

Preparedness Unit

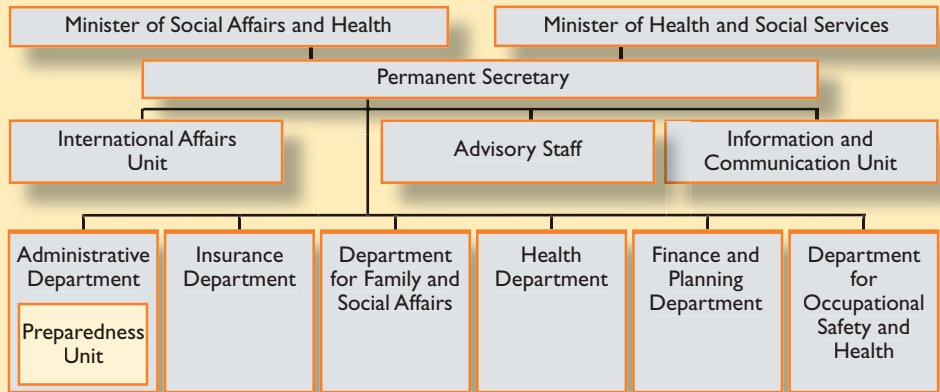
**Ministry of Social Affairs and Health
Finland**

■ MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND HEALTH

Helsinki 2003



Ministry of Social Affairs and Health



Preparedness for exceptional situations and emergency conditions

The preparedness obligation is based on the Emergency Powers Act and the Health Protection Act.

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health directs, supervises and co-ordinates social and medical emergency preparedness for exceptional situations and emergency conditions within its administrative sector in co-operation with the Social and Health Departments of the State Provincial Offices. For preparedness and response in its administrative sector the Ministry has a Preparedness Unit, which is a profit unit under the Administrative Department.

Preparedness Unit

The Preparedness Unit is the expert, guidance and development unit for social and medical preparedness and response. The Unit develops the preparedness of the administrative sector for exceptional situations under normal conditions and for emergency conditions, as well as maintains situation management and security arrangements.

The most important tasks of the Preparedness Unit:

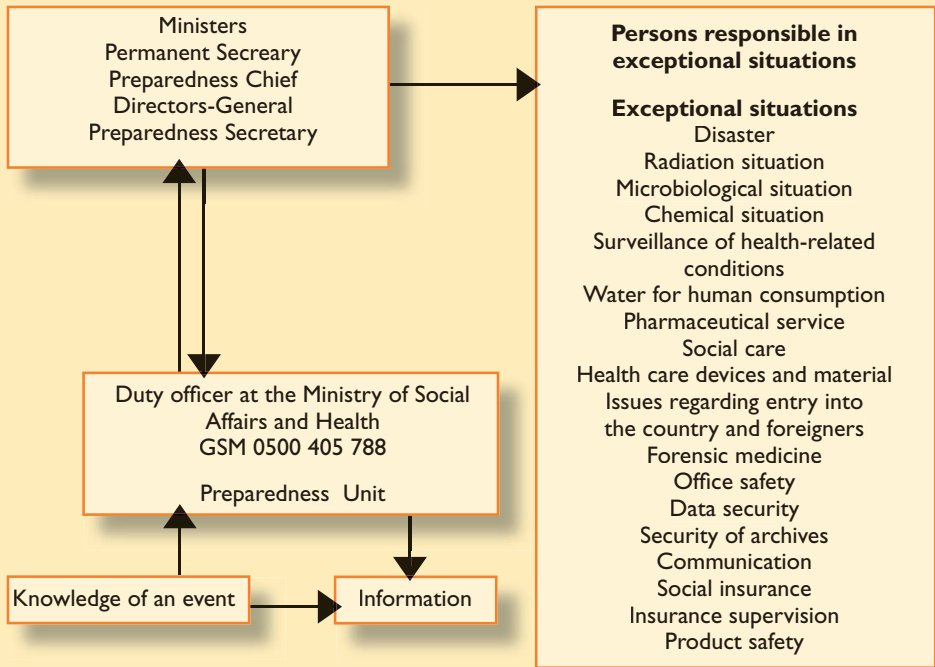
1. National direction of social and medical preparedness and response, and maintaining and development of instructions for preparedness planning;
2. Maintenance and development of situation management and operational preparedness for exceptional situations and emergency conditions;
3. Maintenance and development of the Ministry's security arrangements;
4. Organisation and development of social and medical preparedness and security training;
5. Promotion of the co-operation of authorities regarding preparedness and response;

6. International co-operation on preparedness and response and on preparedness planning;
7. Expert and co-ordination tasks relating to civil crisis management in the administrative sector;
8. Reservation of health care professionals for emergency conditions;
9. Research and development regarding preparedness and response in the administrative sector.

Duty system at the Ministry and flow of information in exceptional situations

In view of exceptional situations the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health has appointed the persons who are obliged to assist, within their scope of responsibilities, the management of the Ministry, the Preparedness and Response Unit and other units in the administrative sector in managing those situations.

Duty system at the Ministry and flow of information in exceptional situations



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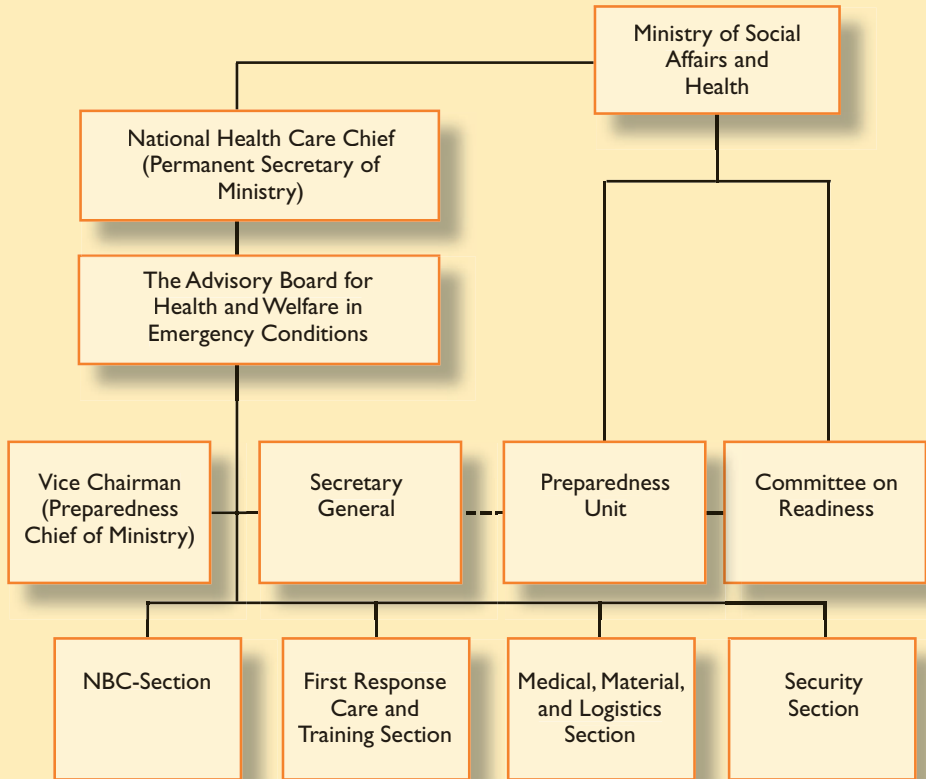
National Health Care Chief and Advisory Board for Health and Welfare in Emergency Conditions

In accordance with section 40 a of the Emergency Powers Act the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health is the National Health Care Chief. He or she shall take care that there are such plans for managing health care in emergency conditions as are necessary and that they are co-ordinated with the planning of other preparedness for emergency conditions. The Government has appointed, upon the submission of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, for a term of four years an Advisory Board for Health and Welfare in Emergency Conditions to plan and prepare the management of health care in emergency conditions.

At the moment the Advisory Board is chaired by the Ministry's Permanent Secretary. Director for Social and Medical Emergency Preparedness and Response and its Secretary General is Liaison Officer of the Defence Staff appointed by Ministry of Defence.

The Advisory Board has set up specific sections for NBC, first response care and training, medical, material and logistics, and security.

The Advisory Board for Health and Welfare in Emergency Conditions



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