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Annual Report  
Summary

04



A safe and robust society - where everyone takes responsibility

The Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection and Emergency Planning (DSB) shall maintain a full **overview** of risk and vulnerability in society. We shall promote measures, which **prevent** accidents, crises and other undesirable incidents, and we shall ensure sufficient **emergency planning** and efficient **management** of accidents and crises.

### One plus one shall equal more than two

DSB's role is both to expect the unexpected and at the same time keep a vigilant eye on ordinary, everyday incidents. The Directorate has a wide range of responsibilities and sphere of authority. One of the purposes behind the establishment of DSB was the political will to have one authority

that sees beyond the limits of responsibility and professional boundaries and monitors civil protection at a superior level. Parallel with this the Directorate has the obligation to ensure that preventive work is carried out in our own areas of professional responsibility. The Directorate's wide area of responsibility involves challenges regarding our relationships and cooperation with many other au-

thorities, voluntary organizations, trade and industry. During 2004 the Directorate entered into several co-operative agreements in order to reach a mutual understanding of the distribution of responsibilities and tasks.

### Organizational and personnel policy challenges

During 2004 a strategic process took place that clarified the goals and priorities that are necessary to match our operational concept. The strategy forms the basis for decisions regarding internal priorities, dialogue and cooperation with others and for the further development of our own organization.

On 20 December 2004 the Directorate moved to new premises at Kaldnes in Tønsberg. The Head Office is at last under one roof and conditions are favourable for maintaining focus on the challenges we face in the area of civil protection.

The processes of merging two directorates, organizational adjustments and relocation have been extremely demanding. Despite this, the organization has managed to remain vigilant regarding its professional duties and in general has accomplished that which is expected of us by our superior authorities. The Directorate has secured and retained important key competence from the former office in Oslo. This contributes to the Directorate being well equipped in dealing with future challenges.

### Events of 2004

Following are a selection of cases from 2004 that illustrate the character of the organization:

#### Preventive work

DSB has achieved professional added value in the area of preventive work in general and has further developed near cooperation between the Civil Defence, the municipal fire services and other emergency services. In addition, DSB has issued a national preparedness and vulnerability report. The purpose is to give decision makers at all levels a mutual platform for the understanding of the challenges we face in the area of civil protection.



The Fire Service in action

In the area of community planning DSB has over a period of time followed work with the revised Planning and Building Act. Although the work is not yet completed one of our proposals to include public safety seems to have gained full support.

Last year's market control of products reveals a need for raising awareness amongst manufacturers and importers regarding their obligations in connection with marketing products. Market control is a strategic instrument that is used to eliminate dangerous products from the market.

Following thefts from explosive storages during the winter of 2004 DSB reviewed the legislation for storage safety and level of security, and security inspections were intensified. Personal injuries resulting from the use of fireworks have increased and we are currently working on several measures to reverse this development. A new approval arrangement for pyrotechnical products came into effect 1 March 2004.

Norway has many tunnels and it has been of great importance to get safety in tunnels on the agenda. To achieve this we have made joint efforts with the Norwegian Public Roads Administration.

#### Supervisory activities

Supervisory activities are important strategic instruments in efforts to prevent and reduce the risk for loss of life, damage to health, the environment, critical infrastruc-



Safe tunnels



The Head Office

ture and material assets. Audits and inspections have been carried out at ministries, enterprises that are subject to the Seveso II Directive and other enterprises where an unwanted incident may have major consequences. In addition, supervision is carried out at the municipal fire services, County Governors, 110-emergency alarm centres and in the field of electrical safety.



Fireworks are not playthings

Work to ensure the safe transport of dangerous goods by road and rail has been given priority, and 2004 saw the introduction of a new regulation implementing amendments in the international transport regulations. Changes in legislation involve demands to secure transport of dangerous goods against unwanted and criminal acts.

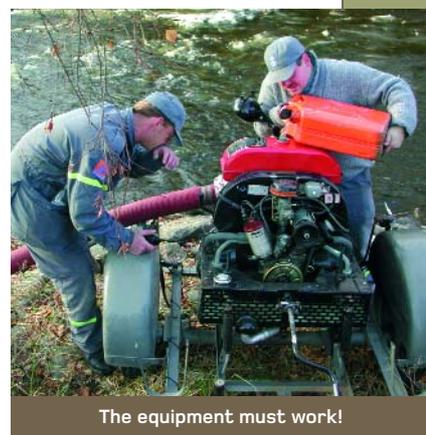
### Guidelines and framework

An important part of DSB's role is to draw up guidelines and framework that indicate requirements for practice and activities in many different areas. This demanding and time-consuming work is undertaken both independently and in close co-operation with other authorities and parties. Amongst the main areas of legislative development during 2004 were: the harmonization of fire regulations with building requirements according to the Planning and Building Act; the legislative modernization and simplification project (Norwegian Labour Inspection Authority/DSB); the HES legislation website "Regelhjelp.no"; revision of the national Seveso regulations; theme guidelines to the Regulations concerning Flammable or Pressurized Substances; Regulations concerning the Safety Aspects of Recreational Diving; participation in international legislation and standardization work within DSB's professional sphere.

### Exercises

In order to improve the authorities' capabilities in mastering major incidents and crises, a number of exercises have been carried out, such as Triplex, Crisis Management Exercise and Civil National Exercise. The two first mentioned are under the direction of UN and NATO respectively. The latter is an exercise that DSB wishes to develop into a major annual exercise at ministerial level in collaboration with the Norwegian Defence Research Establishment, the National Police Directorate and the National Emergency Planning College.

Exercises are also held for leaders in local municipalities. Cooperative exercises are arranged between enterprises and municipalities and for the County Governors' emergency preparedness and response advisory committees. The aim of these exercises is to enable each individual to bear full responsibility for their own role. The exercises are performed either as tabletop, discussion or staff exercises or in form of operative field exercises.



The equipment must work!

Attention must be drawn to Exercise Barents Rescue 2005, the largest and most complex exercise ever held in Norway under civilian leadership, which is in the planning stage. The exercise will mainly take place in the municipalities of Porsanger and Nordkapp, which are distinguished by rough climate, long distances and sparse infrastructure. The exercise is of a civil-military character and great emphasis is laid on the collaboration between civil and military organizations.

### The Civil Defence

The reorganization of the Civil Defence was also completed in 2004. The new Civil Defence Districts are operative and function well. This was most recently demonstrated when several districts participated in establishing a reception arrangement for affected persons returning from the flood wave catastrophe in South East Asia. Another example is the rescue operation following the Roknes shipwreck incident. The committee that evaluated the future manning and equipment structure of the Civil Defence delivered its report in December. The report forms the basis for the further development of the Civil Defence with future challenges in mind and paves the way for a modern, effective reinforcement resource for the emergency services.



The flood wave catastrophe in South East Asia also affected many Norwegians

The Directorate awaits a final decision regarding the organization of the local electrical safety inspection authorities. It is important that this matter is resolved especially with regard to the several hundred employees working within these inspectorates countrywide.