

Guidelines

DSB's Climate Change Platform

The impacts of climate change on civil protection and integration of these considerations within the entire scope of DSB's activities.

April 2017



dsb

Direktoratet for
samfunnsikkerhet
og beredskap

CONTENTS

OBJECTIVE	3
SCOPE	3
BACKGROUND	3
JUSTIFICATION	4
MEASURES	5
AUTHORITIES	6
RESPONSIBILITIES	7
EFFECTIVE DATE	7

PREFACE

The climate is changing. This can lead to more extreme weather and increased strain on critical infrastructure in Norway. Climate change can also give rise to increasing droughts and floods in other parts of the world, which in turn can lead to food shortages, displacement and the spread of harmful organisms. These trends present a broad challenge for civil protection, and Norway must therefore adapt. Although all sectors are responsible for their respective domain, someone has to keep an eye on the "big picture".

According to the **Instructions for DSB's Coordinating Roles**, the Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection (DSB) shall assess the vulnerabilities and levels of preparedness in society, initiate measures to prevent serious incidents, and foster a cross-sectoral perspective. DSB shall use this role to meet the civil protection challenges resulting from climate change.

This is a translation of the original Norwegian document for information purposes only.

OBJECTIVE

DSB's portfolio is comprised of three more or less distinct areas: one is regulatory responsibility for electrical safety, industrial safety and fire protection, the second is its role in facilitating coordination across sectors and the third is the operational capacity of the Civil Defense.

The objective of this platform is to strengthen DSB's capacity to prevent and prepare for the impacts of climate change within the areas of regulatory responsibility, and to support its coordinating role regarding the overall impact of climate change on societal security. This is to be achieved by:

- ✓ Clarifying DSB's regulatory responsibilities
- ✓ Improving the capacities of the three regulatory domains in order to provide support to DSB's coordinating role
- ✓ Utilising existing legal and regulatory instruments to strengthen DSB's coordinating role.

SCOPE

This platform applies to all of DSB's operations, with a focus on the protection of human lives and health, material assets and critical infrastructure.

BACKGROUND

DSB has been dealing with issues related to climate change adaptation since 2004. From 2007 to 2013, DSB acted as the secretariat of the governmental committee for climate change adaptation. Furthermore, DSB is internationally involved in adaptation work, e.g., within the EEA/Norway Grants and as coordinator for the national platform under the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR).

According to the white paper on climate change adaptation in Norway, individuals, businesses and the authorities are all responsible for adapting to climate change. In this context, DSB's follow-up of

municipal civil protection and spatial planning obligations via the county governors plays an important role.

Other agencies that play important roles in adapting society to climate change include the Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate (NVE) and the Norwegian Environment Agency. Whereas NVE's portfolio includes the hydrological aspects of climate change (watercourse management, floods, landslides, avalanches, etc.), the Environment Agency is responsible for the overall coordination of climate change adaptation in Norway.

Furthermore, society's adaptation to climate change depends on knowledge as a basis for decision-making. In this context, the Norwegian Meteorological Institute is a key player, while numerous other universities and research institutes also contribute vital knowledge about climate change.

This platform outlines DSB's responsibilities and serves as a guideline for the agency's further work in this field.

JUSTIFICATION

Although the scope, severity and pace of future climate change impacts are difficult to predict, it is clear that climate change is a challenge for civil protection. Specific examples include:

- ✓ Increasing frequency and severity of extreme weather events such as storms, floods and droughts will threaten human lives and health, material assets and critical infrastructure.
- ✓ Both extreme weather events and gradual climate change will increase the vulnerability of critical infrastructure.
- ✓ Global effects of climate change can have an indirect impact on societal security in Norway. For example, intensifying droughts or floods can result in food insecurity, economic collapse and human suffering, which in turn may lead to cross-border migration and the spread of harmful organisms.

Climate change will thus challenge society's ordinary emergency management capacity.

MEASURES

To achieve the objective of this platform, all departments in DSB are to prioritize the following actions:

1. DSB shall have an overview of the impacts of climate change on societal security, and thus improve the utilization of existing data to enable the agency to raise relevant issues in connection with its coordinating role.
2. DSB shall have an overview of the impacts of climate change on societal security, and thus improve the utilization of existing data to enable the integration of climate change concerns in the agency's regulatory responsibilities. The potential impacts of climate change on these areas must be highlighted.
3. DSB shall have an overview of the impacts of climate change on societal security at the municipal level and support municipalities in addressing these challenges.
4. DSB shall continue to utilize existing networks, and seek to establish new partnerships to further develop the agency's knowledge about the impacts of climate change on societal security and enhance its prevention and preparedness capacity. This includes other public agencies, municipalities, research and education institutions, the insurance industry and other forums, such as the national platform for disaster risk reduction.
5. DSB shall, when assessing natural disasters and with help from appropriate external expertise, examine whether there is a climate change signal in the event. When designing exercises, DSB shall consider if it is possible to include climate change concerns.
6. DSB shall initiate the development of scenarios in which societal security is threatened by the impacts of climate change.
7. DSB shall establish a distinct profile regarding the impacts of climate change on societal security, and use this profile in its internal and external communication.

AUTHORITIES

- ✓ Act relating to the Municipal Preparedness Duty, Civil Protection Measures and the Norwegian Civil Defence (**Civil Protection Act**);
- ✓ Act relating to Planning and the Processing of Building Applications (**Planning and Building Act**);
- ✓ Act relating to the Prevention of Fire, Explosion and Accidents involving Hazardous Substances and the Fire Services' Duties connected with Rescue Operations (**Fire and Explosion Prevention Act**);
- ✓ **Royal Decree of 24 June 2005** relating to DSB's general coordination responsibility and the responsibility for coordination of audits of activities, objects and enterprises with a major accident potential, in accordance with white papers 17 (2001-2002) and 17 (2002-2003).
- ✓ **Royal Decree of 15 June 2012** relating to the ministries' civil protection and preparedness work, the Ministry of Justice and Public Security's coordination role, audit function and central crisis management;
- ✓ Regulations relating to measures to prevent and limit the consequences of major accidents in enterprises where hazardous chemicals are involved (**Major Accident Regulations**).



Flood in the Gudbrand Valley. Photo: Norsk naturskadepool/FNO

RESPONSIBILITIES

All departments in DSB are responsible for following up this platform. The Regional and Local Risk Management unit in the Department of Analysis and National Preparedness is responsible for coordinating the agency-wide efforts in this respect.

All departments are to operationalize the above-mentioned measures within the context of their respective responsibilities. This also involves developing appropriate success criteria. All departments shall report to the director annually.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This Climate Change Platform is effective as of **1 May 2017**.

Tønsberg, April 2017

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Cecilie Daae". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cecilie Daae
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