has an adequate Civil Protection system with which to respond effectively and in a coordinated manner to emergencies arising from such risks, which has evolved until given form with the passage of Act No. 17/2015 of 9 July, the National System of Civil Protection Act, in a system which orders public action and

policy around the various processes in the cycle of the emergencies: anticipation, prevention, planning, immediate response and recovery. The process for the general coordination of the political action is incorporated into this cycle as illustrated in Figure I below.

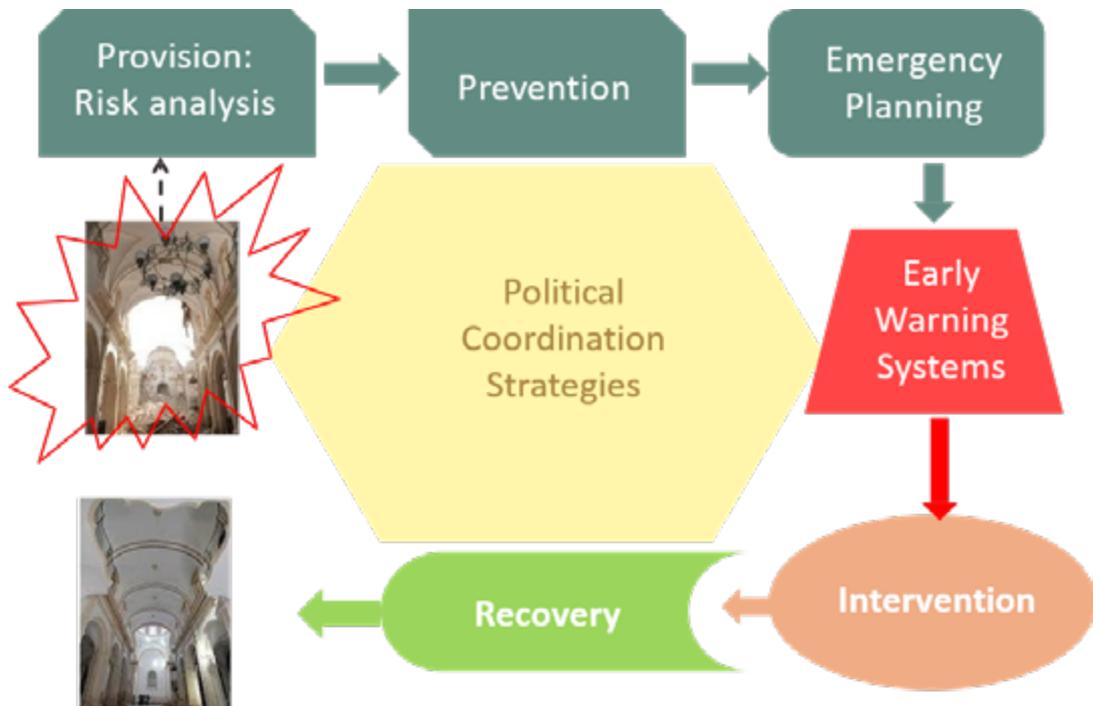


Figure I. The emergency management cycle

Risk management involves a set of actions of a complex nature requiring the coordination of all the Public Administrations. In Spain, authority in this area is spread through three levels – the General State Administration, the Autonomous Communities and the Local Administration – which act according to principles of solidarity, complementarity and subsidiarity.

The complex organisation of the National Civil Protection System in the field of risk management demands an agreed national strategy such as already exists in other areas of public activity. Thus Article 4 of the Act referred to, Act No. 17/2015, provides for the preparation of two different strategies:

- A National Civil Protection Strategy integrating and aligning all the General State Administration's actions in the field of Civil Protection, which must be endorsed by the National Security Council on the recommendation of the Minister of the Interior.
- A National Civil Protection System Strategy which must provide the basis for action by the various regional administrations, within the jurisdiction of each. The basic lines of this System Strategy will be approved by the National Civil Protection Council, the senior body for of inter-administrative coordination in this field.

This document, as National Civil Protection Strategy, analyses the main threats and risks of natural, human and technological origin which may lead to emergencies and/or disasters in this country, and the strategic lines of action to integrate, prioritise and coordinate all efforts, so as to optimise the resources available for handling them.

An overview of Civil Protection

This National Civil Protection Strategy is based on an integrated vision of Civil Protection, understood as a public service protecting persons and property, guaranteeing an adequate response to the various types of emergencies and disasters originating in natural causes or resulting from human action, whether accidental or intentional.

As a tool for public safety, Civil Protection has been developed effectively in recent years and has taken shape as an authentic public space which legitimises the State's action, undoubtedly gradually reducing Spanish society's vulnerability to natural and technological emergencies and disasters.

Nevertheless, confirmation of a significant worldwide increase in the number and seriousness of emergencies and disasters over recent decades (with the identification of especially vulnerable geographical zones as shown in Figure 2) and forecasts that these will in the future have longer-lasting effects and a global reach as a consequence of climate change, makes it necessary to be prepared to deal with them and to adopt an increasingly integrated approach to their management.

Civil Protection in Spain has in the most recent decades seen major and on-going development, not without difficulties of coordination in a system involving multiple players, open and flexible, giving it its acknowledged complexity.

Throughout this time, new State means and resources have been created, notable among them the Military Emergencies Unit (UME). Likewise, the State Law Enforcement Agencies have increased and reinforced their capabilities and resources in the field, so that the State is able to respond better to such a situation. Similarly, the Autonomous Communities and Local Bodies have secured more and better resources within their jurisdictions, thereby enhancing the capacity to handle emergencies.



As a tool for public safety, Civil Protection has been developed effectively has taken shape as an authentic public space which legitimises the State's action.



Civil Protection in Spain has in the most recent decades seen major and on-going development constant with multiple players, open and flexible.

This holistic approach to Civil Protection at the national level involves the need to permanently strengthen a National Civil Protection System that integrates input from all the administrations, private entities and the public. At the same time, it is necessary to consider an international dimension that is a reflection of Spanish society's proven vocation of solidarity.

This holistic approach to Civil Protection at the national level involves the need to permanently strengthen a National Civil Protection System.

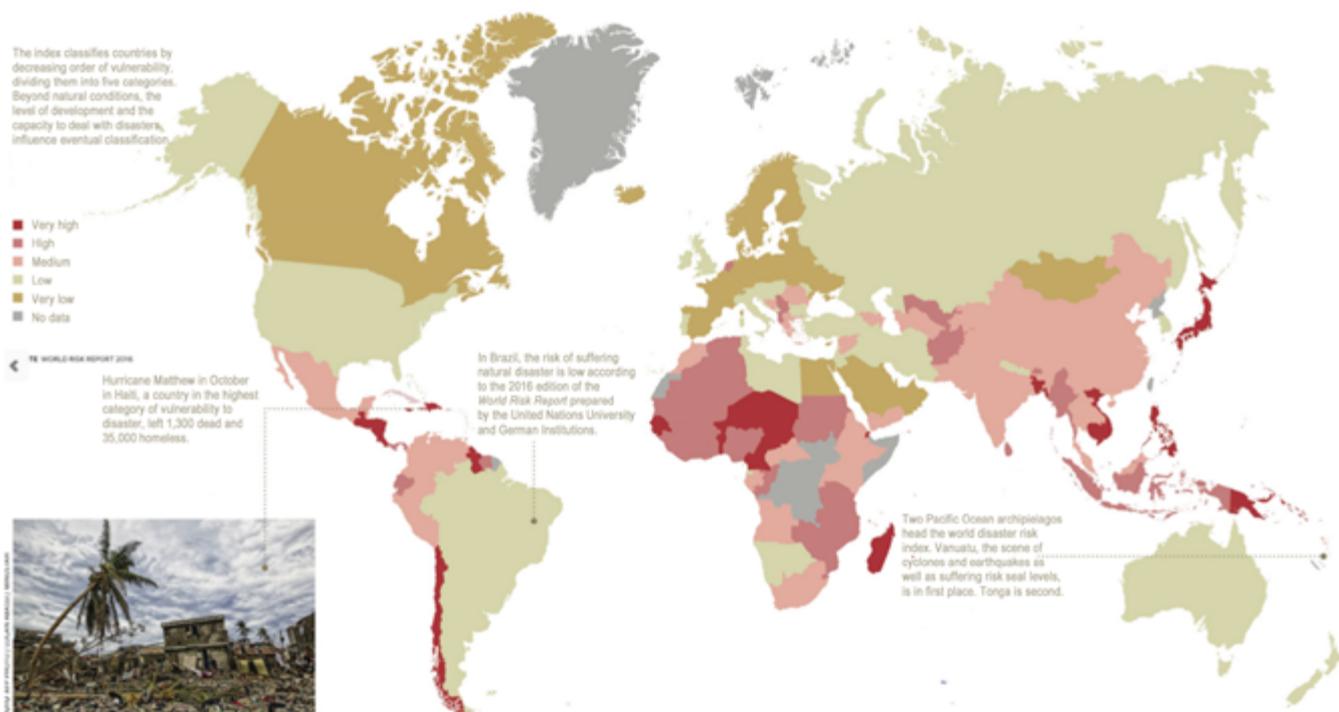


Figure 2. Geographical distribution of vulnerability to emergencies (World Risk Report, 2017 UNU)

Civil Protection as an essential element of the National Security System

The national dimension of Civil Protection is provided for in the framework of the National Security Strategy approved by the National Security Council in 2017.

As illustrated in Figure 3 below, this includes emergencies and disasters as one of the modern world's main challenges, their impact not just affecting people's lives and health, but also property, the environment and economic development.



Figure 3. Threats and challenges for national security (2017 National Security Strategy)

Consequently, the National Security Strategy's objectives includes consolidating the National Civil Protection System as a tool for the integration of all national emergency and disaster management capabilities (whose main components and structure appear in Figure 4), and to ensure that they are integrated into the National Security System as configured in Act No. 36/2015 of 28 September:

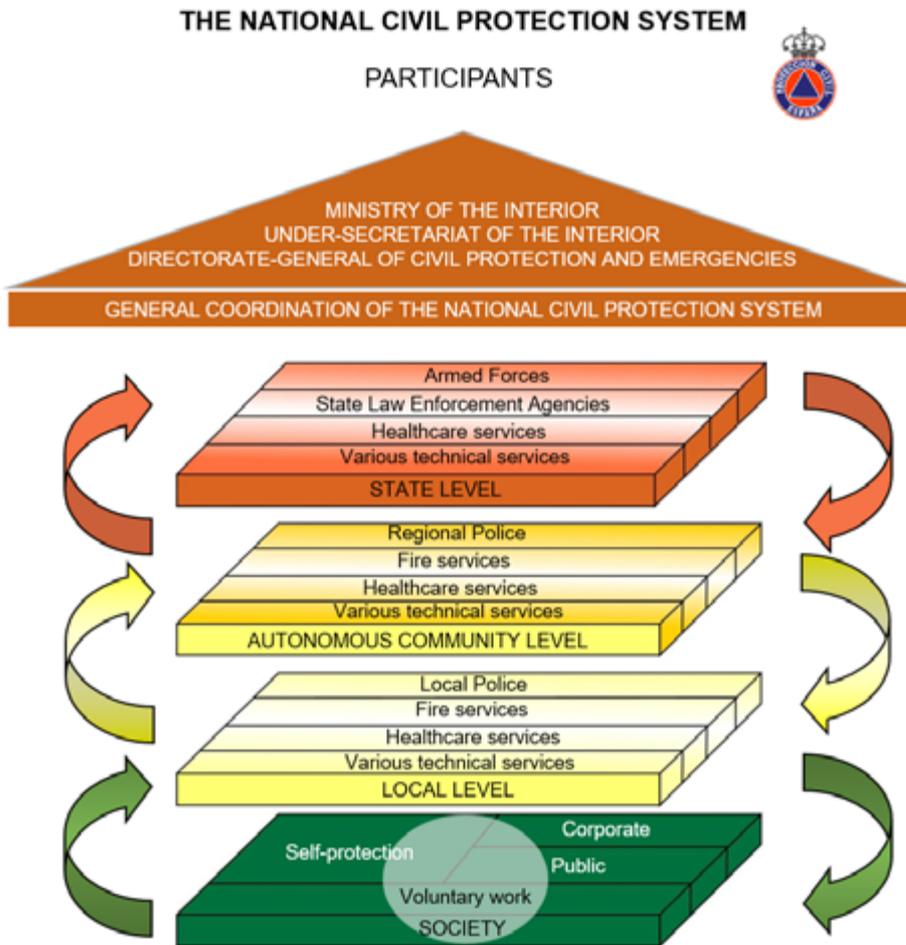


Figure 4. The Structuring of the National Civil Protection System's capabilities

In this integrating context Spain must, as part of National Security culture, promote public awareness of the main threats and risks which might lead to situations of a catastrophic nature. This makes it essential to reinforce self-protection and the resilience of Spanish society. In short, effective Civil Protection needs its citizens, as the target of public action aimed at confronting such situations, to be socially aware.

Civil Protection and the international agenda

Spain's identity is clearly European, Mediterranean and Atlantic, giving its Civil Protection an international dimension, projecting outward the solidarity of Spanish society as a whole when it comes to cooperating to foresee, relieve and alleviate the effects of disasters affecting other countries.

As evidence of this international vocation, Spain is a noted member of the European Union's Civil Protection Mechanism regulated in European Parliament and Council Decision No. 1313/2013/EU (whose general lines of action are shown in Figure 5 below) which is the tool promoting solidarity, supporting, complementing and facilitating coordination between Member States, with the aim of enhancing the systems for prevention, preparation and response to natural disasters or those of human origin.



*Spain is a noted member
of the European Union's
Civil Protection.*

The Mechanism is currently being reviewed to enhance its effectiveness in emergency prevention and response. With reference to the most significant lines of the new structure, mention may be made of the endowment of a new reserve of capabilities managed directly by the European Union (rescUE), and the rationalisation and simplification of administrative procedures to reduce the time taken to mobilise resources for Europe's emergency response capacity. Spain contributes significantly to this capacity with National Civil Protection System modules and teams.

Moreover, Spain continues to collaborate through bilateral agreements with the European countries around us (France and Portugal) and those of the southern

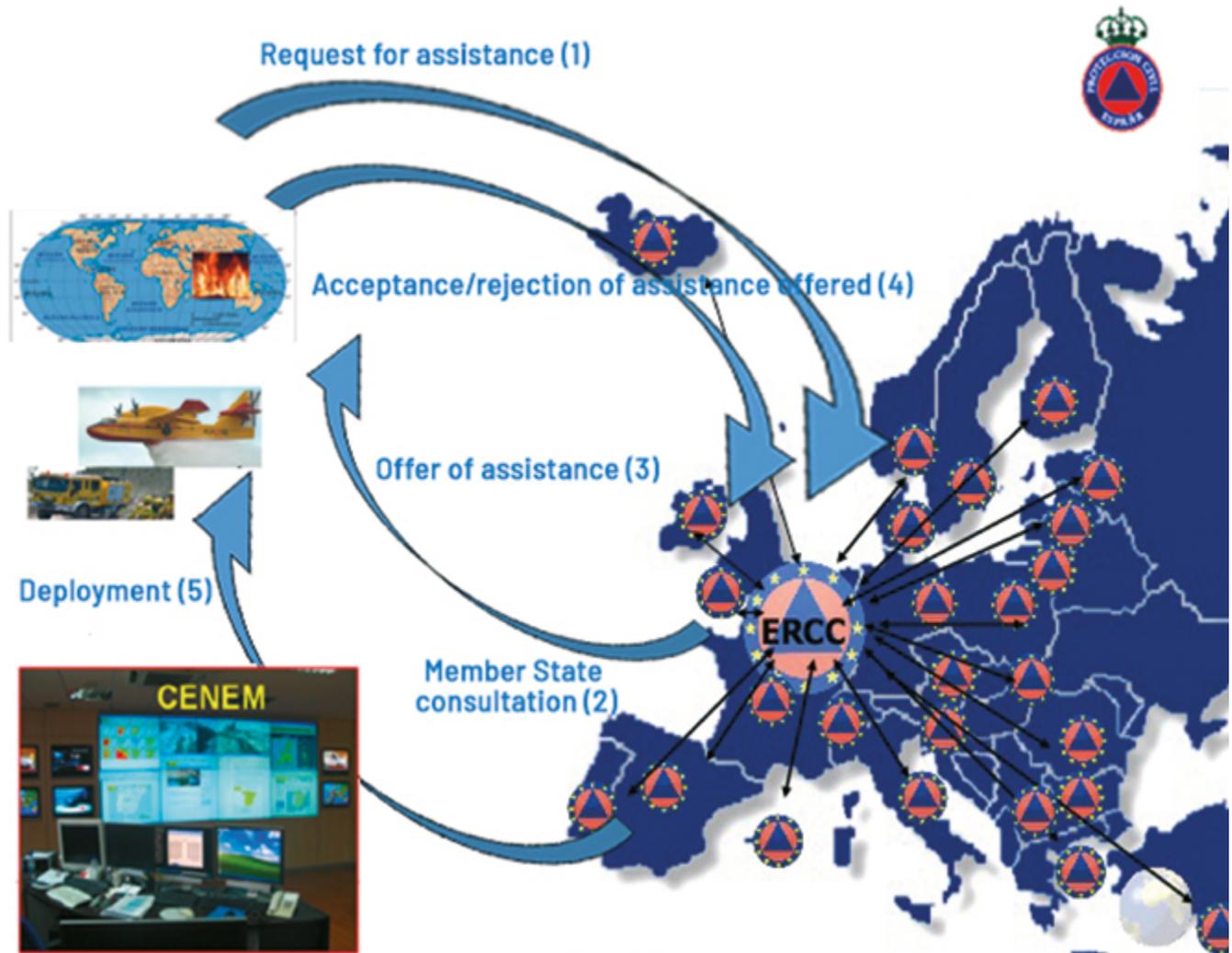
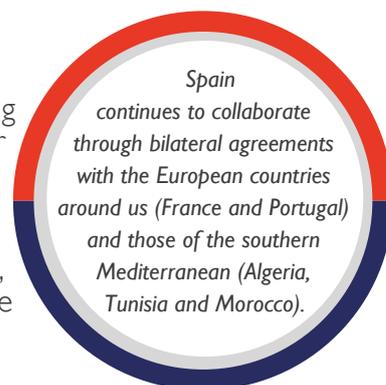


Figure 5. Sequence for the activation of the European Civil Protection Mechanism

Mediterranean (Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco), reinforcing cooperation and mutual assistance in confronting our shared threats and risks.

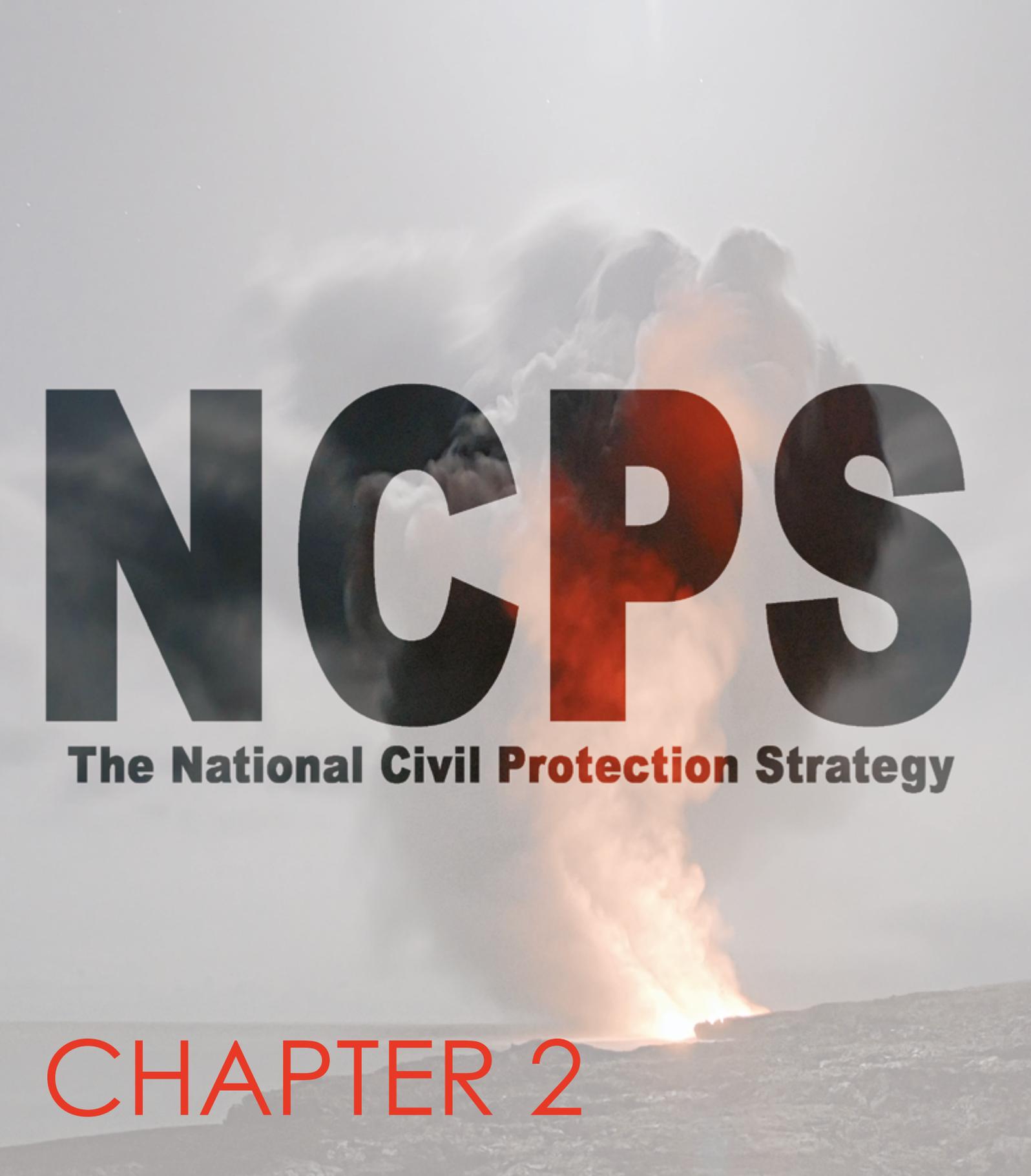
At United Nations level, Spain has adopted the abovementioned Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, which seeks to substantially reduce the risk of disasters and the losses they cause, as primary international commitment.



Finally, and in keeping with close relations with Ibero-American countries, Spain holds the permanent Secretariat of the Ibero-American Association of Government Bodies for Civil Defence and Protection created in Santiago, Chile, in July 1996 to promote scientific and technical cooperation in disaster management, and increased and enhanced exchange of information and experiences.

In summary, the complexity and transversality in managing emergencies and disasters, which are increasingly frequent, has led to the adoption of an approach based on cooperation between the agents with jurisdiction not just at the national but also at the international level, which has had a major impact in the implementation of public Civil Protection policy. This country's accumulated experience here in recent decades makes it possible to speak of a situation where Spanish Civil Protection is acknowledged and of specific weight on the international scene





NCPs

The National Civil Protection Strategy

CHAPTER 2

THE NATIONAL CIVIL PROTECTION SYSTEM, AN ESSENTIAL COMPONENT OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY SYSTEM

The National Security System

The National Security System, as illustrated in Figure 6, was defined in Act No. 36/2015 of 28 September as a set of bodies, units, resources and procedures directed by the Prime Minister to guide State action to ensure the protection of the freedom, rights and well-being of citizens, to guarantee the defence of Spain and of its principles and its constitutional values, at the same time as contributing with our allies to the strengthening of international security against the transversal and complex threats modern societies must confront.

The System is organised around a main body and a standing operational unit. The first of these is the National Security Council, the Delegate Government Commission for National Security assisting the Prime Minister in directing this State policy. The latter

THE NATIONAL SECURITY SYSTEM

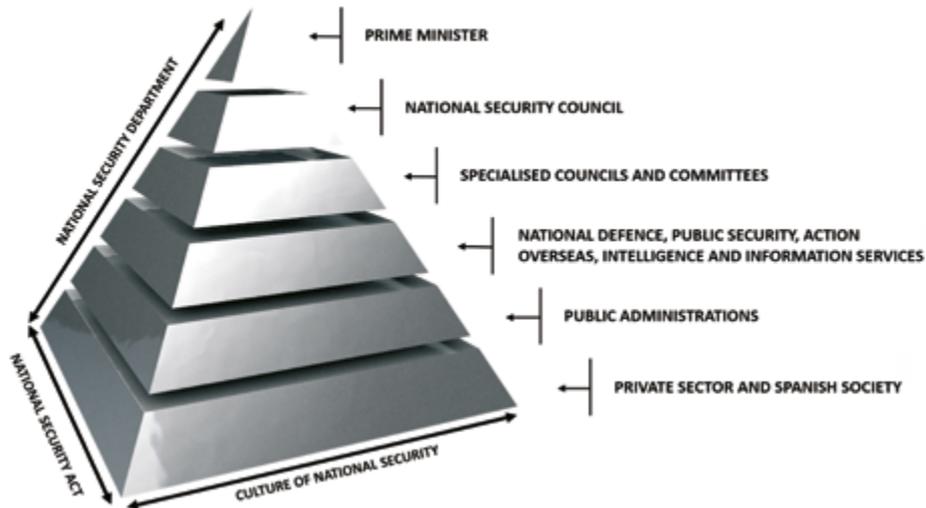


Figure 6. The National Security System

is the National Security Department which advises the Prime Minister on matters of National Security.

As shown below in Figure 7, the Prime Minister chairs this Council which, in addition to representatives from the Ministerial portfolios related to crisis management, comprises other state authorities such as the Secretary of State for Communication, regional authorities or even individuals or legal entities whose presence may be necessary given the nature of the business dealt with.

The National Security Council is able to create bodies to back it up in its functions in certain areas of National Security; these are given the name of Specialised Committees, or some other as determined. In addition, the Department of National Security (DSN) operates as the technical secretariat and standing operational unit of the National Security Council and the bodies supporting it.

THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

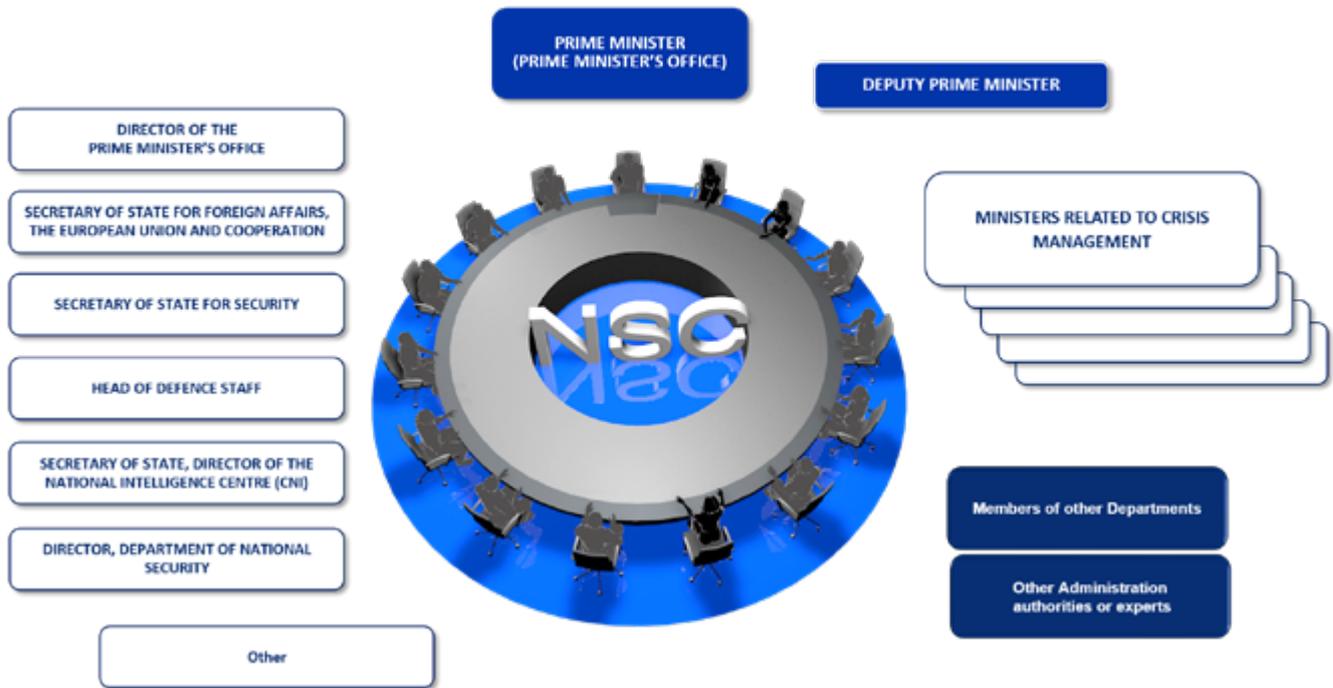


Figure 7. Composition and structure of the National Security Council

Crisis management refers to the usual set of actions intended to detect and assess specific National Security threats and risks, to facilitate decision-making and guarantee an optimal, coordinated State response.

To ensure the effectiveness of the response, the National Security Council enjoys the backing of the Situation Committee, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister or, exceptionally, as decided by the Prime Minister, by the functional authority designated by the Prime Minister. Particular attention is demanded of those which may lead to a Prime Ministerial declaration of a Situation of Interest for National Security.

The relation between the National Civil Protection System and the National Security System

The current 2017 National Security Strategy, the political-strategic framework of reference for National Security Policy, which describes the main threats and risks to National Security, considers protection from emergencies and disasters to be one of the main areas.

Moreover, as shown in Figure 8, it contemplates a series of factors that heighten the impact of emergencies and disasters on National Security, e.g. demographics, the upshot of increased urban population in environmentally hazardous areas; the vulnerability of economic and technological infrastructure, accentuating the speed and propagation of risks, generating cascade effects; the degradation of ecosystems, which reduces natural defences; and the increased scale and frequency of some adverse phenomena as a consequence of climate change.

The current 2017 National Security Strategy, considers protection from emergencies and disasters to be one of the main areas.

On the other hand, as lines of action for National Security in the area of emergencies and disasters, the 2017 National Security Strategy includes among other things the preparation of a National Civil Protection Strategy, the development in regulations of the National Civil Protection System Act, Act No. 17/2015 of 9 July, to further the

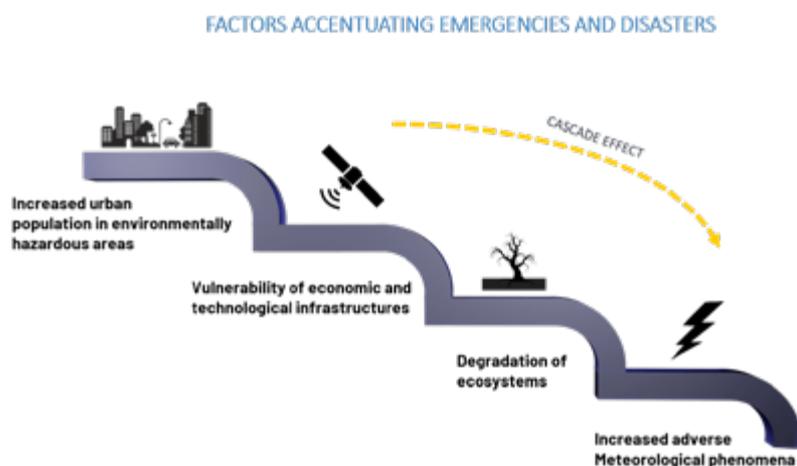
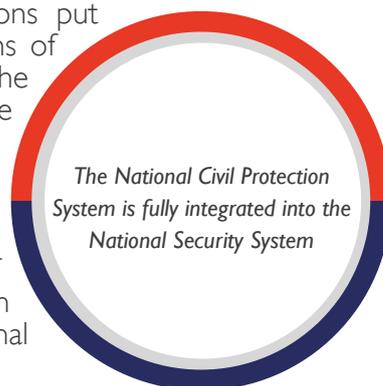


Figure 8. Factors accentuating the impact of emergencies and disasters

integration of the National Civil Protection System's capabilities through cooperation and coordination between all Public Administrations with the authority, along with international coordination and cooperation in the field.

Thus the National Civil Protection System is fully integrated into the National Security System, as shown in Figure 9. Accordingly, the regulations put in place in that Act are applied notwithstanding the terms of current National Security System provisions. Furthermore, the National Security Council has the authority to approve the National Civil Protection Strategy, on the recommendation of the Minister of the Interior.

Moreover, according to Act No. 17/2015, the Minister of the Interior is assigned the authority to handle emergencies of national interest, requiring the organisation and coordination of action and management of all national and international resources.



THE NATIONAL CIVIL PROTECTION SYSTEM, AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY SYSTEM

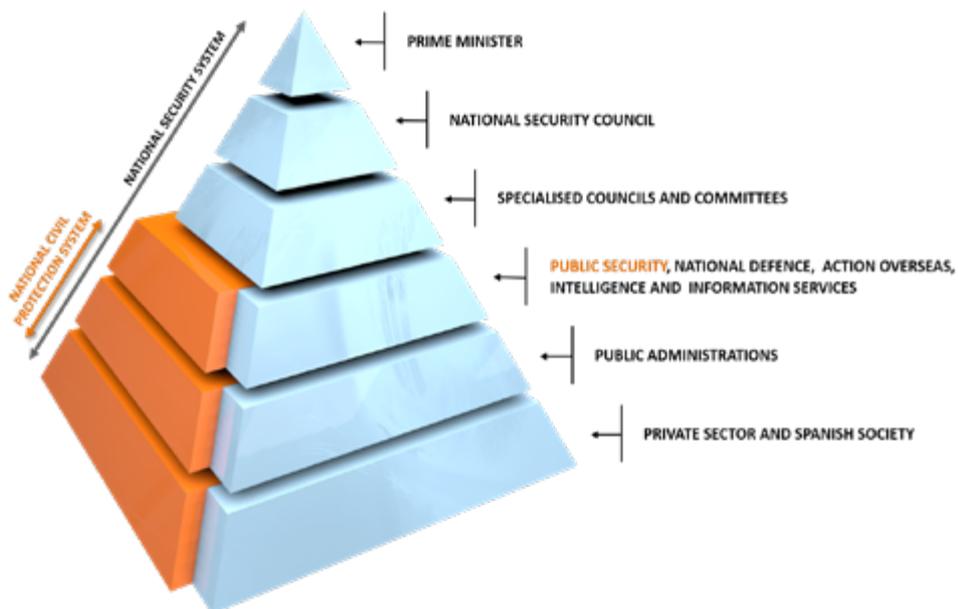
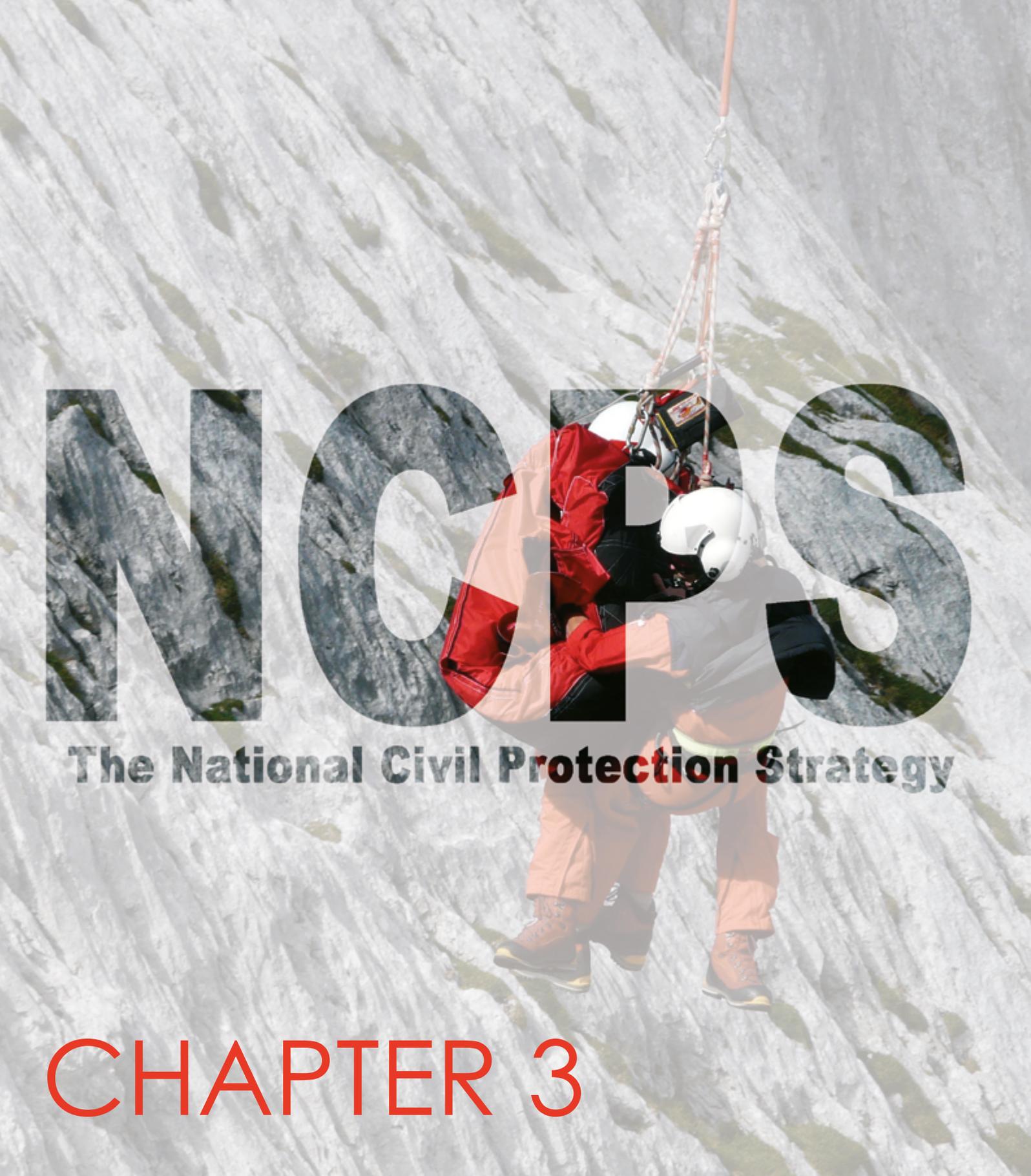


Figure 9. Integration of the National Civil Protection System into the National Security System

The National Security Department monitors that situation very closely. In addition, depending on the way the situation develops, and its seriousness, the National Security Council may propose to the Prime Minister that the National Security System be activated in full, along with a possible declaration of a Situation of Interest for National Security, without precluding the National Civil Protection System's own actions.

In conclusion, the integration of the National Civil Protection System into the National Security System allows the National Government to adopt an integrated focus in threat and risk management.



A person in a red jacket and orange pants is rappelling down a grey rock face. The person is wearing a white helmet and has a harness with ropes attached. The background is a textured rock surface with some green moss or lichen.

NCPSS

The National Civil Protection Strategy

CHAPTER 3

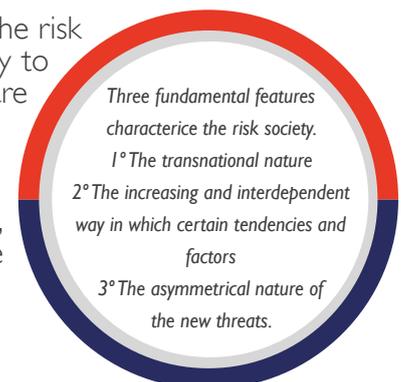
THREATS AND RISKS IN THE FIELD OF CIVIL PROTECTION

Introduction

In a global world like today's, traditional threats and risks whose consequences are familiar thanks to acquired experience coexist with the so-called emerging risks, which cause greater uncertainty when it comes to evaluating their seriousness and potential scope.

Three fundamental features today define what is known as the risk society. The first is its transnational nature, due fundamentally to the effect of globalisation, meaning that the consequences are not limited to a defined place or geographical space.

The second is the increasing and interdependent way in which certain tendencies and factors, such as demographics, socioeconomic and personal conditioning factors, climate



change and new directions in industrial developments influence the consequences of emergencies and disasters for the population affected.

The third feature noted is the asymmetrical nature of the new threats and their agents, which have emerged in parallel to the development of modern society.

Threats and risks are not just affected by conditioning factors of a global nature: specific local circumstances or characteristics related to geographical, historical, political, economic and social questions determine the way such conditioning factors act as accentuating elements.

Environmental deterioration and climate change are perhaps the twenty-first century's most significant challenges, which began to be dealt with from an international standpoint only from the nineteen seventies on. The solutions to these problems are not simple, because the deteriorating environment is to a large extent associated with a lifestyle based on consumption and growth. For its part, climate change, triggered by the burning of fossil fuels and deforestation, will include among other factors in Spain increased desertification, reduced water resources and loss of biodiversity.

Experience acquired in the prevention, management, recovery and monitoring of emergencies has defined the main tendencies of recent years, a period which has featured great meteorological variability and growing seasonal imbalances, making prediction difficult and translating into sharply contrasting episodes at any time. There have on the one hand been phases of intense meteorological and hydrological drought and extreme temperatures in zones where this is not habitual. On the other hand, torrential rains have fallen in summer and autumn, causing flooding and heavy snowfalls. Such episodes constitute the natural phenomenon causing most material damage in Spain and in Europe.

In contrast, the significance of forest fires in this country is associated with an eminently Mediterranean climate such as Spain's. The outcome of public policy in this field, alongside with a gradual increase of public awareness, including the rejection by public opinion of certain risky practices, has made it possible to reduce the number of fires and the area burned, although this does continue to be a high risk in Spain, which will tend to worsen in the future as a consequence of climate change.

While Spain is not a zone particularly exposed to the effects of seismic and volcanic activity, earthquakes are common in certain areas. While the likelihood that this may

occur with catastrophic consequences is low, when it does arise, it generates a high impact on the population affected, their properties and on infrastructures.

Finally, it may be emphasised that events associated with technological risks have, in recent years, remained at moderate levels.

In conclusion, trends in global threats, together with Spain's particular geographical location, mean that the consequences of such phenomena must be taken into consideration, given their possible effects in terms of National Security, as provided for in the Preamble to Act No. 17/2015, of 9 July, the National Civil Protection System Act.

Risks: Identification and analysis

The following are the most significant risks in the terms of this National Civil Protection Strategy, of those referred to in that Act No. 17/2015:

- Flooding.
- Forest fire.
- Earthquake and tsunami.
- Volcanic.
- Adverse meteorological phenomena.
- Accidents in installations or processes using or storing hazardous substances.
- Road and rail transport of hazardous goods.
- Nuclear and radiological.

To deal with those risks there are, as set out below in Figure 10, territorial and special plans at the State, Regional and Local levels depending on their jurisdictional and territorial reach. All such plans are approved by the Administration with the authority.

To deal with those risks there are territorial and special plans at the State, Regional and Local levels.

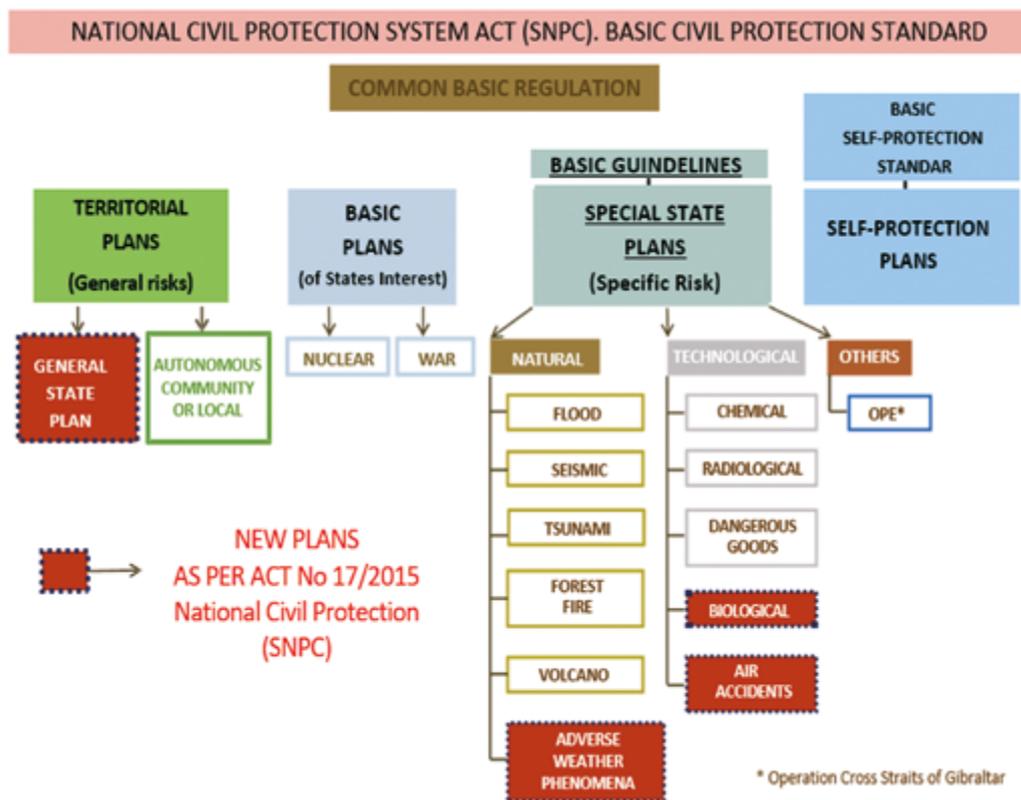


Figure 10.Types of Civil Protection Plans

Elements accentuating risk

- **Climate change:** The conclusions of the latest evaluation report of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel of Experts on Climate Change (IPCC) found that climate change will increase the frequency and intensity of extreme climate-related events such as heat waves and precipitations. In Mediterranean countries, heat wave and drought rates will rise, along with meteorological conditions that favour large forest fires.
- **Deficient territorial regulation and assignation of land use:** The limited and late inclusion of risks as a conditioning factor restricting the allocation of land use in territorial and urban regulating plans has increased social and economic vulnerability. Problematic situations have been identified, such as the occupation of river beds and of protective areas part of the public water supply, intense human pressure on coasts where a high percentage of the Spanish population is concentrated, infrastructures that impede natural processes, or the rain-proofing of land by intensive urban actions, among others.
- **Globalisation:** Increased and more widespread communications have led to a constant rise in international cultural, economic, social and political exchange, making for a more interconnected and dependent world. Some consequences of this phenomenon, including those arising from increased goods and passenger flows, explain why this is considered to be a factor that accentuates certain risks and threats.
- **Socioeconomic and demographic conditions:** Construction in dry water courses or riverbeds, problems in applying earthquake-proofing building standards, the accumulation of fuels in woodland, the trend toward increased recreational uses in hazardous areas (mountains, gullies, forests, etc.), deforestation, further abandonment of pasturing in woods, crops on inappropriate soils, the increasing urban-forest interface, people's perception of the risk, or a declining and ageing rural population are some of the socioeconomic and demographic conditioning factors that accentuate risk.

- **Geographical and climatic peculiarities:** Characteristic of Spain is its uneven terrain, climatic diversity, the existence of torrential riverbeds, extreme weather phenomena and climates (cold snaps, cyclogenesis, heat-waves, etc.), intense erosion and desertification, and areas of high seismic hazard.
- **Groups in especially vulnerable situations:** The presence of population groups in especially vulnerable situations (due to personal, social or financial factors) means this circumstance must be considered in assessing risk and defining the authorities' response to it. The gradual ageing of the Spanish population is a further element to be recalled, given its possible impact upon personal vulnerability in confronting some types of risks.

Description of risks

Flooding

Description

Spain's mean rainfall is not particularly high, but precipitation does on occasions reach very extreme values in a very few hours. Such extraordinary rain causes severe flows over the terrain which may give rise to highs, flooding or inundation, overflowing their usual courses, flooding land and affecting people and property.

The great variability between the ordinary and exceptional flows of some rivers, occasionally sudden, and unregulated occupation of the banks of the courses make the problem of flooding especially serious in Spain.

Sudden floods, caused by torrential rain of short duration, great intensity and highly localised, are quite frequent in Spain, costing lives, some 300 in the last 30 years, and substantial material damage which can be estimated at about 500 million euros a year.

On the other hand, storms lasting several days and affecting major basins cause another, slower type of flooding leading fundamentally to economic damage and, more infrequently, personal loss.

Although floods are, at source, an eminently physical and hydrological natural phenomenon, as they develop in areas of human activity, they become a problem related to land regulation, with major social and economic repercussions.

Accentuating factors

Intensive land occupation means populations become highly exposed. If the increased frequency and intensity of extreme precipitation caused by climate change is added to that, the main factors aggravating the risk of flooding in Spain are identified.

Regulatory and management tools

- In the European context, the Parliament approved Directive No. 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks, which was transferred into Spanish law in Royal Decree No. 903/2010 of 9 July on flood risk assessment and management.
- The basic guideline on emergencies involving flood risk (approved in a Resolution of the Council of Ministers on 9 December 1994 and published in the Official State Gazette on 14 February 1995) establishes the framework in which the special State and Regional Civil Protection Plans have been developed, expressly linking flood risk level to territorial planning and land use.
- The State Flood Plan approved in a Council of Ministers Resolution on 29 July 2011.

Priority actions

- To strengthen the link of civil protection planning in territorial regulation, land use and urban development.
- To promote use of the National System of Cartography of flood-prone zones, identifying the most vulnerable elements there for the purposes of civil protection.
- To strengthen the Basin Authorities' Hydrological Alert Systems, developing teams and tools to predict adverse events, particularly when likely to cause flooding.
- To promote the development of new tools predicting extreme weather phenomena, especially when likely to cause flooding.

Forest fires

Description

Forest fires occur periodically and in recurring form every year in Spain. Their numbers are, in absolute terms, very high when compared with other European Union countries, Spain being in second place in Europe in terms of forest cover, and fourth in the area of wooded density.

Added to the high number of fires and the extension of the forest cover is their increased intensity. On average, 34% of the area burned every year is the result of a few dozen fires, the so-called major fires, covering more than 500 ha.

Thus forest fires constitute a serious problem, both because of the damage they cause immediately to people and property, and because of the major repercussion on the environment from the destruction of extensive forest areas.

Forest fires are the most significant source of degradation of forest ecosystems, leading to major ecological and economic damage and even loss of human lives, and so demand preferential attention in their management in order to reduce their occurrence, their effects and their consequences.

The number of fires begun each year, and the areas affected, continue to represent a recurring threat for people, their properties and the environment. At the same time, the increasing degree of urban development in forest areas (the urban-forest interface) means that fires in these zones represent an especially grave risk because of the peculiarities and the complexity involved in extinguishing them.

Accentuating factors

- The dominant climate in the Mediterranean area, with prolonged droughts accompanied by high summer temperatures and, on occasions, strong winds, produces meteorological conditions that favour forest fires.
- Although the General Forest Fire Statistics point to a global downward trend in the number of fires and areas affected, they do suggest that the problem continues to be cyclic and recurring, and will develop in the future in a way which may be conditioned particularly by climate change which is in fact accentuating the impact of extreme weather events in Europe, leading to scenarios which point to a rise in rates of risk and the intensity of the outbreaks, including at unexpected times, especially in southern Europe.
- Out-of-season forest fires make it difficult to plan fire-fighting and to maintain permanent specialised fire extinction services.
- Another accentuating element comprises socioeconomic and demographic conditioning factors, the loss of value of forest products, depopulation of rural areas and rising urban population leading to the abandonment of more farmland and the resulting increase of combustible forest cover all representing an added problem for effective and sustainable forest management.

- Likewise, the indiscriminate use of fire for pasture maintenance, intentional or interested acts, and the recreational use of forest by an eminently urban population constitute a further factor heightening this risk.

Regulatory and management tools

- Act No. 21/2015 of 20 June amending The Forests Act, Act No. 43/2003 of 21 November.
- Annually, the Government approves the Action Plan to Prevent and Combat Forest Fires, implementing measures involving several ministries, designed to integrally unify and coordinate State policy in the field.
- Royal Decree No. 893/2013 of 21 November approved the basic guideline against the risk of forest fire, establishing the criteria and content of the planning for emergencies at the State and Autonomous Community levels.
- The State Civil Protection Plan for Forest Fire Emergencies, approved in a Council of Ministers Resolution of 24 October 2014.
- The Autonomous Communities' special civil protection plans for response to emergencies arising from this risk.
- The Forest Fires Combat Committee, a technical cooperation committee made up of representatives of all the administrations with jurisdiction in the area of forest fires.

Priority actions

- To identify the National Civil Protection System's minimum extinction capabilities, to coordinate their use at the state and international levels.

- To enhance public action to guarantee compliance with the law and, in particular, prosecution and clarification of crimes, encouraging collaboration by the public.
- To promote the preparation of self-protection plans for installations and activities on the urban-forest terrain.
- To enhance local-level operational and prevention capabilities in the face of fires at the urban-forest interface.
- To encourage training in protocols for action against fires among the rural population in substantially forested territories.
- To enhance the training of those intervening in forest fires.

Earthquakes and tsunamis

Description

The Iberian Peninsula is located on the southwest edge of the Eurasian plate where it collides with the African plate. Spain is not a major earthquake zone, although there is significant seismic activity with quakes of moderate magnitude able to cause very serious damage.

Some 6,000 earthquakes are recorded annually on the Iberian Peninsula, mostly of low magnitude, concentrated to the south of the Cadiz-Alicante line and in the area of the Pyrenees for the most part.

Special reference should be made to the 11 May 2011 Lorca earthquake which caused 9 deaths and injury to 324, along with structural damage to more than a thousand buildings and the city's important cultural heritage.

There is at this time no method to precisely forecast the time, place and magnitude of an earthquake, although zones of greater risk can be delimited based on historical records and geological conditioning factors.

This requires advances in the formulation of preventive measures such as the adoption and effective enforcement of earthquake-proofing construction standards adapted to the geography of the risk.

Reference must also be made here to the threat of tsunamis, highly unlikely in our situation but with major potential impact as occurred with what is known as the 1755 Lisbon earthquake which produced a huge wave affecting the entire Atlantic coast of Spain, especially in the provinces of Cadiz and Huelva, to which the direct consequences of the earthquake were added. Nor can this same phenomenon be discarded, on a less intense scale, on the Mediterranean coast and in the Balearic Islands resulting from a quake in North Africa as happened in 2003 (the earthquake at Boumerdès, Algeria).

Finally, it is not surprising that the seismic phenomenon should occur in the form of a large number of very low-to low-intensity earthquakes, registered in the same geographical zone over a continuous period of time extending over weeks or months. Although this phenomenon, known as a seismic swarm, has not caused significant personal or material damage, if the public feels the earthquakes, they do cause considerable social alarm because of uncertainty about how they will develop, in particular when their origin is linked to human activity. An example of this was seen with the seismic events on the Castellon coast in 2013, said to have originated in the gas storage plants off those coasts.

Accentuating factors

- Socioeconomic factors which led in the past to unregulated construction with inadequate or non-existent earthquake-proofing building standards, increasing exposure to this risk, particularly in more exposed areas often in zones of high-density tourist occupation.
- Unawareness or an absence of local studies of the seismic response of the land, allowing zoning of the territory on an adequate scale with a view to conditioning urban planning and limiting land use. Added to that is the vulnerability of rural property resources.

- The concentration of population at certain times of the year in exposed tourist zones can produce an imbalance between the means and resources for response and the size of the population to be dealt with.
- The long return period of destructive earthquakes and/or tsunamis means that people have a low perception of the risk, which increases their vulnerability.

Regulatory and management tools

- The basic guideline for Civil Protection against earthquake risk was approved by the Council of Ministers in a Resolution on 7 April 1995 which considers two levels of planning: State and Autonomous Community, the latter including Action Plans drawn up by local authorities.
- The basic guideline for Civil Protection against tsunami risk was approved in a Council of Ministers Resolution on 20 November 2015.
- The State Earthquake Risk Plan, approved in a Resolution of the Council of Ministers on 26 March 2010, defines the organisation and the procedures for action.
- Article 15 of Royal Decree No. 953/2018 of 27 July sets out the functions and authorities entrusted to the Directorate-General of the National Geographical Institute (IGN) and in particular point c) gives the IGN authority to plan and manage systems for detecting seismic movements countrywide and their possible effects on the coasts, and to notify them to the institutions.
- The Special Earthquake Risk Plans of the Autonomous Communities required by regulations to prepare them (where earthquakes of intensity VI or more may be expected).

- The earthquake-resistant building standard NCSE-02 published in the Official State Gazette on 11 October 2002 is applied depending on the scale of construction. Various types of facilities are deemed to be of particular importance such as hospitals, fire stations, communications, transport, or large shopping centres.

Priority actions

- To draw up national risk analyses according to the possible scenarios, in the light of the associated phenomena. Such scenarios must be multi-risk and will be used to improve emergency planning with State intervention.
- To strengthen administrative and judicial control mechanisms to monitor effective compliance with the preventive, legal and technical tools on earthquake risk prevention, in particular compliance with earthquake-proofing standards.
- To promote local earthquake risk studies, especially in the most prone earthquake areas, and develop special local planning to deal with this risk.
- To install a system of alerts and preventive information against tsunami risk, and implement the planning provided for in the basic Civil Protection guideline on this risk.

Volcanic

Description

Although mainland Spain offers geomorphological evidence of geologically ancient volcanism (Olot, Campo de Calatrava, Sierra de Gata), the Canary Islands Autonomous Community is the only one where there has been very recent volcanic activity, and so the only area where the current legislation demands a Civil Protection Plan against this risk.

The Canary archipelago consists of seven main volcanic islands forming a chain about 500 km long in the Atlantic. There is historic record of eruptions in Tenerife, La Palma, El Hierro and Lanzarote, and earlier volcanism is also known in Fuerteventura, so that all the larger Canary Islands except La Gomera and Gran Canaria have experienced recent volcanic events.

The possibility of a volcanic eruption varies from island to island but is in general moderate to low although, to reduce the possible impact, provision must be made to organise the human and material means and resources which may be needed to protect and relieve the population should an eruption affect any of the islands.

On the other hand, a volcanic event may occur with multiple associated hazardous physical phenomenon including seismicity, falling ash, lava flows or slips that do not always have precursors which may be detected sufficiently in advance for the adoption of adequate protective measures.

Accentuating factors

- The uncertainty of the variety of dangerous phenomena which may arise in a volcanic crisis.
- Geographical factors such as the ultra-peripheral location, insularity and the morphology of the relief, with its steep slopes, making transport, connection and mobilisation of the existing resources in the two Canary provinces more difficult, along with the application of response measures for example, if necessary, evacuation.
- Demographic and socioeconomic factors of the dispersed autochthonous population and the concentration of a tourist population of varied cultural origins.
- Finally, the long periods of volcanic inactivity hinder the population which may be affected from forming an adequate perception of the risk.

Regulatory and management tools

- The basic guideline for Civil Protection against volcanic risk was approved by a Council of Ministers Resolution on 19 January 1996. It considers two levels of planning, State and Autonomous Community, the latter including Action Plans drawn up by local authorities.
- The State Volcanic Risk Plan approved in a Resolution of the Council of Ministers on 25 January 2013 defines the organisation and the procedures for action to ensure an effective response.
- Article 15 of Royal Decree No. 953/2018 of 27 July sets out the functions and authorities entrusted to the Directorate-General of the National Geographical Institute (IGN) and, in particular in point d) gives the IGN the authority to plan and manage systems for monitoring volcanic activity nation wide and to notify it to the institutions, and to define the associated dangers.
- The Canary Islands Autonomous Community's Special Volcanic Risk Plan (PEVOLCA), approved on 30 July 2018.

Priority actions

- To promote the introduction of Civil Protection Plans via exercises and drills, and with public information campaigns.
- To encourage the development of possible risk scenarios in order to enhance planning and the design of actions to be taken, according to the impact.
- To develop adequate local capabilities allowing for an effective initial response to possible volcanic emergencies.
- To draw up national risk analyses according to possible scenarios, taking account of the associated phenomena. Such scenarios must be multi-risk, and will be used to improve emergency planning with State intervention.

Adverse weather phenomena

Description

Adverse weather phenomena (AWP) are deemed to be any atmospheric event which may cause direct or indirect damage to persons and their property, or significantly alter human activity.

Adverse weather phenomena cause serious personal and economic loss and are the events leading to the highest annual number of mortal victims in Spain. Since the beginning of the century, about 83% of this country's deaths from natural phenomena are due to adverse weather phenomena, whether directly or, more commonly, indirectly, by worsening existing pathologies.

The phenomena which usually have the greatest impact in this country are storms, heat-waves and high winds, both inland and on the coastline. In addition, in recent years, extratropical storms have also had their effect, particularly in the Canary archipelago.

Drought, the consequence of continuing lack of rainfall, systematically affects the country, causing a variety of socioeconomic problems. The likely effects of climate change will be a progressive increase throughout the twenty-first century of the number of hot days, longer heat-waves, plus a reduction in the number of days with frost and rain.

Increasingly locally intense storms with characteristics proper to other latitudes are also affecting our territory.

In Spain, meteorological records indicate a significant increase in average temperatures during the last half century, more markedly in summer. Historic records of maximum daily temperatures are also being surpassed, and deseasonalisation is very marked (42.6°C in May 2015 in Valencia).

Accentuating factors

- The effects of climate change mean that extreme atmospheric phenomena, habitual in this country, are increasingly frequent and intense, with greater impact on society.
- Changes of land use, urban development and that of transport infrastructures go hand-in-hand with greater ground impermeability; together with the concentration of population in coastal urban centres, these are some of the factors which increase people's exposure and vulnerability.

Regulatory and management tools

- The National Plan for Prediction and Monitoring of Adverse Weather Phenomena: the State Meteorology Agency (AEMET)'s *Meteo-alerta*.
- The National Plan of Preventive Actions for the effects of excessive temperatures on health, intended to prevent damage to health caused by excessive temperatures. For its effective application, an Interministerial Commission is attached to the Ministry of Health.

Priority actions

- To draw up the basic guideline against AWP risk, fixing the criteria and content of the planning for emergencies at the State and Autonomous Community level, and to complete planning for these risks at both those levels.
- To enhance meteorological observation capacities, with special focus on those targeting immediate detection of the presence and intensity of adverse weather phenomena.

- To promote research and studies on the potential impacts of adverse weather phenomena (AWP) amongst the public, upgrading the systems for predicting and detecting them early, to define possible action to limit people's vulnerability and their adaptation to extreme weather events.
- To help in further involving society as a whole, and the media, in a comprehensive, early response to incidents arising from adverse weather phenomena.

Accidents in installations or processes using or storing hazardous substances

Description

Following a significant rise during the first years of this century, the last five years have seen the number of establishments storing hazardous substances and which must adhere to Directive No. 2012/18/EU stabilise, and this now stands at 899 throughout the country.

In 2018, a quarter of the facilities stored and distributed hydrocarbons, another quarter accounted for the manufacture and installation of chemical and pharmaceutical products, the production, supply and distribution of power, and on a smaller scale, production and storage of fertilisers, pesticides, biocides and fungicides. The remaining establishments pursued other forms of industrial activity.

Geographically, most facilities are located in Catalonia, followed by Andalusia and the Community of Valencia.

That high number of installations contrasts with the relatively few accidents common there, which can be attributed to improvement to the provisions regulating these facilities. According to available Directorate-General of Civil Protection and Emergencies data, in the last eight years 67% of accidents had repercussions only inside the facility itself, while another 27% did also cause victims and slight damage outside or in the environment. By contrast, there were just three category 3 accidents with victims and serious external and environmental damage.

Half these accidents were caused by failures in the mechanical systems while the remainder were spread equally among operational failures by staff and component corrosion or fatigue.

As revealed by some of the major accidents associated with the chemical industry throughout history — the Seveso tragedy (Italy) in 1976, the Bhopal disaster (India) in 1984, or the explosion at a BP refinery in the US in 2005 — this is a risk of limited probability but whose potential consequences may prove significant.

Accentuating factors

- The primary global accentuating element of the risk from this type of installation is defined by socioeconomic conditions of growth associated with increased production and, therefore, a greater number of establishments.
- In analysing the causes of the emergencies that have occurred, two important factors must be taken into account, namely lack of adequate training of the personnel operating in the installations, and fatigue or deterioration of the installation's materials.

Regulatory and management tools

- European Parliament and Council Directive No. 2012/18/EU on the control of risks inherent to major accidents involving hazardous substances, adopting the United Nations Harmonised Global System for substance classification.
- Royal Decree No. 840/2015 of 21 September coordinating procedures and tasks to be undertaken by industries and the authorities with jurisdiction in the General Administration and the Autonomous Communities in collecting, exchanging and publishing information on the establishments and their inspections.

- A Basic Guideline for control and planning against the risk of serious accident, defining the general structure of civil protection planning against this risk, with the implementation of Special Civil Protection Plans at the Autonomous Community and State levels.

Priority actions

- To promote and improve the training of early-intervention emergency personnel, including exercises and drills that help to understand existing risks, and how to contain and mitigate them.
- To enhance people's understanding of the risks and the existing prevention and response mechanisms, along with pertinent measures which may be of interest to them.

Road and rail transport of hazardous goods

Description

There is major movement of dangerous goods in Spain by rail and particularly by road (in terms of volume and the number of vehicles and routes). The large number of facilities storing dangerous substances throughout mainland Spain (899 of them adhering to the Seveso provisions) makes the flow of substances between national industries and neighbouring countries (imports and exports) especially relevant.

According to data from the latest national maps of dangerous road and rail goods flows, from 2016, that year rail alone carried around one and a half million tons of goods of this type, while the information on road transit based on statistical studies places that transit at some 30 million tons.

The products most transported include liquefied inflammable liquids (mainly diesel and petrol) and gases (such as the liquefied gas hydrocarbon mix), accounting for more than half the volume carried.

The most serious accident registered until now in this country occurred on 11 July 1978, when the explosion of a tanker vehicle carrying propylene levelled the Los Alfaques camping ground (Alcanar, Tarragona), killed 243 people and seriously injured more than 300.

Accentuating factors

According to data gathered over the last twenty years on emergencies involving the transport of dangerous goods (T-MMPP), the majority were the result of conventional traffic accidents involving vehicles engaged in this form of transport, while factors linked to the goods themselves (failure of the container or incorrect loading) are fewer.

Thus the main elements accentuating this risk are to be found in globalisation, economic growth and a productive model that intensifies traffic of such goods.

Regulatory and management tools

- European Parliament and Council Directive No. 2008/68/EC on land transport of dangerous goods, which includes the European Agreement on International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR) and the Regulation on International Transport of Dangerous Goods by Rail (RID), both drafted by the UNECE Inland Transport Committee (United Nations).
- In the framework of Civil Protection planning, there is a Basic State Guideline, and special plans of regional scope.
- There are in addition annual legal resolutions placing restrictions on traffic, establishing timetables and specifying the roads where carriage is permitted, such as the Dangerous Goods Road Route Network (RIMP).

Priority actions

- To improve and enhance information systems for understanding the risk. This requires stronger collaboration by those directly involved in collecting all this information and drawing up data bases, analysis tools and emergency statistics so that flow and risk maps can be prepared.
- To improve and strengthen the systems for technical backup to emergency management: this will require greater collaboration among the sectors producing dangerous goods (MMPP) with the input of information and resources for dealing with emergencies (the Emergency Response Centre – CERET).
- To promote coordination and collaboration between the General State Administration and the Autonomous Administrations on the procedures for collection and disclosure from the various data systems.
- Improvement and update of the provisions on Civil Protection prevention and planning based on the experience acquired in recent years.

Nuclear and radiological risk

Description

There are seven nuclear reactors in Spain in operation for electricity production, on five sites, plus one definitively closed down and two in the process of being dismantled.

There are also four nuclear facilities other than the nuclear power stations, and 1,300 radioactive facilities in various categories, all regulated, and which handle, process or store radioactive or nuclear substances.

There may be a risk at all these facilities of uncontrolled or accidental release of radioactive substances, and accidents in the installations may involve a risk for the health

not just of those working there but also of personnel intervening, the surrounding population, and environmental pollution.

There are in addition infrastructures such as airports, seaports, customs facilities and other installations and activities that are unregulated, such as those to recover, store or handle metal materials for recycling, where there may be a radiological incident with possible external repercussion.

On the other hand, risk arising from the inappropriate or negligent use of the various radiation sources cannot be discarded.

Accentuating factors

While the main causes of accidents with external repercussions in these facilities arise from technical or human faults, experience has made it clear that there are external events such as earthquakes, fires and flooding, and malicious acts which may lead to incidents there.

The main elements accentuating the risk are associated with socioeconomic and demographic factors both in terms of population distribution around nuclear power stations and the increase in industrial applications associated with dangerous substances.

Regulatory and management tools

- At the international level, the recommendations of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) are set out in the regulation issued by EURATOM in the form of European Union Directives with that name, the most recent referring to management of these risks being Directive No. 2013/59/Euratom.
- The Basic Nuclear Emergency Plan passed in Royal Decree No. 1546/2004, of 25 June.
- The Central Response and Support Level Emergency Nuclear Plan approved in Order INT/1695/2005 of 27 May.

- Emergency Nuclear Plans outside Nuclear Power Stations.
- The Basic Guideline on Civil Protection planning against radiological risk passed in Royal Decree No. 1564/2010 of 19 November.
- The State Plan for Civil Protection from Radiological Risk passed in Royal Decree No. 1054/2015 of 20 November.
- Autonomous Communities Special Civil Protection Plans against Radiological Risk.

Priority actions

- To promote regulatory implementation with modifications to the Basic Nuclear Emergency Plan and the Basic Civil Protection Guideline against radiological risk, and to move forward in the Autonomous Communities' radiological risk planning.
- To improve coordination mechanisms between the different Administrations, the Nuclear Security Council and the owners of the facilities
- To reinforce policies on education, information to the public and self-protection, promoting a preventive culture.
- To promote the training of personnel intervening from the response organisations, together with exercises and drills in the field of nuclear risk.

NCPES

The National Civil Protection Strategy

CHAPTER 4

THE MISSION, OBJECTIVE AND LINES OF ACTION OF THE NATIONAL CIVIL PROTECTION STRATEGY

The mission or ultimate aim of Civil Protection, as a tool of public security policy, is to protect people and property, ensuring an adequate response to the various sorts of emergencies and disasters arising from natural causes or from human action, taking account of the factors that accentuate the threats and risks – particularly climate change – and the need to fortify the community's resilience in the face of such events.

In Spain, public Civil Protection policies are formulated on the basis of concerted action effectively involving all the necessary resources of the various public administrations, the private sector, and active public participation. These policies aim to meet shared objectives making it possible to anticipate, prevent, respond effectively and recover as necessary from losses generated by threats and risks in the realm of Civil Protection which arise in Spain and which may demand joint action with other international players.



In Spain, public Civil Protection policies are formulated on the basis of concerted action effectively involving all the necessary resources of the various public administrations, the private sector, and active public participation.

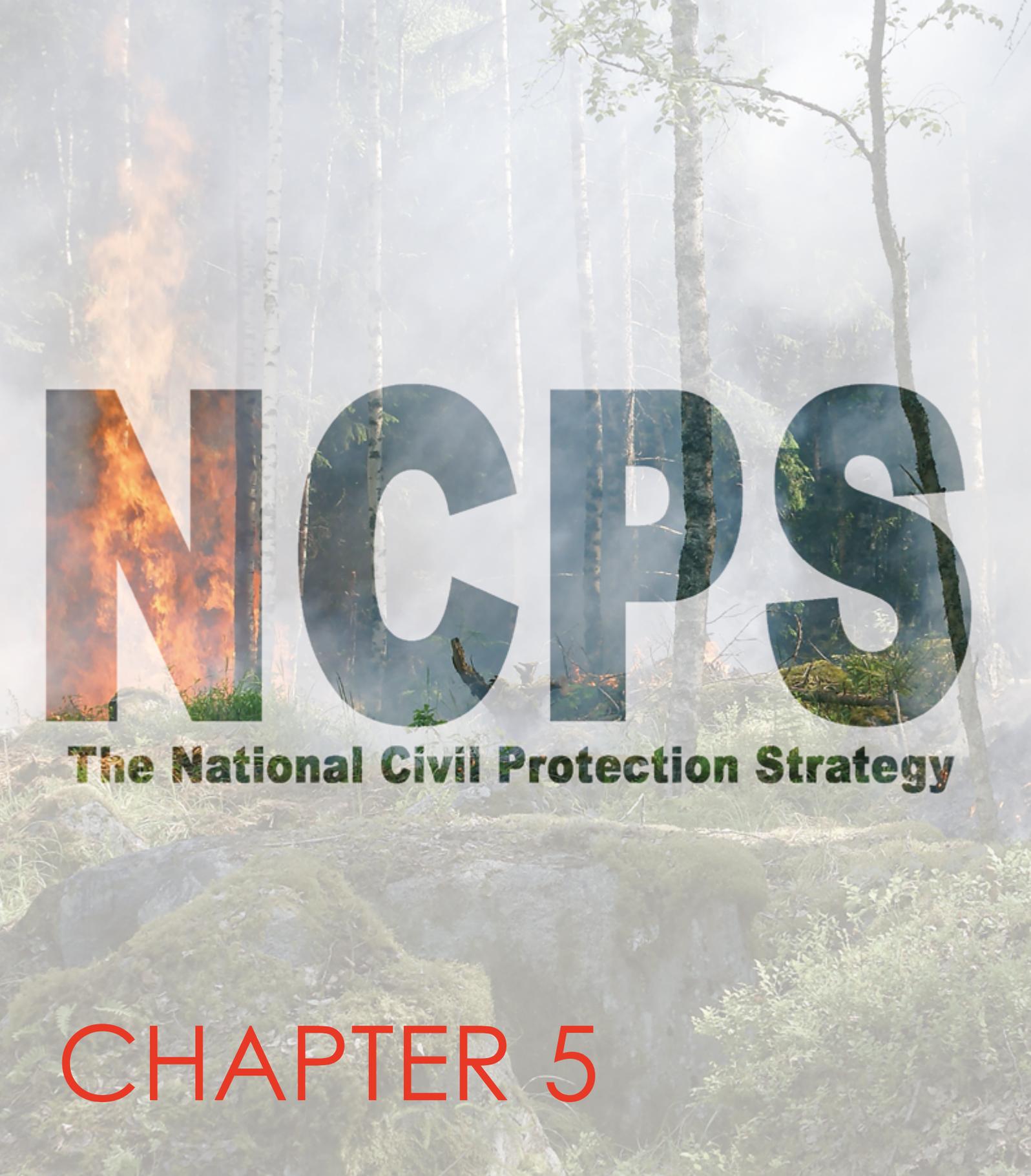
Along with the other general National Security objectives, the 2017 National Security Strategy establishes a priority strategic Civil Protection objective: to consolidate the National Civil Protection System as an instrument integrating all this country's emergency and disaster response capabilities, ensuring their consolidation in the National Security System. The following National Security strategic lines of action (LAE) were indicated for achieving that objective.

1. Through collaboration among all the Administrations with jurisdiction, to implement the National Civil Protection Strategy following its approval by the National Security Council.
2. To complete the legal framework for emergency and disaster protection, with enabling provisions to Act No. 17/2015.
3. To promote the mechanisms for collaboration and participation by civil society in public Civil Protection policies, especially in the area of prevention.
4. To strengthen the integration of the capabilities of the entire National Civil Protection System, increasing cooperation and coordination among all the Public Administrations with jurisdiction, in the form of specific actions:
 - a. To create and install the National Civil Protection Alert Network to improve prevention, with an integrated and multi-risk focus.
 - b. To keep directories of capabilities.
 - c. To design jointly actions for integrated assistance to victims.
 - d. To create national and international management and communication protocols in coordination with the EU and other international bodies.
5. To promote international coordination and cooperation on Civil Protection, paying particular attention to the EU's Civil Protection mechanism and the United Nations' International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and, bilaterally, with third countries.

In the light of prior National Security Strategy LAEs, and analysis of the main risks and threats affecting Spain in the field of Civil Protection as set out in this document, the authorities will have the human and material resources necessary to develop the following **Lines of Action of the National Civil Protection Strategy**:

- To proceed with enabling provisions to Act No. 17/2015, promoting the drafting of the associated Civil Protection plans and, in particular, the adoption of a General State Civil Protection Plan duly in line with existing strategies for adapting to climate change.
- To strengthen the links between the various Civil Protection plans against different types of risk, and the planning tools for territorial organisation, land use and urban development.
- To develop and implement national civil protection information and alert networks.
- To improve the tools for coordinating the various public administrations, and the mechanisms for participation and collaboration with the public, companies and organised civil society.
- To renew the tools for post-emergency recovery, with a focus based on the strengthening of a society increasingly resilient in confronting emergencies and disasters.
- To improve attention for those who, for social and/or personal reasons, are particularly vulnerable, taking account of this variable both while drawing up protocols of action and in the training of those intervening in questions of public communication in emergencies.
- To encourage coordination of public communication policies in emergencies or disasters, strengthening communication channels and protocols for such events.
- To reinforce education, training and public self-protection policies, promoting a preventive culture.

- To enhance international cooperation and implement actions to comply with Spain's European and global commitments, and participation in the State's external action.
- To advance toward the interoperability of functional coordination centres and the capabilities for intervention at the national level. These actions include the need to develop the National Interconnection Plan provided for in Act No. 17/2015, and to facilitate common basic training for professionals in any intervention units, to enhance the possibilities for effective collaboration in joint response to emergencies.
- To promote the development of new predictive tools for detecting natural risks.
- To promote national and international exercises and drills.

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a forest. In the foreground, there are large, moss-covered rocks. The trees are tall and thin, with some green foliage. In the background, a fire is visible, with orange and yellow flames rising against a hazy sky. The acronym 'NICEPS' is overlaid on the image. The letter 'N' is filled with a fire image. The letters 'I', 'C', 'E', 'P', and 'S' are filled with a forest scene, showing trees and foliage.

NICEPS

The National Civil Protection Strategy

CHAPTER 5

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVISION OF THE NATIONAL CIVIL PROTECTION STRATEGY

The National Civil Protection Strategy will be reviewed at least every five years, and also whenever advisable in the light of modifications to the National Security Strategy or changing surrounding circumstances.

A Technical Committee for Monitoring the National Civil Protection Strategy, chaired by the head of the Under-Secretariat of the Interior, with representatives from all the ministerial departments and State Bodies on the National Civil Protection Council, will monitor and assess the extent to which the objectives and basic lines of action of the National Civil Protection Strategy are met, and may formulate proposals for review.

This Technical Monitoring Committee will meet at least once a year. The Secretary of the Standing Commission of the National Civil Protection Council will act as the Committee's Secretariat.

