



Civilförsvarsförbundet
www.civil.se



Sweden



Population: 9 million inhabitants

Capital city: Stockholm

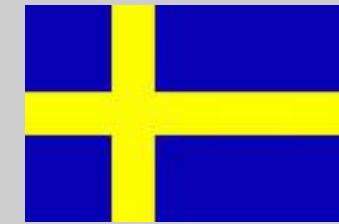
Language: Swedish

Area: 450 000 km²

Religion: 80 % belong to the Evangelical
Lutheran Church of Sweden

Parliament: The "riksdag" with 349 members in one
chamber

Government: Constitutional monarchy, parliamentary
democracy



SCDL's chairman and the Royal Family



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The history of SCDL



- 1937
- Protect against military threat

Today:

- * 250 active associations
- * 24 000 members
- * non-profit
- * voluntary

What is the Swedish Civil Defence League?



- We supply knowledge and skills to private citizens in the area of safety, security, protection and survival.
- We show people how to prevent and handle accidents, disasters and other hardships.

THE BEST KNOWLEDGE OF HOW TO COPE IN VULNERABLE SITUATIONS.

What does the Swedish Civil Defence League offer?



- Free education concerning general safety, CPR, fire safety, first aid and crisis preparedness for all citizens
- Education in CPR-D
- Voluntary Resource Group - training





- Supports the community in extraordinary events
- Crisis Communication
- Energy information and awareness
- Climate information and awareness

Childrens education

Our child safety education is aimed at those working with children and children aged 4-10.



Hembert – properly prepared at home



Find Vilse – open-air safety

Kattis and Roffe – home safety



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The Civil Defence League abroad

The Civil Defence League works in other countries to help them get started with similar programs.

Estonia
Latvia
Lithuania
Poland
Russia
Ukraine
United Arab Emirates



Voluntary Resource Groups

A concept allowing efficient use of skilled volunteers in crisis situations and disasters

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Background



- The **voluntary resource group concept**, developed by SCDL, is a logical continuation of previous civil defence structures, adapted to current needs and conditions
- Part of the new Swedish crisis management system (2004-)
- Gathers competence from voluntary organizations and allows for further recruitment
- Reinforcement- or relief resource for authorities in extraordinary events or other difficult situations



- Tasks and organization of VRG teams are tailor-made to adapt to local needs.
- VRG teams are primarily a resource for local authorities and/or the fire department
- It is not mandatory for local authorities to have a voluntary resource group in each municipality (i.e. not regulated by law), but recommended from many levels
- Currently, there are voluntary resource groups in 132 municipalities (46% of all Swedish municipalities, Oct. 2009)

Skilled volunteers from various organizations contribute with their knowledge...



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Other organizations



Voluntary
Resource group

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...and thus become a single organized resource, available to assist authorities in case of a crisis, large accident, or disaster.



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Examples of relief efforts conducted by voluntary resource groups

- The tsunami disaster (2004)
- Hurricane Gudrun (2005)
- Sweden's largest forest fire, Boden (2006)
- Hurricane Per (2007)

Examples of tasks:



- General assistance and aid to local citizens
- Establishing emergency radio communications
- Transports of equipment and personnel
- Administrative and practical support to fire department incident command and personnel

Examples of tasks



- Evacuation of residential areas
- Assistance to firefighters during forest fires
- Search and rescue operations
- Information and crisis communication

Hurricane Gudrun



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Forest fire, Boden, summer of 2006

Four VRG groups were deployed for about **30 days**, working around the clock.

"If you do not already have a voluntary resource group in your municipality, go home and get yourself one immediately."

(Ranking fire chief, addressing representatives of authorities and fire departments at a conference after the large forest fire in Boden 2006.)



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The "restaurant" (actually a garage) for the firefighters, manned by VRG personnel.



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VRG teams have showed excellent performance during actual crisis situations.

One strength of the VRG concept is the very high flexibility of the teams – they can be called upon to respond in a large variety of situations.

Training



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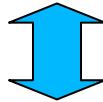
VRG standard training

- Local conditions, risks, vulnerabilities, and resources
- The team's organization och tasks
- Crisis communication
- First aid training
- CPR and CPR-D
- Basic fire suppression
- General assistance
- How to operate efficiently in a crisis situation
- Managing spontaneous volunteers
(The 30-minute method)



Operational organisation of a VRG

Local authorities, fire department, police



VRG operational commander

VRG team leaders

VRG deputy leaders

VRG personnel

VRG command center

Special taskgroups



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Equipment



- Individual equipment
- Group equipment
- Heavier, specialized equipment in cooperation with nearby VRG groups



Identification



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Important issues

- Written agreements between each volunteer and team / authorities
- Insurance, confidentiality, etc.
- Financing
- Clear leadership structure and good leaders
- Activation procedures
- Equipment
- Transportation
- Flexible teams

International implementation - Takatof volunteers in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, during F1 Grand Prix

Structured team response

- 30-minute method
- Crowd management
- Transportation



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VACPE



VACPE = Voluntary Activities towards improved Civil Preparedness in Europe

- Danish Civil Protection League
- Swedish Civil Defence League
- Estonian Civil Defence Society

Non-profit project financed by EU
www.vacpe.eu

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING

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Malin Dreifaldt
District Coordinator - Mälardalen

malin.dreifaldt@civil.se

Patrik Vuorio
International Relations Officer / Business Developer
patrik.vuorio@civil.se

