



Civilförsvarsförbundet
www.civil.se



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Sweden



Population:	9 million inhabitants
Capital city:	Stockholm
Language:	Swedish
Area:	450 000 km ²
Religion:	80 % belong to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Sweden
Parliament:	The "riksdag" with 349 members in one chamber
Government:	Constitutional monarchy, parliamentary democracy

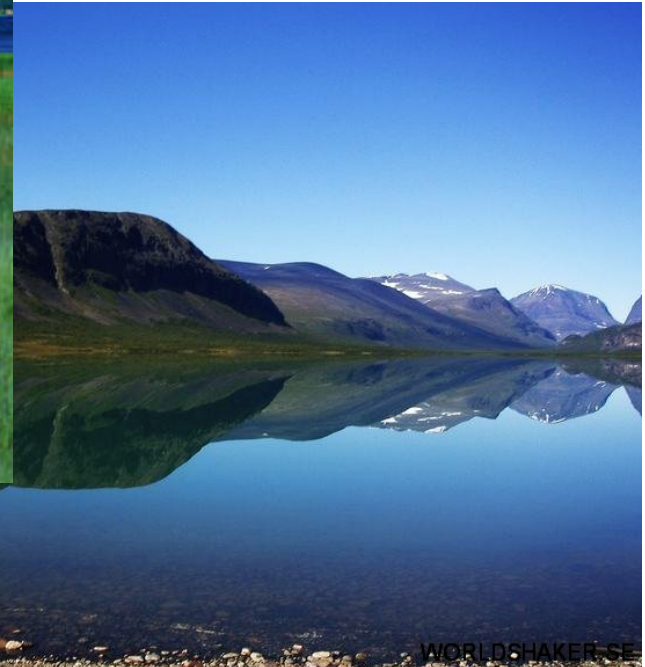




SCDL's chairman and the Royal Family

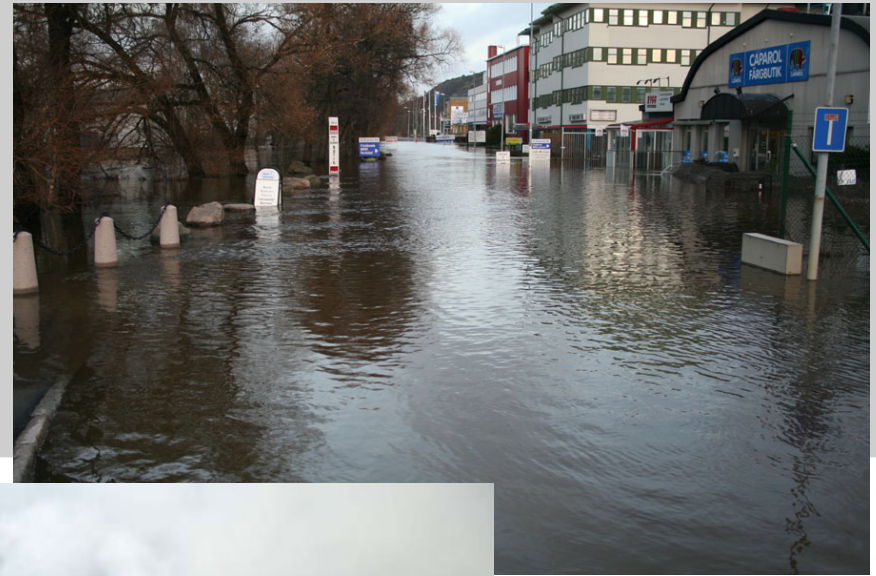


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WORLDSHAKER-SE



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The history of SCDL



- 1937
- Protect against military threat

Today: * 250 active associations

* 24 000 members

* non-profit

* voluntary



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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.



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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



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



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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



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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

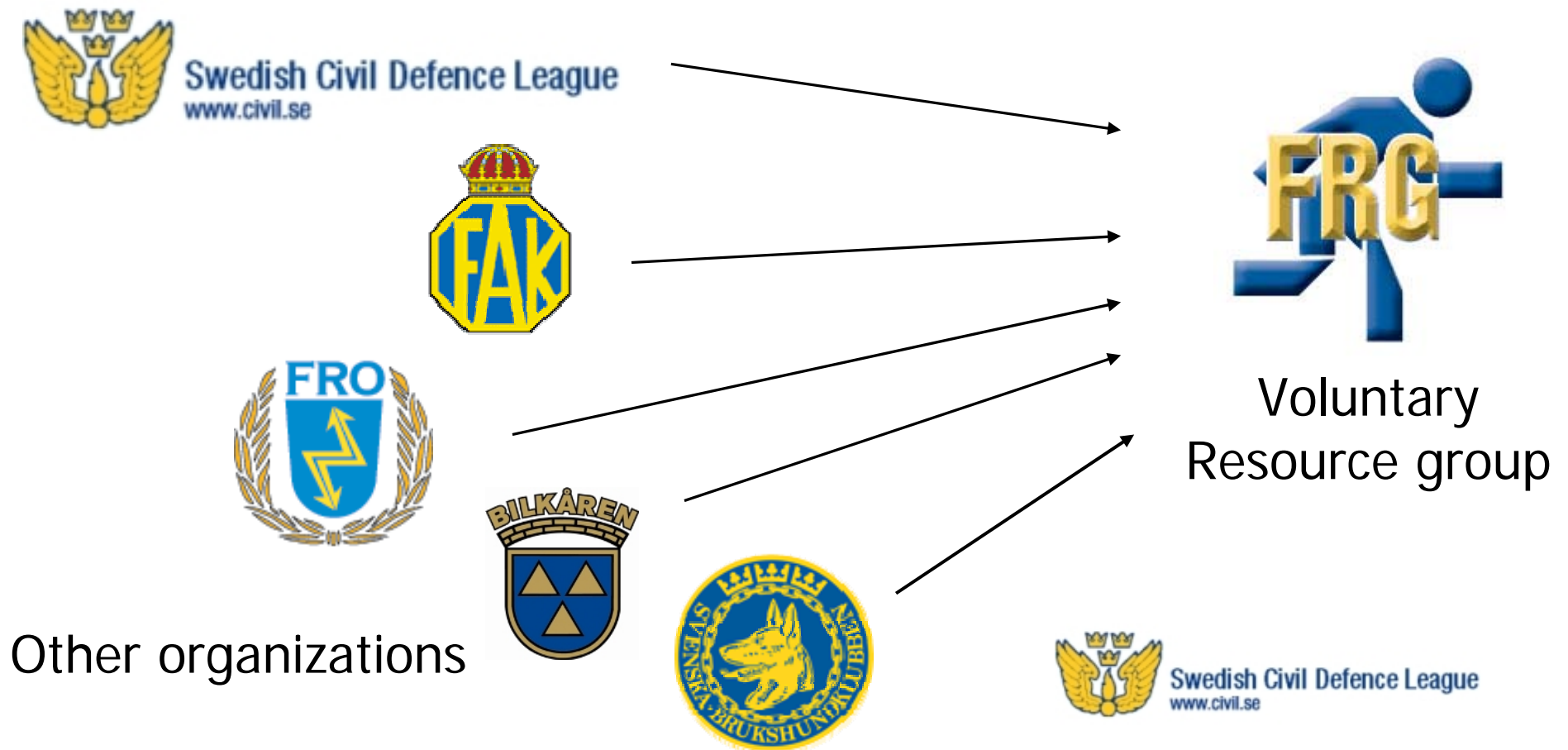




- Tasks and organization of VRG teams are tailor-made to adapt to local needs.
- VRG teams are primarily a resource for local authorities and/or the fire department
- It is not mandatory for local authorities to have a voluntary resource group in each municipality (i.e. not regulated by law), but recommended 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...



...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



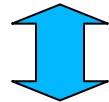
VRG standard training

- 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 command center

VRG team leaders

Special taskgroups

VRG deputy leaders

VRG personnel



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Equipment



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



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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

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THANK YOU FOR LISTENING

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