



شعبة الترجمة الرسمية
Official Translation Department

Civil Defense Law

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Translation of Saudi Laws



NOTE:

The translation of Saudi laws takes the following into consideration:

- Words used in the singular form include the plural and vice versa.
- Words used in the masculine form include the feminine.
- Words used in the present tense include the present as well as the future.
- The word “person” or “persons” and their related pronouns (he, his, him, they, their, them) refer to a natural and legal person.



Civil Defense Law

Article 1

Civil defense is a set of measures and actions necessary to protect the population as well as public and private property against the hazards of fires, disasters, wars, and other incidents, in addition to providing relief to victims, maintaining the safety of transportation, communications, and the proper operation of public utilities, and protecting national resources at times of peace, war, and emergencies. This shall include without limitation:

- a) setting rules and means of warning against hazards and air raids;
- b) training volunteers for civil defense work;
- c) setting rules and means of safety, industrial security, firefighting, rescue, first aid and relief operations, raid watch, and protection against weapons of destruction at times of peace and war;
- d) creating and training civil defense units of different specialties and providing them with necessary equipment and means;
- e) controlling lighting and traffic, and preparing and implementing evacuation and sheltering plans at times of war and emergencies;
- f) establishing and equipping civil defense operation rooms and centers, building and managing public shelters, and overseeing shelters designated to protect the population at times of war and peace;
- g) stockpiling materials and equipment necessary for sustaining life at times of war, emergencies, and disasters;
- h) setting and implementing necessary measures to achieve safety, prevent disasters, and deal with the aftermath thereof, including provision of financial support or other types of support; and
- i) using mass media to achieve civil defense objectives.

Article 2

The term *disaster* provided for in this Law shall mean any fire, destruction, torrent, storm, earthquake, or any other incident that causes damage, endangers the lives of individuals, or causes harm to public or private property.

Article 3

Without prejudice to the laws and the decisions of the Supreme Defense Council issued in accordance with its Law, civil defense operations provided for in Article 1 of this Law shall be carried out by the following:

- a) Ministries, government agencies, public and private legal persons, establishments, real property owners and occupants as well as owners and drivers of cars and other vehicles.
- b) Civil Defense Forces, other internal security forces, the National Guard, and



the Armed Forces.

c) Civil Defense volunteers.

This shall be carried out in accordance with plans, rules, and procedures set by the Civil Defense Council in coordination with relevant agencies.

Article 4

Civil Defense shall consist of:

- the Civil Defense Council;
- the General Directorate of Civil Defense; and
- the Civil Defense Committees.

Article 5

The Civil Defense Council shall be composed as follows:

- a) Minister of Interior, chairman.
- b) Minister of the National Guard or his designee, member.
- c) President of the Red Crescent or his designee, member.
- d) President of King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology, member.
- e) Minister of Water and Electricity, member.
- f) Minister of Commerce and Industry, member.
- g) Minister of Finance, member.
- h) Minister of Economy and Planning, member.
- i) Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs, member.
- j) Minister of Agriculture, member.
- k) Minister of Transportation, member.
- l) Minister of Health, member.
- m) Minister of Social Affairs, member.
- n) Minister of Culture and Information.
- o) Deputy Minister of Interior, member.
- p) President of Meteorology and Environment Protection, member.
- q) President of King Abdullah City for Atomic and Renewable Energy, member.
- r) Chief of the General Staff, member.
- s) Director-General of Public Security, member.
- t) Director-General of Civil Defense, member.

Article 6

The Civil Defense Council shall convene under the chairmanship of its Chairman, or his designee, at least twice a year, and as necessary. A Council



meeting shall be valid if attended by a majority of its members. In exceptional cases, the meeting shall be valid if attended by one-third of its members.

Decisions shall be taken by majority vote of attending members. In case of a tie, the chairman of the meeting shall have the casting vote. The Chairman may determine exceptional cases.

Article 7

A. A general committee for civil defense operations which reports to the Chairman of the Civil Defense Council shall be formed as follows:

1. Director-General of Civil Defense, chairman.
2. A representative from the Ministry of the National Guard of a rank not lower than Major General, member.
3. A representative from the Ministry of the Defense of a rank not lower than Major General, member.
4. Director-General of Public Security or his designee, member.
5. Director-General of Border Guard or his designee, member.
6. Vice-President of King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology, member.
7. Assistant to the President of Meteorology and Environment Protection Authority, member.
8. Vice-President of the Saudi Red Crescent, member.
9. Deputy Minister of Finance, member.
10. Deputy Minister of Health, member.
11. Deputy Minister of Water and Electricity, member.
12. Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry, member.
13. Deputy Minister of Transportation, member.
14. Deputy Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs, member.
15. Vice-President of King Abdullah City for Atomic and Renewable Energy, member.
16. Vice-Governor of Communications and Information Technology Commission, member.
17. General Secretary of the Civil Defense Council, member.

B. The Civil Defense Council shall have a separate budget within the budget of the Ministry of Interior.

C. The Civil Defense Council shall have a general secretary of a rank not lower than "Grade Fifteen" or equivalent to supervise the General Secretariat of the Council; he shall report to the Chairman of the Council.

D. The General Secretariat of the Civil Defense Council shall have its own offices; have administrative and financial powers; communicate Council



- decisions and monitor their implementation; and provide the Council with necessary information and assistance.
- E. A search and rescue taskforce shall be formed within the General Secretariat of Civil Defense named the "National Taskforce for Search and Rescue" comprising specialists from relevant government agencies and volunteers in the fields of search, rescue, emergency medical care and other relevant fields to participate in search and rescue operations within the Kingdom and abroad, in accordance with rules issued by the Council. The taskforce may seek the assistance of highly specialized private companies as well as other entities with experience in civil defense.
- F. Administrative units shall be established within the General Secretariat of the Civil Defense Council to assume the following:
1. Planning for civil defense operations and disaster management.
 2. Coordinating efforts in civil defense operations and disaster management including establishment of command center.
 3. Conducting research and gathering information.

Article 8

If the Civil Defense Council considers a matter within the jurisdiction of one or more government agencies that are not represented on the Council or the General Committee for Civil Defense Operations, the Council must take the views of said agency or agencies, issue its decision as it deems to be in the public interest, and notify said agency or agencies of its decision.

Article 9

- A. Subject to relevant laws, the Civil Defense Council shall have the following powers:
1. Adopting the general policy of Civil Defense operations.
 2. Approving the general plans for civil defense operations.
 3. Approving projects necessary for the implementation of the general policy and plans.
 4. Approving the tasks and duties of other agencies, government and non-government, in relation to civil defense operations.
 5. Issuing regulations that specify safety rules and conditions required in various industrial, commercial, and agricultural activities; professions; works; residential buildings; establishments, and infrastructure in a manner that guarantees the protection of lives as well as public and private property, in coordination with relevant agencies.
 6. Issuing regulations that stipulate the conditions and specifications for establishing public and private shelters, in coordination with relevant agencies.
 7. Issuing regulations for volunteering in civil defense to determine the



requirements, rights, and duties of volunteers.

8. Adopting the general policy for training in civil defense operations; implementing its plans and projects; and approving necessary programs therefor.
 9. Promoting scientific activities and research in areas relating to civil defense operations and disaster management.
 10. Forming civil defense committees and determining their duties, work rules, locations, agencies represented therein, and the chairman of each committee.
 11. Determining and classifying locations and facilities subject to civil defense measures, whether in part or in whole, as well as locations and facilities where equipment for civil defense operations must be installed, and setting criteria for damage assessment and compensation.
 12. Determining the number and locations of civil defense operation rooms and centers and formation thereof; and linking them with operation rooms and centers of the military agencies and other agencies for the exchange of information and instructions.
 13. Reviewing the annual report on civil defense operations.
 14. Approving means of international cooperation in civil defense and disaster management.
 15. Approving the draft annual budget of the Civil Defense General Directorate and the draft annual budget of the Civil Defense Council prior to submission to the Ministry of Finance.
 16. Proposing financial allocations for civil defense equipment and for implementation of its plans and projects within the budgets of Ministries and other government entities as well as other entities with public corporate personality, in coordination with relevant agencies.
- B. The General Committee for Civil Defense Operations shall have the following powers:
1. Overseeing formulation of general policies and plans for civil defense operations, submitting the same to the Civil Defense Council, and monitoring implementation thereof upon approval.
 2. Adopting government agencies' detailed plans relating to civil defense operations.
 3. Overseeing the review and assessment of general policies and plans for civil defense operations and propose amendments thereto.
 4. Enhancing coordination between relevant government agencies relating to civil defense operations, and overcoming obstacles encountered, if any.
 5. Supervising disaster management operations, addressing possible challenges, and ensuring cooperation of relevant committees and agencies in implementing disaster management plans and the efficiency of coordination among them.



6. Directly addressing disasters assigned thereto pursuant to a decision by the Minister of Interior, Chairman of the Civil Defense Council.
 7. Overseeing the execution of disaster management drills in accordance with set plans, and the participation of all relevant entities, ensuring their efficiency in light of assessment outcomes, and working towards their enhancement.
 8. Overseeing the development and updating of information systems relating to civil defense operations and disaster management.
 9. Overseeing studies and research relating to civil defense operations, particularly disaster management.
 10. Approving public awareness programs relating to civil defense operations in cooperation with relevant entities.
 11. Proposing laws and regulations relating to civil defense operations, ensuring their efficiency, proposing necessary amendments thereto, and submitting the same to the Civil Defense Council for completion of statutory procedures.
 12. Approving the formation of advisory committees for civil defense operations at the General Secretariat of the Civil Defense Council.
 13. Overseeing the performance of civil defense committees throughout the Kingdom, assessing their efficiency, and making necessary recommendations for submission to the Civil Defense Council.
 14. Overseeing means and programs for international cooperation in civil defense operations.
 15. Reviewing the annual report on civil defense operations and disaster management prior to submission to the Civil Defense Council.
 16. Reviewing matters relating to civil defense operations brought before it by the General Secretariat of the Civil Defense Council.
 17. Approving the agenda of the Civil Defense Council.
 18. Approving the draft budget and balance sheet of the Civil Defense Council prior to submission to the Council.
 19. Any other task assigned thereto by the Civil Defense Council.
- C. The General Secretariat of the Civil Defense Council shall have the following powers:
1. Preparing for meetings of the Civil Defense Council and the General Committee for Civil Defense Operations.
 2. Reviewing matters to be included in the agenda of the meetings of the Civil Defense Council and the General Committee for Civil Defense Operations.
 3. Drafting the minutes of the meetings of the Civil Defense Council and the General Committee for Civil Defense Operations.
 4. Coordinating with the entities concerned with civil defense operations and



- disaster management regarding the discharge of their duties.
5. Setting the general plans for civil defense operations and disaster management in coordination with relevant entities.
 6. Monitoring the preparation of the detailed plans relating to civil defense operations and disaster management by the relevant entities and reviewing such plans in coordination with the relevant entities prior to submission to the General Secretariat for Civil Defense Operations for approval.
 7. Communicating the decisions of the Civil Defense Council and the General Committee for Civil Defense Operations to relevant entities and monitoring their execution.
 8. Coordinating the participation of the National Taskforce for Search and Rescue in the search and rescue operations within the Kingdom and abroad.
 9. Draft a comprehensive annual report on civil defense operations and disaster management in coordination with relevant entities.
 10. Overseeing civil defense and disaster management drills in coordination with relevant entities.
 11. Overseeing volunteering in civil defense operations.
 12. Drafting laws and regulations relating to civil defense operations and disaster management at the request of the Civil Defense Council or the General Committee for Civil Defense Operations.
 13. Gathering and classifying information and data relating to civil defense operations and disaster management in coordination with relevant entities.
 14. Participating in the organization of symposia and forums relating to civil defense operations and disaster management in cooperation with relevant entities.
 15. Conducting, publishing, and exchanging studies and research relating to civil defense operations and disaster management.
 16. Preparing the draft annual budget and balance sheet of the Civil Defense Council and bring the same before the General Committee for Civil Defense Operations, prior to submission to the Civil Defense Council for approval.
 17. Preparing public awareness programs on civil defense operations and disaster management, and participating in their implementation in coordination with relevant entities.
 18. Coordinating with relevant entities with regards to the implementation of means and programs for international cooperation in civil defense operations and disaster management.
 19. Reviewing reports issued by the civil defense committees throughout the Kingdom, and making necessary recommendations.



20. Reviewing proposals of government agencies relating to civil defense laws and regulations and bringing the same before the General Committee for Civil Defense Operations for submission to the Civil Defense Council.
21. Cooperating with the relevant entities to build Saudi capacity in disaster management, in cooperation with local and international training bodies.
22. Any other tasks assigned thereto by the Civil Defense Council or the General Committee for Civil Defense Operations.

Article 10

The Chairman of the Civil Defense Council may, as he deems necessary, invite non-Council members to attend Council meetings in a non-voting capacity.

Article 11

The Civil Defense Council shall exercise its powers at times of war and emergencies under the supervision of the Supreme Defense Council.

Article 12

Without prejudice to other laws, the Minister of Interior, Chairman of the Civil Defense Council, shall have the following powers:

- a) Coordinate between the Ministry of Interior on one hand and the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of National Guard, and the General Intelligence Presidency on the other hand for proper implementation of civil defense operations.
- b) Issue orders to conduct drills and exercises on civil defense operations to determine the adequacy, efficiency, and readiness of civil defense equipment.
- c) Issue orders to call on trained personnel to join civil defense formations.
- d) Issue decisions for the temporary use of facilities, buildings, tools, equipment, means of transport, etc., necessary for implementation of civil defense plans, projects, and operations in exceptional cases, provided that a fair compensation is paid.
- e) Issue orders for the direct purchase of materials and equipment necessary for civil defense in cases of disasters, regardless of their value, within the amounts allocated for such purpose.
- f) Determine the existence of a disaster.
- g) Declare a state of disaster.
- h) Issue decisions in the interest of civil defense.
- i) The Council of Ministers may amend such powers.



Article 13

- A. The General Directorate of Civil Defense shall be formed pursuant to a decision by the Minister of Interior, Chairman of the Civil Defense Council, in accordance with the budget.
- B. The Director General of Civil Defense shall be in charge of exercising the powers of the General Directorate of Civil Defense and its proper functioning, managing its affairs, and overseeing its organs and branches, in accordance with laws and instructions.

Article 14

Without prejudice to the laws and the Civil Defense Council's decisions, the General Directorate of Civil Defense shall have the following powers:

- a) Propose civil defense plans, projects, and operations and follow up on their implementation.
- b) Implement civil defense plans, projects, and operations falling within its powers and execute decisions issued by the Civil Defense Council and the Minister of the Interior, Chairman of the Civil Defense Council.
- c) Take appropriate measures to deal with disasters declared as such pursuant to a decision by the Minister of Interior, Chairman of the Civil Defense Council. For the proper implementation of its functions, the Directorate may utilize the resources of the military forces and other agencies, and request them to execute tasks and provide individuals and equipment.
- d) Provide food, clothing, shelter, medical treatment, financial aid, and other forms of assistance to victims at times of disasters, in accordance with regulations set by the Civil Defense Council.
- e) Coordinate with ministries and other entities concerned with the implementation of civil defense operations for the execution of civil defense plans, projects, and operations.
- f) Develop civil defense in line with scientific and military advancements.
- g) Represent the Kingdom at international and local organizations, conferences, symposia, and workshops relating to civil defense.
- h) Propose matters to be brought before the Civil Defense Council and conduct necessary related studies.
- i) Make necessary recommendations to relevant agencies regarding compensation for damage caused by disasters or hostilities.
- j) Carry out training programs necessary for civil defense operations as approved by the Civil Defense Council.
- k) Propose appropriate times for conducting civil defense drills and exercises and for the call of trained individuals.
- l) Propose the annual draft budget of the General Directorate of Civil Defense.
- m) The Council of Ministers may amend such powers.



Article 15

A civil defense director shall, within his jurisdiction, be responsible for carrying out civil defense operations and coordinating with relevant agencies regarding other procedures.

Article 16

Meals shall be provided at the expense of the State to persons carrying out civil defense operations during emergencies, disasters, and wars, in accordance with regulations set by the Civil Defense Council specifying necessary conditions.

Article 17

The Civil Defense may call upon persons whose services are needed. The rights and duties of said persons as well as their affiliation with the agencies they work for shall be regulated in accordance with regulations issued pursuant to a Council of Ministers' resolution upon a recommendation by the Civil Defense Council.

Article 18

Each person, even if not a volunteer, shall be responsible for providing possible assistance necessary for civil defense operations whenever required.

Article 19

The basics of civil defense shall be taught at all stages of public education, as well as civil and military institutes and training institutes and centers, in accordance with the information provided by the Civil Defense Council in consultation with relevant educational agencies.

Article 20

Licensing in cases stipulated in Article 9(5)(a) of this Law shall require compliance of the licensee with the conditions and safety rules issued by the Civil Defense Council.

Article 21

Shelters shall be established in parks, public squares, and other crowded places appropriate for establishing public shelters, in accordance with rules, conditions, and specifications set by the Civil Defense Council.

Article 22

All administrative agencies shall establish shelters on their premises, in accordance with Civil Defense Council decisions.



Article 23

Companies and other private establishments shall cooperate with the General Directorate of Civil Defense to ensure the efficiency and availability of an adequate number of firefighters, rescue teams, vehicles, and equipment as well as firefighting and rescue supplies, and to ensure the implementation of preventive safety rules and procedures.

Article 24

The General Directorate of Civil Defense shall coordinate with the administrative agencies that have safety departments or firefighting teams to ensure the efficiency and availability of an adequate number of firefighters, rescue teams, vehicles, and equipment as well as firefighting and rescue supplies, and to ensure the implementation of preventive safety rules and procedures.

Article 25

Ministries, government agencies, and public corporate persons, as well as private establishments, designated pursuant to a decision by the Minister of Interior, Chairman of the Civil Defense Council, shall appoint or assign persons in charge of matters related to safety and industrial security in accordance with regulations issued by the Civil Defense Council.

Article 26

During the execution of civil defense measures and operations, the inviolability of buildings and facilities shall not be affected as much as possible, and harm shall be reduced to the minimum.

Article 27

Non-military civil defense personnel shall, at times of war, emergency, and disasters, be subject to military service regulations with regard to discipline, penalties, recording, and investigation of violations.

Article 28

Equipment or signs posted for civil defense purposes may not be removed or disabled without coordination with the Civil Defense Department. Violators shall be liable for the costs of returning the removed or disabled item to its former condition, and shall be subject to a fine not exceeding 50,000 riyals.

Article 29

Without prejudice to any other law, the Minister of Interior, Chairman of the Civil Defense Council, shall, in cases of emergency and disasters, issue decisions to implement the Civil Defense plan. Such decisions shall include penalties to be imposed against violators, provided that such penalties do not exceed one year of imprisonment and a fine not exceeding 50,000 riyals, or either penalty.



Article 30

- A. Subject to Articles 27, 28, and 29, any person violating any of the provisions of this Law, its regulations, or decisions issued thereupon, shall be subject to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, a fine not exceeding 30,000 riyals, or both.
- B. The Minister of Interior, Chairman of the Civil Defense Council shall form committees. Each committee shall consist of at least three members, with a member qualified in Sharia or law, to consider violations of this Law and impose prescribed penalties. If the committee determines that the violation warrants imprisonment, it shall refer the matter to the Board of Grievances.

Article 31

A penalty decision may be appealed before the Board of Grievances within 60 days from the date of notification.

Article 32

Without prejudice to Article 27, violations of this Law shall be recorded and investigated in accordance with rules and procedures set by the Minister of Interior, Chairman of the Civil Defense Council.

Article 33

The Civil Defense Council shall issue regulations and decisions necessary for the implementation of this Law.

Article 34

The Council of Ministers shall have the right to construe this Law.

Article 34 bis

The Minister of Interior, Chairman of the Civil Defense Council, may delegate some of his powers under this Law.

Article 35

This Law shall repeal any conflicting provisions.

Article 36

This Law shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall enter into force six months from the date of its publication.