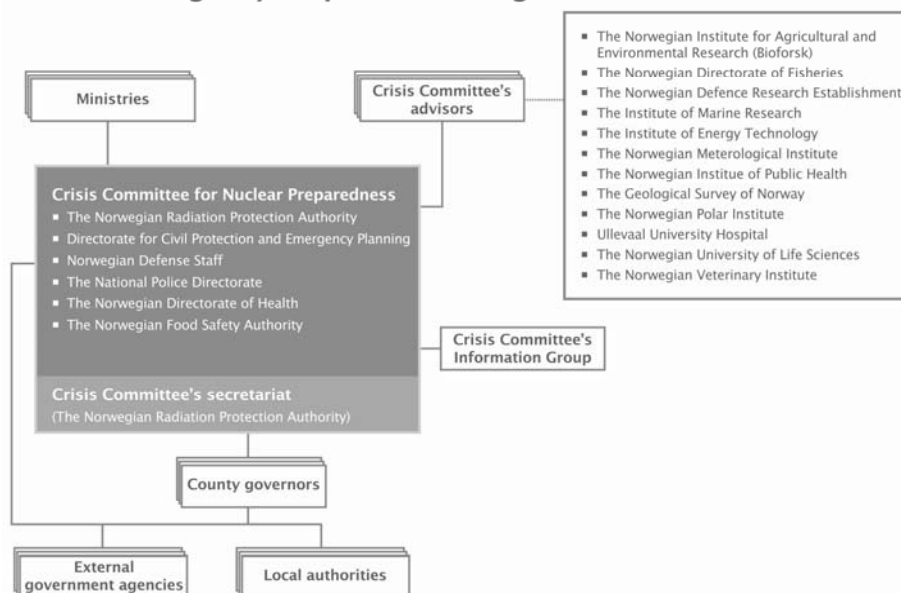




Organisation of Norwegian nuclear preparedness

The Norwegian nuclear preparedness is built up around the Crisis Committee for Nuclear Preparedness, which consists of representatives of central authorities who have a special responsibility for nuclear preparedness. The Crisis Committee has been appointed tasks in all phases of a nuclear incident and in the ongoing preparedness work. Its mandate encompasses both accidents and deliberate actions in peace and in security crises/war. In the early phase of an accident or incident, the Crisis Committee shall decide coordinated measures and information to protect life, the environment and other important social issues. After the early phase the Crisis Committee will act as an advisory body to the authorities. The Crisis Committee has the ongoing responsibility for maintenance and development of nuclear preparedness.

Nuclear Emergency Preparedness Organisation



Nuclear Preparedness Organisation

The nuclear preparedness organisation has been created in order to make expertise accessible when handling nuclear incidents, and to ensure rapid implementation of measures intended to protect life, health, the environment and other important social interests. Nuclear incidents encompass both accidents and incidents resulting from deliberate actions in peacetime and in security crises/war. The Norwegian nuclear preparedness was laid down in the Royal Resolution of 17 February 2006.

The preparedness organisation consists of the Crisis Committee for Nuclear Preparedness, the

advisors to the Crisis Committee, the secretariat of the Crisis Committee, the Committee's information group and County Governors, including the District Governor of Svalbard. The figure above shows the agencies that are represented in the Crisis Committee, and the institutions that make up the committee's advisors. The Crisis Committee reports to the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, and is led by the Director of the Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority.

In accordance with the sector principle, the ministries are responsible for preparedness within their own sectors being satisfactory, and

coordination with other sectors. The relevant ministries' collaboration in the ongoing preparedness work is organised through the Civil Service Group for the Coordination of Nuclear Preparedness, which is led by the Ministry of Health and Care Services.

In complex crisis situations there may be a need for reinforced coordination between the ministries. In such situations the Government Crisis Council comes into force, while the Crisis Committee for Nuclear Preparedness will continue to ensure coordination at agency level.

The role of the Crisis Committee for Nuclear Preparedness

If a nuclear incident, or if the possibility of a nuclear incident cannot be excluded, and this could affect Norway or Norwegian interests, the Crisis Committee for Nuclear Preparedness will ensure coordinated efforts and information. The Crisis Committee has the authority to make decisions and issue orders for implementation of pre-defined measures during the acute phase of an incident. The mandate of the Crisis Committee also includes incidents that affect Norwegians or Norwegian interests outside Norway. In addition, the Crisis Committee has tasks in the ongoing preparedness work, and as an advisor to the authorities in the late phase of a nuclear incident.

A dedicated information group (KU-info) will assist the Crisis Committee with dissemination of information. The members are recruited from the member agencies of the Crisis Committee.

The Crisis Committee's advisors

The advisors of the Crisis Committee consist of representatives of institutions and agencies with special skills associated with nuclear preparedness. During a nuclear incident, the advisors make up the specialist support network for the Crisis Committee. The Crisis Committee and the advisors have the task of building up, maintaining and coordinating the nuclear preparedness through contact with authorities at all levels, information exchange, assessment of the threat scenarios and organising out exercises.

The Secretariat of the Crisis Committee

The Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority acts as the secretariat and offers the operational

premises for the Crisis Committee and its advisors. The secretariat assists the Crisis Committee in handling crises and is responsible for daily operations, maintenance and coordination of the national nuclear preparedness. The Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority is the national and international point of contact, and as the secretariat is able to summon the Crisis Committee through its 24-hour duty functions.

County Governors – the regional stage

County Governors are the nuclear preparedness' regional stage, and will contribute through preparation and guidance to regional and local agencies establishing the necessary plans as part of a coordinated planning scheme. In the case of a nuclear incident, County Governors will be responsible for coordination and contribute to initiation of coordinated measures on both regional and local levels, including both protective measures and dissemination of information to the press and the general public.

Initiatives during the acute phase

The Crisis Committee can implement the following dose-reducing measures during the acute phase of a nuclear incident in order to protect life, health, the environment or other important societal interests.

- give orders for closure of areas that are, or may be, heavily polluted, e.g. in the form of limitation of access and traffic, or making safe and removal of radioactive fragments,
- order acute evacuation of local communities in cases where the source of the emissions, e.g. a local reactor, a nuclear vessel in difficulties or fragments from a satellite,
- form a direct threat to life and health locally
- impose short-term measures/restriction in production of foodstuffs, e.g. to keep animals indoors or postpone harvests,
- impose/provide advice for cleaning polluted persons,
- provide advice to the general public about remaining indoors,
- provide advice concerning evacuation to shelters,
- provide advice concerning use of iodine tablets,
- provide dietary advice, e.g. advice to avoid consuming certain polluted foodstuffs, and
- provide advice concerning other dose-reducing measures.

The measures will be implemented by the agencies in the Crisis Committee that have the relevant legal mandate for the measure.