

Republic of Latvia
Cabinet
Regulation No. 440
Adopted 8 August 2017

Procedures for Establishing, Operating and Financing the National Early Warning System

*Issued pursuant to
Section 8, Paragraph two, Clause 7 of the Civil Protection and Disaster Management Law*

I. General Provision

1. This Regulation prescribes the procedures for establishing, operating and financing the national early warning system (hereinafter – the system).

II. Procedures for Establishing the System

2. The system includes the following:

- 2.1. alarm sirens placed in republic cities, municipality towns and municipality parishes that are controlled and turned on from the central control panel;
- 2.2. alarm and public address equipment of State and local government authorities;
- 2.3. electronic mass media (e.g., radio, television);
- 2.4. broadcasters and electronic communications merchants that ensure the electronic communications network;
- 2.5. other engineering solutions that can provide early warning.

3. In order to build an effectively operating system, the State Fire and Rescue Service shall involve in operations:

- 3.1. State and local government authorities in accordance with the laws and regulations regarding co-operation within the public administration;
- 3.2. private individuals by entering into a contract.

4. The Information Centre of the Ministry of the Interior shall ensure the installation of alarm sirens and their control units on the buildings of State and local government authorities and also of private individuals or parts thereof, and their disassembly.

5. In accordance with the laws and regulations regarding the procedures by which the property of a public person is transferred for use, State and local government authorities shall transfer for use without compensation buildings or parts thereof in their ownership or possession to the Information Centre of the Ministry of the Interior for the purpose to install alarm sirens and their control units. Buildings or parts thereof in ownership or possession of private individuals shall be transferred to the Information Centre of the Ministry of the Interior by entering into a lending contract.

6. The Information Centre of the Ministry of the Interior shall ensure the operation of alarm sirens and the central control panel of alarm sirens.

III. Procedures for Operating the System

7. The State Fire and Rescue Service shall receive information on a disaster or threats of a disaster from international organisations, State and local government authorities and also private individuals.

8. The decision to activate the system shall be taken by:

8.1. the Chief of the State Fire and Rescue Service for the entire country or territory of several republic cities and municipalities;

8.2. the head of the territorial unit of the State Fire and Rescue Service for the territory of a republic city or municipality.

9. The State Fire and Rescue Service shall activate the system as follows:

9.1. before turning on alarm sirens, information on a disaster or threats of a disaster and further action of inhabitants in the relevant situation shall be sent to electronic mass media in accordance with the concluded contracts;

9.2. alarm sirens are turned on in the relevant territory and a warning signal is transmitted for at least three minutes.

10. Electronic mass media, taking into account the instructions of the State Fire and Rescue Service in relation to urgency of the provision of information, shall communicate the information on a disaster or threats of a disaster and further action of inhabitants in the relevant situation provided by the State Fire and Rescue Service free of charge.

11. Inhabitants turn on devices which ensure the receipt of information transmitted by electronic mass media (e.g., radios, TVs).

12. To ensure manual activation of alarm sirens, the officials of the State Fire and Rescue Service with special service ranks are entitled to access alarm sirens and their control panels that are installed on the objects referred to in Paragraph 4 of this Regulation.

13. In the event of system activation, State and local government authorities shall act in accordance with the tasks outlined in the State Civil Protection Plan.

14. Upon a request of the State Fire and Rescue Service, broadcasters and electronic communications merchants shall provide for temporary use additional local loops and numbers in accordance with the concluded contracts.

15. For the purpose of ensuring continuous operation of the system, the State Fire and Rescue Service shall perform the alarm siren readiness control at least twice a year by turning on alarm sirens for three minutes. In compliance with the provisions laid down in Paragraph 10 of this Regulation, inhabitants shall be informed of the alarm siren readiness control (turning on of alarm sirens) via electronic mass media three days before the start of control and immediately after turning on alarm sirens, indicating that the alarm siren readiness control is in process.

IV. Procedures for Financing the System

16. The maintenance and ensuring of the operation of the system shall be implemented by State and local government authorities in accordance with the allocated financial resources.

17. A private individual shall finance the maintenance and operation of the system from its own resources, unless stated otherwise in the concluded contracts.

18. If alarm sirens that are installed on buildings or parts thereof in the ownership or possession of State and local government authorities and their control unit are relocated to other buildings or parts thereof, installation and disassembly expenses shall be covered by the initiator of the alarm siren relocation.

19. If alarm sirens that are installed on buildings or parts thereof in the ownership or possession of private individuals and their control unit are relocated to other buildings or parts thereof, installation and disassembly expenses shall be covered in accordance with the procedures laid down in the lending contract.

V. Closing Provision

20. Cabinet Regulation No. 530 of 7 August 2007, Procedures for the Establishment, Use and Financing of the Civil Alarm and Public Address System (*Latvijas Vēstnesis*, 2007, No. 129; 2009, No. 69; 2015, No. 66), is repealed.

Prime Minister

Māris Kučinskis

Minister for the Interior

Rihards Kozlovskis