

Original article

## Contemporary understanding of civil defense

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### ABSTRACT

The study contains the most crucial information related to the functioning of Civil Defense, which, in accordance with international and national laws, is an instrument supporting civil authorities and rescue entities. The main goal of Civil Defense is to ensure security and the subsistence needs of the population during the war.

An essential element is taking actions adequate to contemporary threats and the need to adopt legal and organizational regulations aimed at integrating all efforts to improve solutions in the field of civil protection.

### KEYWORDS

civil defense, civil protection, rescue, the essence of the system



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## Introduction

The defense system of the state and citizens is of great importance in the age of contemporary threats. The current situation in the world and Poland does not have a permanent security foundation. Guaranteeing universal security, generally understood as the protection and defense of life and human values, property and the environment, and state institutions against threats posed by the forces of nature is the most excellent human value and need.

For reasons of interests of the safety of the civilian population in times of peace, crisis, and war, the civil defense organization was established following international law to ensure the security and existential needs of the population in times of war. It is an instrument to support civil authorities and rescue entities in situations of technological and natural disasters.

The study aims to present the issues related to the functioning of Civil Defense by indicating the legal basis and tasks of the bodies responsible for their implementation and sharing the substantive knowledge concerning this subject area.

## The concept of civil defense

The term “civil defense” is used today to describe many phenomena. It is often an arbitrary term for a specific system of operation, a proper name for specific institutions; it can also be

an institution of international law. It is very close to a human since people began to oppose threats to their safety. The idea of civil defense has been changing for many years, legal and organizational views on solving the problem have changed, and social awareness in the perception of a given phenomenon has also been reevaluated.

In the light of Polish law, the functioning of Civil Defense (Polish abbrev. OC) is regulated by the Act on the Universal Duty of Defense of the Republic of Poland. In Article 137, the legislator understands defense aimed at protecting the population, workplaces and public utilities, cultural goods, rescuing and providing assistance to victims of war and cooperation in combating natural disasters and environmental threats, and removing their effects [1, Art. 137]. The concept of civil defense has many definitions created by representatives of science and international and Polish law sources.

Particularly noteworthy is the statement by Waldemar Kitler, who at the conference held on the 61<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Geneva Conventions emphasized the existence of many doctrinal definitions, which, as part of civil protection, also take into account the protection of other values such as property, environment, cultural goods, and thus cover it equally broadly as civil defense. The author explains the rightness of such an approach by protecting food, water, air, crops, animals, personal property, or public utility facilities, where the population is also indirectly protected because they are goods necessary for human life. Moreover, they often constitute a spiritual, patriotic, or religious value [2, p. 175]. It also draws attention to the importance of civil defense and points out that it should be placed next to military defense. Waldemar Kitler says that it is the sum of all civil undertakings, forces, and measures to prevent and oppose any threats that threaten the vital values of the national interest [3, p. 50].

According to Romuald Kalinowski, civil defense in a systemic perspective is a non-military link (and force) for the protection of society and rescue that is a component of the non-military subsystem of the national defense system [4, p. 228].

Civil defense is also equated with the concept of rescue since the latter is an activity carried out at all levels of state organizations in times of peace, crisis, and war. Also, through various methods, forces, and means, the aim of which is to save human health and life as well as material goods. The civil defense includes all kinds of preparations, planning, and strategic activities in the event of a possible threat [5, p. 9].

The concept of civil defense and protection of the population should be understood as ensuring the safety of people, their property, and the environment against accidents and disasters of all kinds. Civil Defense is an organization established to help people in times of war and peace. It is an integral part of the national defense system and a complex of planning, organizational, training, investment, material-technical, and supply-related projects.

## **Legal bases for the functioning of Civil Defense**

The basis for the functioning of Civil Defense is Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions, which was ratified by Poland on September 19, 1991, and the national sources of law. The most important of them is Article 5 of the Polish Constitution [6, p. 2], which ensures the security of citizens, and Article 146 § 4 (7) obliges the Council of Ministers to take care about that security.

Legal norms were provided in the Act of November 21, 1967, on the Universal Duty of Defense of the Republic of Poland by defining the purpose of its operation: civil defense aims to protect the population, workplaces, public utilities, and cultural goods, rescue and assist the

injured during the war, cooperate in combating natural disasters and environmental threats, and remove their effects [1, Art. 137]. Under the Act on the Universal Duty of Defense of the Republic of Poland, many executive regulations have been issued, including:

1. Regulation of the Council of Ministers of September 28, 1993, on universal self-defense of the population,
2. Regulation of the Council of Ministers of June 25, 2002, on detailed activities of the Chief of Civil Defense of the Country, heads of civil defense of provinces, poviats, and communes,
3. Regulation of the Council of Ministers of January 13, 2004, on the control of the performance of defense tasks,
4. Regulation of the Council of Ministers of January 13, 2004, on general principles of performing tasks under the general duty of defense,
5. Regulation of the Council of Ministers of January 13, 2004, on defense training,
6. Regulation of the Council of Ministers of February 3, 2004, on the conditions and method of preparation and use of transport for the defense needs of the state, as well as its protection in wartime, and the competence of authorities in these matters,
7. Regulation of the Council of Ministers of September 21, 2004, on state defense readiness,
8. Regulation of the Council of Ministers of March 29, 2005, on the principles of releasing employers from the obligation to perform work of persons appointed to the service in civil defense in connection with combating natural disasters, catastrophes, and environmental threats,
9. Regulation of the Council of Ministers of March 29, 2005, on positions considered equivalent to serving in civil defense,
10. Regulation of the Minister of National Education of August 28, 2009, on the method of implementing education for safety,
11. Regulation of the Council of Ministers of January 7, 2013, on contamination detection and notification systems and the powers of public authorities in these cases.

The above Regulations are only a part of the provisions governing the functioning of Civil Defense, therefore they do not fully present the applicable legal provisions.

No law defines the tasks of civil defense. Legal bases exist, but they are not applied since they are outdated and inadequate to the needs of the time. Although Article 140 of the Act on the Universal Duty of Defense of the Republic of Poland had a significant role in issuing regulations specifying the duties and powers of the OC bodies, matters of formations, and signals of general warning and alerting, it was abolished on July 4, 2004. The Regulation of the Council of Ministers of September 28, 1993, on civil defense [7], which specified the forms of implementation of civil defense tasks in accordance with Additional Protocol I, regulated issues related to the organization and functioning of the Civil Defense formations, and indicated entities responsible for the implementation of these tasks, also lost its binding force.

## **Civil defense structure**

The governmental administration body in civil defense matters at the central level is the Chief of the National Civil Defense, appointed by the Prime Minister at the request of the minister competent for internal affairs, reporting to that minister. The position of the Chief

of the National Civil Defense is held by the Commander in Chief of the State Fire Service. The local authorities are voivodes, starosts, and voits (mayors, city presidents) as heads of civil defense of voivodeships, poviats, and communes.

At the National Headquarters of the State Fire Service, there is an organizational unit in the form of the Civil Protection and Civil Defense Bureau. The office develops directions of activities in the field of civil protection and civil defense. It also develops the Civil Defense Improvement Program, gives opinions on civil defense plans, cooperates in issuing opinions on crisis response plans, and prepares assumptions to civil defense plans for voivodeships, poviats, communes, and entrepreneurs. It also defines the assumptions for the evacuation of people and property in case of emergency, develops program assumptions concerning education and training, and keeps relevant documentation for the needs of the overall system of civil protection and civil defense [2, p. 177].

Pursuant to the provisions of the law, the Chief of the National Civil Defense prepares draft assumptions and rules for the functioning of civil defense, determines general principles for the implementation of civil defense tasks, and coordinates specific projects. It issues ordinances, guidelines, instructions, and regulations. The scope of activities of the Chief of the National Civil Defense also includes the control of the implementation of civil defense tasks by government administration bodies and local government bodies, as well as supervision over the performance of basic civil defense service. The detailed tasks of the Chief of the National Civil Defense are listed in the Regulation of the Council of Ministers of June 25, 2002 [8]. Pursuant to § 2 of the Regulation, the Chief of the National Civil Defense is obliged, among others, to:

- 1) initiate, prepare, issue, and give opinions on draft normative acts devoted to civil defense,
- 2) agree the draft civil defense plan of the state with the Minister of National Defense and other relevant ministers,
- 3) define assumptions for civil defense plans in voivodeships, poviats and communes and entrepreneurs,
- 4) develop program assumptions and directions for education and training of employees, rescuers, and the population regarding civil defense,
- 5) assess the state of civil defense preparations in voivodeships, poviats and communes,
- 6) plan the demand for financial and material resources necessary to carry out own tasks in the field of civil defense,
- 7) define assumptions related to the evacuation of people and property in the event of mass threats,
- 8) initiate scientific and research activities in the matter of civil defense and participation in unification and standardization works in this field,
- 9) prepare, for the needs of the minister responsible for internal affairs and the Prime Minister, information on civil defense,
- 10) organize and coordinate exercises in the field of civil defense,
- 11) control the preparation of civil defense formation and rescuers in the union with carrying out rescue operations,
- 12) control the conditions of performing basic civil defense service,
- 13) establish norms in providing civil defense organs and formations with equipment, technical means and uniforms [8].

Article 17 (7) of the Act on the Universal Duty of Defense of the Republic of Poland defines the scope of activities of the heads of civil defense of voivodeships, poviats, and communes. The task of the local civil defense authorities is to control and coordinate preparations and implement civil defense projects by state institutions, entrepreneurs, other organizational units and social organizations operating on their territory. Field authorities develop multi-annual and annual action plans in the field of civil defense. In line with the regulation, the Council of Ministers, in § 3, obliges the heads of civil defense of voivodeships, poviats, and communes to:

- 1) assess the state of civil defense preparations,
- 2) prepare and issue opinion on civil defense plans,
- 3) prepare and agree on action plans,
- 4) create and coordinate training and exercises in civil defense,
- 5) organize training of the population in the civil defense,
- 6) prepare and ensure the operation of the detection and alert system and the early warning system,
- 7) create and implement civil defense organizational units,
- 8) designate health care facilities obliged to provide medical aid to those injured in the effect of a mass threat to the life and health of the population, and supervise their preparation to providing help,
- 9) provide bodies and civil defense units with equipment and technical means and uniforms necessary to perform civil defense tasks,
- 10) provide appropriate conditions for storage, operation, maintenance, renovation, and replacement of the equipment, technical means, and uniforms,
- 11) issue opinions on draft acts of local law relating to civil defense and affecting the implementation of civil defense tasks,
- 12) develop information on the tasks performed,
- 13) control the preparation of civil defense and rescuers to conduct rescue operations,
- 14) establish a list of state institutions, entrepreneurs, and other organizational units, as well as social rescue organizations operating in their area, provided for the preparation and implementation of projects in the field of civil defense [8].

The basic organizational units are civil defense formations consisting of members of voluntary fire brigades. A significant part of the civil defense formations does not have the necessary personnel. This is due to the lack of relevant legal acts, appropriate organizational structures, and the definition of individual tasks for civil defense bodies. The civil defense structure is a dead structure as it is unable to undertake effective civil protection measures.

The subject of inspections conducted by the Supreme Audit Office (NIK) was the structure of civil defense and the implementation of tasks in times of war and peace, as well as checking the preparation of the system of protecting the population against mass threats. The audit was carried out in two stages and covered the years 2009 to 2011 and from 2011 to 2012. The assessment of the Supreme Audit Office was negative, as it revealed numerous irregularities and defects related to the regulations inadequate to the current needs.

The Chief of the National Civil Defense did not specify the assumptions for the civil defense plans of voivodeships, poviats, communes, and entrepreneurs. Civil defense plans developed by the heads of civil defense of voivodeships, poviats, and communes were incomplete and contained outdated solutions in relation to the economic and administrative changes that have occurred and the changing infrastructure. The head of the Chief of the National Civil

Defense did not establish norms in the field of supplying civil defense bodies and units with equipment, technical means, and uniforms necessary to perform tasks, and the equipment of the civil defense units did not ensure the effectiveness of operations. As many as 29% of the controlled heads of civil defense of voivodeships, poviats, and communes have not established any civil defense formations in their area. No obligation to establish a list of entities intended to conduct preparations and realize projects in the field of civil defense was fully implemented by the heads of civil defense of voivodeships, poviats, and communes. They did not pursue training of the population in universal self-defense during the period under control. The system of monitoring the implementation of tasks and informing about the state of civil defense was ineffective. In the opinion of NIK, the current structure and organization of the country's civil defense does not ensure the effective implementation of the statutory objectives [9].

Unfortunately, the civil defense formation has a very weak defensive position, as it is not prepared to undertake any action. It is not able to protect the civilian population against contemporary threats, because it does not have adequate forces and means, equipment, or training.

Civil defense plans developed by the heads of civil defense of voivodeships, poviats, and communes are incomplete and contain outdated solutions in relation to the economic and administrative changes that have occurred, and the changing infrastructure.

## Civil defense tasks

There is no normative act among the current domestic legal sources that would define civil defense tasks. Even the Act on the Universal Obligation to Defend the Republic of Poland does not mention tasks but a goal: civil defense aims to protect the population, workplaces [...] [1, art. 137].

According to Romuald Kalinowski, the non-binding Regulation of the Council of Ministers of 1993, which defined the tasks of civil defense in times of war and peace, recognizes this division as artificial and not corresponding to reality. Threats such as natural disasters and catastrophes may also occur in times of peace, and then civil defense activities will not be limited to planning but will also include the removal of their effects [4, p. 225].

The tasks of civil defense are listed in international law, in Article 61 of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions [10], and include:

1. The alert service combined with the detection and marking of dangerous zones, consists mainly in obtaining information about the imminent or occurring in a specific area threat to human health and life. It is also about warning and alerting the population about impending danger. The legal basis for the implementation of these goals is the Regulation of the Council of Ministers of January 7, 2013, on contamination, detection, and notification systems and the competence of authorities in these matters [11],
2. Evacuation – we will not find any act of generally applicable law regarding evacuation. The implementation of this task is regulated by the Guidelines of the Chief of the National Civil Defense of October 17, 2008, on the principles of evacuation of people, animals and property in the event of a mass threat. The guidelines are binding only on the local authorities,
3. Preparation and organization of shelters, i.e., preparation of protective structures. Shelters and hiding places can be designed as free-standing objects, they can be

- an integral part of newly erected, expanded buildings. Is that indeed the case? Not a single new shelter for citizens has been handed over for many years [12, p. 84],
4. Handling of blackout measures. No legal act regulates this task, because currently developing technology and guidance devices are capable of locating large groups of people and technical facilities,
  5. Rescue is a very important element for each of us. We live in very dangerous times, not knowing where and when we can become victims of an accident. Saving human life is the duty of every human being,
  6. Medical services, first aid, and religious care are inseparable elements that often help to keep the victim alive,
  7. Fighting fires. It is implemented by the State Fire Service and voluntary fire brigades. Any questions about preventing fire emergence and spreading and conducting rescue operations are specified in the Act of August 24, 1991, on Fire Protection [13],
  8. Detection and marking of dangerous zones, i.e., isolation of areas affected by a crisis, e.g., isolation of areas where contamination, epidemic, etc. has occurred,
  9. Decontamination and other similar protective activities involve sanitary procedures of the population. The Chief of OC negatively assesses the functional and equipment capabilities of points, which are at the disposal of local civil defense authorities, for the elimination of contamination. He believes that they do not meet the anticipated needs. Additionally, the number of such points has decreased in recent years, which may also have negative consequences in the future [14],
  10. Provision of emergency rooms and supplies consists in preparing replacement accommodation for the population and the necessary conditions for survival. Local civil defense authorities are responsible for the implementation of this task. All food products, crops, fodder, and water should be adequately protected against contamination with radioactive agents, toxic poisons, and warfare agents. Moreover, they must be stored in properly arranged and sealed rooms [15, p. 31],
  11. Ad hoc assistance in restoring and maintaining order in zones affected by disasters is organized to ensure the safety of the public during rescue operations or evacuation of the population in a given area. The bodies maintaining public order (e.g., the Police, the Armed Forces) are responsible for the task implementation,
  12. The ad hoc restoration of the operation of the necessary public services involves assistance from local civil defense authorities, when the public services are not able to remedy the damage,
  13. Occasional burying of the deceased occurs when there is a mass number of deaths or killed people. Nevertheless, there is no organizational structure in any legal document that would deal with adequate readiness for this type of action. Appropriate communal and sanitary services deal with burying the dead,
  14. Help in saving goods necessary for survival – in Polish law, the task was specified as “protection of food and other goods necessary for the survival of the population”. It consisted in determining their minimum reserve, guaranteeing the survival of the population and the functioning of the workplace, commune, voivodeship and state, planning, gathering, and dividing the resources, including households, and saving them from damage or contamination in the event of threats [12, p. 95],



15. Additional activities necessary to complete any of the tasks listed above, including planning and organizational work. The protection of cultural goods and related issues turned out to be important. The legal norms are contained in the Act of July 23, 2003, on the protection and care of monuments [16], and issued on its basis, the Ordinance of the Minister of Culture of August 25, 2004, on the organization and protection of monuments in the event of an armed conflict and crisis situations [17].

The tasks of civil defense require legal regulation in the form of a law and in-depth changes related to ensuring an appropriate level of security for people in peace and war times. Civil defense tasks are often duplicated and overlap with tasks listed in various laws. There is a lack of competent people responsible for their implementation. What is more, tasks are assigned to several contractors, without defining the relationship between them and separating their competences. The lack of specialist equipment, technical means, and uniforms necessary to fulfil the tasks largely contributed to the reduction of the personnel of civil defense formations, and even the liquidation of civil defense formations in workplaces.

### **The essence of the civil defense system**

According to Additional Protocol I, civil defense is an organizational system of action, planning, prevention and emergency preparedness at the local and national levels aimed at protecting the civilian population in the event of natural disasters caused by human activity or resulting from hostilities [10]. Civil defense remains in the full systemic scope, which mainly includes: tasks assumed for implementation, leadership of the force organization, purpose, legal basis for functioning, organization, and rules.

Civil defense entities perform two basic functions:

1. Protective function – protection against the existing threat,
2. The rescue function – providing help to the injured.

This system is a coordinated system of elements that create a whole, it is an ordered set of rules, organizations and binding provisions.

According to Romuald Kalinowski, from a systemic perspective, civil defense is a non-military link in the protection of society and rescue, being a component of the non-military defense system subsystem. It seems reasonable to distinguish the operational civil defense subsystem, the local support subsystem, the national support subsystem, and the international support subsystem. The operational subsystem includes the organizational structures of civil defense, facilities, formations, management, planning, and organizations that build the subsystem.

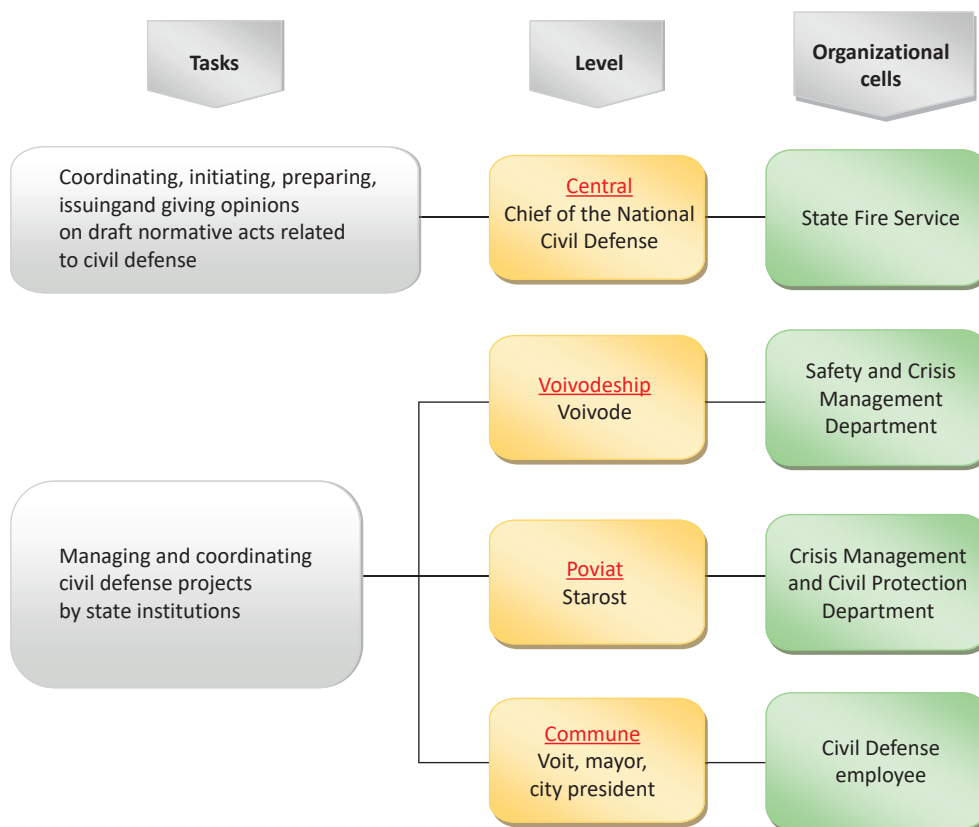
The support subsystem, in turn, comprises logistics, law, education, science, infrastructure, combined and non-combined administration, health care, armed forces, economy, international organizations, and associations supporting the operating subsystem [18, p. 29].

Civil defense projects in Poland are carried out by government and local government administration bodies and specific organizational units realize civil defense projects in Poland. In the administration structures, civil defense is recognized as a system of the organization of state structures and a system of state control organs.

The organization of civil defense at individual levels is shown in Figure 1.

The central authority competent in matters of civil defense is the Chief of the National Civil Defense, who coordinates specific projects and controls the task implementation in the field





**Fig. 1.** Organization of civil defense at individual levels  
*Source: Own study based on [19].*

of civil defense by government administration bodies and local government authorities at the voivodeship, poviat, and commune levels.

The local civil defense bodies in the central and local government administration are voivodes, starosts, and voits (mayors, city presidents). The scope of their activities includes managing and coordinating civil defense projects with the help of their subordinate offices and specialized organizational units established within their structures.

### Civil protection and rescue

The Act on the Universal Duty of Defense of the Republic of Poland regulates the issues of civil defense, and thus also the protection of the population and rescue services, which fall within the scope of civil defense obligations.

The main purpose of civil defense is primarily:

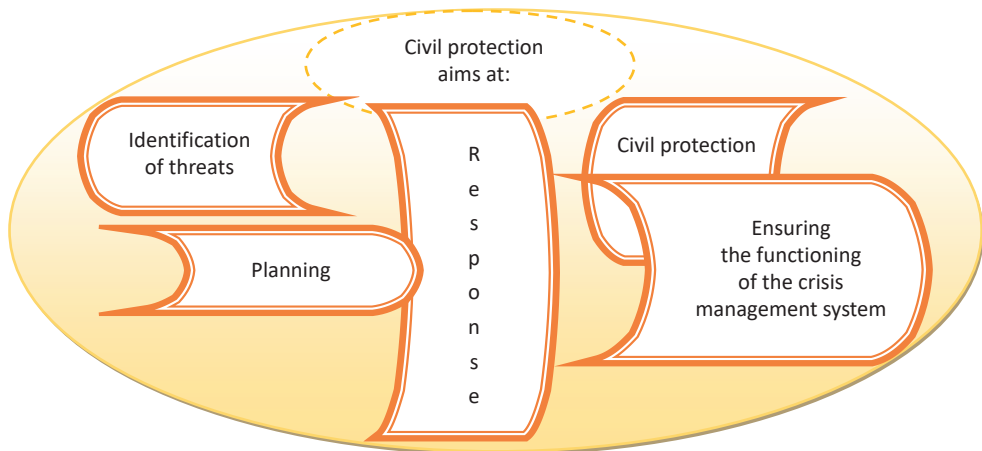
1. Protection of the population, workplaces, public utilities and cultural property,
2. Rescuing and helping the victims during the war,
3. Co-operation in combating natural disasters and environmental threats and removing their effects [1].

The draft act on the civil protection of August 31, 2009 defined, protection of the population as integrated activity of public administration bodies and entities performing civil protection tasks that aim to ensure the safety of citizens, public order, protection of life and health of persons residing in the territory of the Republic of Poland, and protection of property, environment and cultural heritage in the event of an emergency [20].

The projects of civil protection are aimed at ensuring the safety of people and their environment in the event of various threats such as natural disasters, accidents, catastrophes, and warfare. The above projects cover four phases:

1. Prevention, which is aimed at minimizing losses through legislative work, planning, inventory creation, and building organizational structures, including the construction of buildings and security systems (hiding places, shelters),
2. Achieving readiness through continuous research, improvement of rescue services, their retrofitting, education of the society, simulations and exercises, and developing operating procedures,
3. Responding to threats by organizing command and coordination centers, searching for and providing assistance to the injured, eliminating risk sources, and mobilizing rescue services and volunteers,
4. Reconstruction or restoring the state from before the event [21, p. 245-246].

Selected civil protection tasks are shown in Figure 2.



**Fig. 2.** Civil protection tasks  
Source: Own study.

The task of civil protection is to implement comprehensive solutions that will ensure the safety of citizens. A quick response, determining the degree of threat, and taking an appropriate strategy have a major impact on the protection of property and life of the population.

Civil protection is a security sphere that primarily focuses on ensuring human existence, regardless of the cause of its threat [22, p. 65]. It takes the form of collective and individual protection, and all actions are taken in all conditions of the state functioning<sup>1</sup> [23]. Civil

<sup>1</sup> It introduces three national level states of readiness: the national level state of permanent readiness, the national level state of crisis readiness, and the national level state of wartime readiness.

protection is an activity aimed at ensuring the conditions necessary for the protection of human life and health.

Rescue is an organization that provides help in unfortunate situations and saves human health and life. It has a powerful range of rescue operations in the international, national, provincial, powiat, communal, and local areas.

Rescue is not only a definition written on cards, but above all an activity aimed at saving people or things in danger, and people and resources involved in such activities. The act of saving consists in dismissing any danger, [...] especially the threat of death or destruction [24, p. 415-416].

Conducting rescue operations is a priority task of civil defense. Rescue operations are organized and executed to save and provide aid to the population injured in military operations, natural disasters, and other mass incidents [12, p. 86]. The obligation to organize and conduct rescue operations during the war rests with the chiefs of civil defense and managers or owners of workplaces. They have properly prepared and equipped civil defense formations, and the commanders of these formations direct the rescue operation for its duration and use all available forces and resources intended to participate in the operation [22, p. 70]. They can also order:

1. Evacuation of the population, including removal of vehicles,
2. Necessary demolition and deconstruction works,
3. Disruption of land traffic, with the exception of the Armed Forces,
4. Involving other authorities and the local population to help in the rescue operation,
5. The use of buildings for the evacuated or injured population [12, p. 86-87].

In peacetime, rescue operations are managed by a designated person from the State Fire Service, who takes appropriate action with the local government body depending on the threat that has arisen. The State Fire Service, the Police, services (medical, sanitary and epidemiological, veterinary, environmental protection, and others), and separate branches of the Armed Forces, and the civilian population belong to rescue forces that deal with the liquidation of threats and the provision of necessary assistance in the event of an emergency.

## Conclusion

The main function of the state is to provide citizens with basic conditions for protection against dangers that result from the progress of civilization and the natural laws of nature. To counteract the effects of these events, the Civil Defense was established, the origins of which date back to the interwar period.

Civil defense is an instrument supporting civil authorities and rescue entities. Its structure has an administrative territorial division of the country. At the central level there is the Chief of the National Civil Defense, who is subordinate to the minister competent for internal affairs, the provincial level is managed by the heads of voivodeship civil defense, the powiat level is coordinated by the heads of powiat civil defense, and at the commune level – the heads of commune civil defense.

The basic organizational units intended to perform tasks are civil defense formations, which consist of civil defense units intended to perform general or special tasks, and other units of these formations. The experience of recent years has shown that for the broadly understood fight against the elements, governmental administration authorities, local government

administration, civil defense, and civilians should be prepared and involved. Therefore, Civil Defense should be located at all levels of public administration.

Civil defense should have a separate legal regulation in the form of an act that will regulate all disputes in the field of civil defense and civil protection. Civil defense should be placed in the National Security System as a subsystem of civil defense, civil protection, and rescue, or in the subsystem of general safety.

Civil Defense plays a significant role in the civil protection system, therefore the position of Civil Defense, its structure, and tasks are crucial.

The organization of Civil Defense is of great importance as it is an integral part of the national defense system.

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The author declared no conflict of interests.

### Author contributions

The author contributed to the interpretation of results and writing of the paper. The author read and approved the final manuscript.

### Ethical statement

The research complies with all national and international ethical requirements.

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## Współczesne rozumienie obrony cywilnej

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### STRESZCZENIE

Opracowanie zawiera najważniejsze informacje związane z funkcjonowaniem obrony cywilnej, która w myśl prawa międzynarodowego i przepisów prawa krajowego stanowi instrument wsparcia władz cywilnych i podmiotów ratowniczych. Głównym celem obrony cywilnej jest zapewnienie bezpieczeństwa i zabezpieczenie potrzeb egzystencjonalnych ludności w czasie wojny.

Istotnym elementem jest podjęcie działań adekwatnych do współczesnych zagrożeń oraz potrzeba dostosowania uregulowań prawnych i organizacyjnych mających na celu zintegrowanie wszelkich wysiłków ukierunkowanych na doskonalenie rozwiązań w zakresie ochrony ludności.

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**SŁOWA KLUCZOWE** obrona cywilna, ochrona ludności, ratownictwo, istota systemu

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