



## Protection of Vital Societal Functions & Critical Infrastructure

**Our society must be able to function even during disruptions, crises and war. Modern society creates new challenges and is characterized, for example, by privatization, technological developments and increased globalization. Protection of vital societal functions and critical infrastructure (VSF & CI) means ensuring the ability to prevent, manage and recover from serious disruptions to the operations that are essential for preserving life and health, societal functions and our fundamental values.**

### **Protection of vital societal functions & critical infrastructure**

Protection of VSF & CI refers to the measures that are needed to ensure that there is functionality and continuity in the critical infrastructure as well as society as a whole.

Protection of VSF & CI is part of the civil emergency preparedness system and also the foundation for maintaining continuity and functionality even during periods of high alert. Swedish civil emergency preparedness and protection of VSF & CI, is based on interaction between actors and follows the principles of responsibility, equality and proximity. Important aspects of the work are the risk and vulnerability analyses made by municipalities, local health authorities and government agencies.

In accordance with MSB regulations on risk and vulnerability assessments, public sector actors are required to report identified VSF & CI and their critical dependencies.

Critical infrastructure meets one of the following criteria:

- A loss of or a severe disruption to the activity that alone or together with other similar events, rapidly leads to a serious societal emergency or crisis.
- The activity is necessary and very essential so that the harmful effects of a societal crisis can be so mitigated as much as possible.

Critical Infrastructure (CI) refers to the activities, facilities, nodes, infrastructure and services that maintain the function that they are a part of.

Vital Societal Functions (VSF) is the term for the activities that maintain a given functionality. Each such function is included in one or more societal sectors.

Critical infrastructure can be of national, regional or local significance.

That which is critical for society, can vary depending on the situations we are faced with and in keeping with how society develops.

## Action Plan for the Protection of VSF & CI

To meet the challenges of modern society, there is a national strategy and Action Plan for the Protection of VSF & CI. The following three strategic principles are the basis for the work:

- Use a systems perspective from local to national level, including private sector operators.
- In this systematic safety process measures should be taken before, during and after disruption..
- Cover all forms of risk and threat, both known and unknown.

The aim of the action plan is to create conditions that will allow all VSF & CI to implement systematic safety by 2020. The aim is to create a resilient society with improved capabilities in VSF & CI to withstand and recover from serious disruptions.

To achieve this objective the action plan should contain a number of measures to enhance knowledge and promote activities for the implementation of systematic safety.

The civil emergency preparedness system and protection of VSF & CI is characterized by a long-term perspective based on responsibility and collaboration between actors at various levels and in different sectors of the society. The target audience for the action plan includes all actors who own or operate VSF & CI, i.e. municipalities, county councils, county administrative boards, national agencies and the private sector.

Read more about MSB's work to protect VSF & CI: [Action plan for the Protection of Vital Societal Functions & Critical Infrastructure](#)

## Systematic Safety

Consists of systematic work with risk management, business continuity management and the management of incidents and crises.



- Risk management includes identifying, processing, assessing, and controlling risks.
- Business continuity focuses on planning to maintain activities and processes that build the necessary capabilities for functionality, regardless of the type of incident or crises.
- The planning process for management of various events, ranging from incidents to crises, will create the conditions that allow for an event to be managed effectively so that VSF & CI can be maintained.

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