

Gibraltar 
Major Incident
or Emergency
Advisory booklet 



Government of Gibraltar
Civil Contingency Committee
No 6 Convent Place
Gibraltar





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Further copies of this booklet can be obtained from the Publications Office, No. 6 Convent Place, Gibraltar.

(Tel: 70071 or Tel: 51729)

The booklet is also available on the Government website at www.gibraltar.gov.gi





Emergency contact numbers.



Below are important emergency telephone numbers that you should keep for reference.

When the Emergency Authority answers, give them the address where help is needed, your name, telephone number and any other necessary information.

EMERGENCY
199

FIRE
190

AMBULANCE
190

POLICE
199 & 112

PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE EMERGENCY SERVICES FOR NON URGENT CALLS.





Other useful contact numbers.



	DAYTIME	AFTER HOURS
No. 6 Convent Place	70071	54005210
Royal Gibraltar Police	72500	72500
City Fire Brigade	79507	79507
Emergency Ambulance Service	50025	50025
St Bernard's Hospital	72266 / 79700	72266 / 79700
Environmental Agency	70620	58297000
Port Department	77254	78134
Public Health	79700	79700
Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation	79760	79760
AquaGib	40880	73659
Gibtelecom	52200	52200
Gibraltar Electricity Authority	48901	58465000 / 58466000
Government Technical Services	59800	78835

Your personal contact numbers

Doctor:

Work:

School:

Nursery / Child Minder:

Relatives:

Friends:





Introduction.



This booklet is being issued by the Gibraltar Government's Civil Contingency Committee. The Civil Contingency Committee is a Committee of Ministers and senior Government officials which brings together all Government's technical and professional expertise and responsible post holders under the political leadership of the Chief Minister and the Minister for Health (who is responsible for civil contingency planning). The Government's Civil Contingency Committee is charged with drawing up response plans in relation to the various different threat events which could foreseeably occur in Gibraltar, with rehearsing these plans and overseeing their implementation in the event of need.

This booklet offers basic advice on what you and your family should do in the event of a major incident or emergency. Most of it may seem obvious to you but it is important that you read the booklet by way of preparation and information. A major incident could arise for example from a natural disaster, major accident, terrorist strike or other criminal act.

Even though Gibraltar is a relatively safe place, emergency incidents can happen anywhere and this booklet is designed to provide useful advice and guidance as to what to do if such an incident happens. Do not be alarmed. This booklet is not published because someone thinks or has information that something is going to happen in Gibraltar. It reflects and responds to a greater public awareness of risk and a desire to be as well informed as possible.

This booklet outlines advice on precautions which you should take in the event of any major emergency. Each type of incident requires a different response. Separate, additional information relating to specific forms of emergencies is also included. The Gibraltar Major Incident Plan, drawn up by the Civil Contingency Committee and the various agencies that form part of it, includes specific response plans for most foreseeable major incidents. Examples of these response plans are listed on page 20 of this booklet.

Detailed advice in response to a specific incident depends on the nature and form that the incident takes. Because this cannot be predicted, it is standard practice internationally for civil contingency response plans to be based on communicating the appropriate incident specific information to the general public when an incident occurs or when a specific threat is envisaged. This is done via the media and also via instructions from emergency services. This is the case also of Gibraltar's plans. To advise the general public of what to do in the event of every possible type of incident is simply not practical or sensible.

This booklet, which is based on international models, but altered to accommodate Gibraltar's circumstances, highlights certain initial advice of general application. However the advice is also useful should you find yourself caught in any incident whilst you are abroad.





General advice about what to do in an emergency.



- If you WITNESS an emergency, call 199 or 190 (for fire only) and request attendance by the emergency services. State briefly and clearly the nature of the emergency.
- IN AN EMERGENCY, DO NOT CALL 199 OR 190 SIMPLY TO OBTAIN INFORMATION. This could cause severe congestion on these lines and hamper the emergency services.
- Information and advice about what is happening and what should be done will be provided by the Government via radio and TV and by emergency services at the scene, by public address systems and any other means of disseminating information quickly.
- In certain types of emergency the telephone service, or parts of it, may be interrupted. Do not be concerned. This is done to ensure that the Network is not saturated and remains available for use by emergency and essential services and other necessary official use.

REMEMBER

If you are not involved in the incident, but are close by or believe you may be in danger, the advice is:

GO INSIDE A SAFE BUILDING
STAY INSIDE UNTIL ADVISED TO DO OTHERWISE
TUNE IN TO GBC RADIO OR TV FOR MORE INFORMATION

However, there may be occasions when you should not "go in" to, or "stay in" a building e.g. if there is a fire. (*The GO IN, STAY IN, TUNE IN advice is recognised and used around the world)



How do I keep informed?



It is standard practice internationally for civil contingency response plans to be based on communicating the appropriate information to the general public when an incident occurs or when a specific threat is envisaged.

This is done via the media and also via instructions from emergency services.

Tune in to GBC or BFBS Radio or GBC TV for information.

	GBC VHF 91.3 GBC VHF 92.6 GBC VHF 100.5 BFBS ONE 93.5/97.8 MH BFBS TWO 89.5/99.4 MH		GBC VHF CH 6 GBC UHF CH 53 GBC VHF CH 12 GBC UHF CH 56 GBC UHF CH 32
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General advice on major incident situations.



What should I do if there is a terrorist attack or other major incident?

- If you are at the site of the incident, follow the instructions of the emergency services. If there are no emergency services present move as quickly as you can away from the site, and urge others to do the same. Once you are at a safe distance, call 199.
- Do not stop to observe the incident, even from what you may think is a safe distance. Traffic should also move away quickly. Do not block the access of emergency services.
- Go home or inside some other safe location. If you are already indoors, stay there and tune in to GBC Radio or TV. If for any reason GBC Radio and TV are off-air as a result of the major incident, tune in to BFBS Gibraltar or to local radio and television stations in the Campo Area. Arrangements will be made for them to provide information.

What do I do if I am at home, school or workplace and am not in direct, imminent danger that requires evacuation of that place?

- Stay indoors where you are.
- Close all windows, internal and external doors.
- Tune in to GBC radio and television. Remain indoors until you are told all is safe or you are advised to evacuate.
- The emergency services may also provide advice on what to do by public loudspeakers.





What do I do if my children are at school?



Your first and natural instinct as a parent or family member may be to go and collect your children from school. But this may increase the danger to them and to you.

Children and staff may be required to remain inside school buildings. Schools have been advised of the procedures to follow. There are arrangements for the stocking of bottled water and some food supply at schools.

Do not attempt to collect children from school until advised to do so. This could endanger you and your children, and will also hamper the movement around Gibraltar of ambulances and other emergency and essential services. Your children will be looked after by school staff and emergency services. Listen to radio or TV for guidance on this issue.

Please follow the guidance given.

YOUR CHILDS WELL-BEING MAY DEPEND ON IT.





Being Alert - How can you help.



The Government has taken the lead, through the Civil Contingency Committee, to ensure that response plans are ready in order to deal with foreseeable major incidents. Particular attention has been given to the threat of a terrorist attack. Gibraltar is not immune from such a threat.

The Civil Contingency Committee therefore reviews operational procedures to contribute in its civilian capacity towards maintaining and enhancing the safety and security of Gibraltar by way of deterrent action. This is co-ordinated, as appropriate, with the military authorities in Gibraltar. All this includes, for example, more regular patrolling at sea, the tightening of controls at entry points, the provision of special equipment to frontline emergency and essential services, the acquisition of stocks of medicines and vaccines and the development of command and control skills.

You can play a part too in assisting the authorities. Deterrence is a major factor in helping prevent a terrorist attack. You can help by using your common sense and judgement to report suspicious activity. If you see or hear of something suspicious, for example,

- A suspicious vehicle near a key public building, particularly if it is parked for an unusually long time.
- An unattended package or bag in a public place.
- Unusual photographing or videotaping of official buildings or key facilities or installations.
- A car or van sitting unusually low on its suspension, possibly because of the weight of explosives.
- Anyone making a suspicious comment or having a suspicious conversation.

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Call the Police by telephoning **199** or **112**





Nuclear Accidents.



What could happen in a nuclear submarine accident?

If there is an accident, people who are very close to the submarine could be exposed to gamma radiation which is similar to x-rays. Usually, all radioactive material is contained within the submarine hull. In some, highly unlikely, circumstances it is possible that it could escape and affect areas close to the submarine or downwind of it. If this happens, special teams will monitor and detect any radiation or radioactive contamination.

There is a specific contingency plan called Gibpubsafe, which will be activated.

What do I do if there is a nuclear reactor incident at a nuclear powered submarine?

If you hear the emergency signal (a rising and falling wailing note) from the Naval Base siren, or if you receive warning of a nuclear incident from the Police, try to remain calm. Again, follow the "Go in, Stay In, Tune In" procedure.

- Go indoors and stay there.
- Close windows and doors.
- Switch off fans and or heating appliances and close ventilators.
- Tune in to GBC radio or television.
- Remain indoors until you are told all is safe.
- Keep pets indoors to stop them bringing possible contamination into the house.
- Do not leave unless you are advised to.





Do I need anything else to protect myself and my family?



Staying in is the best protection. However if the Gibpubsafe plan is activated, potassium iodate tablets will be delivered to you in your home by Royal Gibraltar Regiment personnel. These tablets help to protect you from the effects of radioactive iodine which could escape if there is a reactor incident.

The tablets and instructions will be given to all those people who might be affected in the event of an incident.

Would food and water supply be unsafe?

It is unlikely that tap water or any food or drink in your house that is covered and sealed will be affected. Stay tuned to the radio or television for further advice.





Chemical or Biological Incidents.



How will I know what to do if there is a chemical or biological incident?

A chemical or biological incident can take many forms and the response to such an incident whether it be caused by accident or terrorist attack would depend on a number of variable factors, including the nature of the substance involved.

The emergency services are best placed to decide the appropriate response.

To give detailed advice in advance about how to handle every potential threat of this sort would be misleading and could lead to confusion in an actual incident. The emergency services will provide immediate information and advice in the event of a discernible threat or a specific incident.

But, as a general rule, you should stay indoors and close all doors and windows.

Do I need a gas mask or protective suit to protect myself from chemical or biological threats?

There is currently no information which recommends that it is advisable to obtain protective clothing, including gas masks. Gas masks are not easy to use. Nor does one mask protect from all types of threat. But this is kept under review by the Government.





Do I need a smallpox vaccination and can I get one from my GP?



No. Smallpox was declared eradicated in 1980. Consequently, smallpox vaccination is not available to the public through family doctors or any other sources. Smallpox vaccine is not harmless in all cases and could have serious side effects in some people. Therefore, following World Health Organisation guidelines, pre-emptive vaccination is not recommended for the general population.

Vaccination would initially be provided to a small number of frontline health and auxiliary staff who would provide the first response if smallpox were suspected. If a case of smallpox is confirmed, then those persons who have close contact with the infected person will be offered the vaccine, as (at that point) the risk of disease will be greater than the risk from the vaccine.

The Government of Gibraltar has acquired enough stock of vaccine for the whole population for use in an emergency.

Medication has also been obtained for other possible types of illness.

Should I do anything to protect my family and myself from SARS or other epidemics?

The Government follows closely European and international developments in this respect. Gibraltar is currently following all relevant and applicable practices on this matter. You should watch out for specific public health advice that may be issued by the Public Health authorities, especially travel advice and on personal precautions.





Bomb Explosions.



What should I do if there is a bomb explosion?

- If you are not in the immediate area of the incident, stay indoors.
- Keep away from windows.
- Remember that there might be other explosions after the first one.
- If you are in the immediate vicinity or in the area directly affected by the incident, leave the area as quickly and calmly as possible.
- When leaving a building watch out for weakened floors and stairs. Watch out also for falling debris.
- Try and shelter under a sturdy surface if possible.
- If trapped in debris, cover your mouth with a handkerchief or clothing.
- Rhythmically tap on a wall or pipe so rescuers can hear where you are.





Other Civil Contingencies.



The following sets out basic information about what you should do in other emergency situations which could arise affecting your household, the area around you or Gibraltar as a whole.

Fire

If a fire breaks out in your home or in your workplace or in the vicinity, make sure that you

- Get out
- Get everyone else out
- Stay out
- Call the City Fire Brigade (Telephone 190)
- If there is smoke, keep low.

It is important that you familiarise yourself with the escape routes from your home or workplace. If a fire breaks out and there is no immediate escape, get everyone into a safe room.

Severe weather

Arrangements are in place with the Met Office, Gibraltar for the issue of severe weather warnings. These weather alerts will be made public as soon as they are received. The weather alerts would give advance notice of the possibility of very heavy rains, strong winds or bad sea conditions or a combination of these.

If there is a severe weather warning, take precautions, for example by securing doors and windows or, if outdoors, drive with particular care and attention. If you own a boat, secure its moorings.

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All the emergency services are placed on special standby whenever a severe weather alert is notified.





Food Alerts



The Environmental Agency is responsible for the safety of all food consumed locally. In providing this service the Agency ensures that:

- Food imported, prepared and sold is fit for human consumption; and
- Food is handled at all stages in such way as not to present a risk to health.

Food alerts are the Agency's way of letting consumers know of any problems associated with any particular food and, where necessary, provide details of any specific action to be taken.

These alerts will be published in the local press and broadcast over GBC radio and TV. Please follow any advice given in these alerts.

The Agency will also liaise with importers/distributors/retailers to withdraw from sale any suspect foods or take any other necessary action to protect consumers.

Further information can be obtained from the Agency on Tel 70620.





Floodings



If there were severe flooding in or around the vicinity of your home or workplace:

- Turn off the electricity to reduce the risk of electrocution.
- If you cannot evacuate from the area, go to the upper floor or higher level.
- Beware that flood water may be contaminated. e.g. sewage

After flooding

- Clean and disinfect any room that has been flooded;
- Sterilize or wash with boiling water all dishes and kitchen utensils which may have been contaminated;
- Dispose of any food that has been in or near the water, including canned foods and any food kept in refrigerators and freezers;
- Dispose of all consumables, drinks, medicines, cosmetics, etc. which may have been contaminated.



Some First Aid hints.



The First Aid hints that follow are meant as a general guideline to be used in case of emergency. It is the first assistance or treatment that should be given to a casualty before the arrival of more expert, qualified medical support.

Check for vital signs:

- Response - Check level of consciousness by gently shaking and speaking to the casualty.
- Airway - Check mouth for any foreign body.
- Breathing - Check breathing, look for chest movement, listen for sounds of breathing.
- Circulation - Check for signs of life, breathing, movement, coughing.

Breathing:

- If casualty is breathing and has circulation place in the recovery position, that is on his or her side.
- If not breathing commence mouth-to-mouth ventilations.

Some First Aid hints. (contd)



Bleeding

If the casualty is bleeding:

- Apply pressure to the wound.
- Raise and support injured part if possible above the level of the heart.
- Bandage wound.
- Lay casualty down and raise his legs if injuries permit to protect against shock.

Broken Bones

- Steady and support the injured part.
- Protect injury with padding.
- Take or send casualty to hospital as soon as practical.

Burns

If the casualty is suffering with burns:

- To cool burn, pour cold liquid on burn for at least 10 minutes.
- Remove any constrictions. Remove clothing and jewellery from area before it starts to swell.
- Do not try to remove clothing that is sticking to the burn.
- Cover the burn and surrounding area with a sterile dressing, clean non-fluffy material, cling film or plastic bag.
- Take or send casualty to hospital.



How you can prepare for an emergency.



If you are at home when a major incident happens, make sure you have at hand:-

- Your house and car keys.
- A battery-powered or wind-up radio with spare batteries.
- A torch with spare batteries, candles and matches.
- Bottled water.
- Ready-to-eat food (e.g. tinned food, biscuits etc) and bottle / tin opener.
- A list of useful phone numbers, such as close family and relatives, your doctor etc.
- Any regularly prescribed medication.
- Toiletries and sanitary supplies.
- A first aid kit.
- Your mobile phone.
- Cash and credit cards.
- Blankets and spare clothes.

**KEEP THIS BOOKLET
SOMEWHERE SAFE FOR
REFERENCE**

If you are advised to leave home:

- Turn off electricity and water supplies.
- Unplug all appliances.
- Lock all doors and windows.
- Take bottled water and blankets.
- Stay tuned to the radio.
- Take vital documents e.g passport, ID card etc. Lock up your house and leave.

If you are at work or at school:

- Follow the emergency procedures and other instructions from those in charge.





Examples of Civil Contingency Plans which are in place.



CHEMICAL INCIDENTS

BIOLOGICAL INCIDENTS

NUCLEAR ACCIDENT (GIBPUBSAFE)

MARITIME INCIDENT IN PORT

INCIDENT IN DRY DOCK (SHIP REPAIR YARD)

OIL POLLUTION AT SEA

AIRCRAFT CRASH ON AND OFF AIRFIELD A/B

INCIDENT INVOLVING FUEL LEAK ON AIRFIELD

INCIDENT INVOLVING PETROL BROWSERS

INCIDENT IN FOSSEWAY MAGAZINE

INCIDENT IN OIL INSTALLATION OR PIPELINE

FIRE ON UPPER ROCK

MAJOR FIRE IN CONGESTED AREA

INCIDENT IN ST.MICHAEL'S CAVE

ROCKFALL AND LANDSLIDE INCIDENTS

COLLAPSE OF BUILDINGS

TUNNEL COLLAPSE

BURST RESERVOIR

INCIDENT AT WILLIAM'S WAY FUEL DEPOT

SEVERE WEATHER ALERT AND RESPONSE

OPERATION OF EVACUATION CENTRES

CONSULAR OFFICES INFORMATION

SUPPORT SERVICES RESOURCES

MEDIA AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

MEDICAL RESPONSE PLAN (GIBMED)



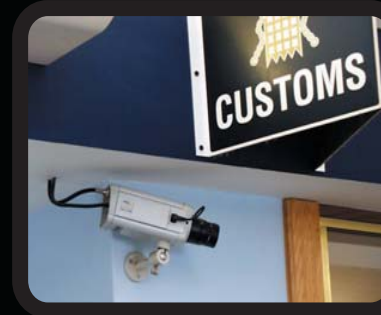


The Gibraltar Government bodies / agencies that represent Gibraltar's Major Incident capability are:



- Gibraltar Government Civil Contingency Committee
- Royal Gibraltar Police (supported where necessary by the Gibraltar Services Police)
- City Fire Brigade (supported where necessary by the Defence Fire Service)
- Gibraltar Health Authority
- Environmental Health Authority
- St. John's Ambulance Brigade (emergency ambulance service contracted by the GHA)
- Customs
- Port Department
- Government Technical Services Department
- Manpower, technical and transport resources of other Government departments, statutory bodies, agencies and private companies, as required (e.g. GBC, Gibtelecom, AquaGib etc)





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