

The more prepared the safer

Faced with the climate emergency and the effects that we all now know, it has become essential to pay the greatest attention to how we act. Just as we should in any dangerous situation or disaster.

In fact, by following simple tips, we can reduce any exposure to danger for ourselves and others.

This is the reason why we are supporting the roll-out of this tool, a collection of best practices and useful contact numbers in case of major adverse events.

This tool also allows us to remember the priceless work carried out by the Civil Protection forces, who work hard every day on exercises and operations, from prevention to risk mitigation, right up to handling emergencies.

In fact, when you hear about Civil Protection, people do not always grasp the meaning or deeper significance of a system which, starting from central government, winds its way through local bodies, regions, provinces and municipalities, involving the expertise of law enforcement officers and their highly specialised departments, and even extending up to volunteers. These associations, individuals and organised groups study and are based on different types of risk, offering their own resources and time with one single goal: helping and showing solidarity to people affected by extreme events who find themselves in difficulty.

We believe that you can find many of our society's best virtues and strengths in Civil Protection: expertise, altruism and generosity. Civil Protection, in all its forms, is an outstanding example of active citizenship, the culmination of a huge amount of people who put their neighbours before themselves at their time of need, a sense of community that results in genuine altruism, a willingness to play your part so we can ease everyone's suffering.

Marco Massari
Mayor of Reggio Emilia

Carlotta Bonvicini
the Councillor for Climate Policies with a special mandate
for Civil Protection
Municipality of Reggio Emilia



The **Civil Protection** is a public service dedicated to safeguard the people, properties, infrastructures and the environment from damage caused by disastrous events such as earthquakes, landslides, floods, forest fires, industrial accidents, weather-climate emergencies.

The "system" of Civil Protection involves various organizations and individuals at local, regional and national level. The coordination of the operation of the various structures relating to the Civil Protection allows a rapid and effective response to emergencies.

The Municipal Emergency Plan on Civil Protection of the Municipality of Reggio Emilia,

prepared through the analysis of the structure and vulnerability of the territory defines various risk and contingency scenarios and the operational structure capable of dealing with emergency relief situations.

The covered scenarios range from seismic risk, to hydraulic risk, to chemical-industrial risk, or they define situations that can present particular problems and complexities such as tornadoes, copious snowfalls, violent storms, health emergencies, railway and airplane or road accidents that entails the release of hazardous substances, the traffic paralysis due to motorways closure, forest fires, event with high environmental or social impact and the discovery of explosive remnants.

On the basis of these scenarios and the concrete characteristics of the event, the Civil Protection Plan includes a series of operational procedures.

The **Mayor** is the main institutional figure of the Operational Chain of Civil Protection, managed by the coordinator of the **C.O.C. Municipal Operations Center**, who is also the coordinator of the Municipal Civil Protection.

To ensure that the Civil Protection Plan works, **the collaboration of all the citizens** is necessary because adequate knowledge and preparation allows each of us, when faced with risky situations, to handle them in the most appropriate way.

You can find the Plan of Civil Protection on
www.comune.re.it/protezionecivile

Guidelines of conduct

Earthquake

The earthquake is an unpredictable event. Reggio Emilia has been affected several times by seismic phenomena of medium intensity. The national classification provides four seismic hazard zones in descending order from zone 1 to zone 4. At the moment the Municipality of Reggio Emilia is classified in zone 3.



What to do **first**

- Read carefully the Guidelines of conduct in the event of a seismic event and consult the list of assembly areas in the Civil Protection Plan at www.comune.re.it/protezionecivile
- Keep a backpack with basic necessities at home: first aid kit, a flashlight, water, money, gloves ...

What to do **during**

If you're indoors

- Place yourself under the doorframe inserted to an internal wall (the thickest one), next to an internal wall or under a crossbeam, or take refuge under a sturdy bed or table.

If you're outdoors

- Move to a clear area away from buildings, trees, street lamps, power lines, as vases, roof tiles and other materials may hit you.

What to do **next**

- Make sure of the health conditions of the people around you and, if necessary, provide first aid; do not move seriously injured people.
- Before going out, turn off gas, water and electricity and put on your shoes. In going out, avoid the use of elevator and pay attention to the stairs: they could be damaged.
- Proceed to the emergency assembly areas provided for by the Civil Protection plan.

Flash flood

In the Municipal area, there are some water streams, which in the event of heavy rainfall could cause overflows and flash floods.



What to do **first**

When an alert is sent out:

- Stay updated on the dangerous situations foreseen in the territory and on the measures adopted by your Municipality.
- If you have to move, evaluate the route first and avoid areas subject to flooding.

What to do **during**

If you're indoors

- Do not go down into cellars, basements or garages to secure the properties: you risk your life.
- Do not go out absolutely to secure the car.
- If you are in a basement or ground floor, move to higher ground. Avoid the use of elevator: it can be blocked.
- Help the elderly and persons with disabilities who are in the building.
- Turn off the gas and shut off the power system. Do not touch electrical installations and appliances with wet hands or feet.

If you're outdoors

- Stay updated on how the situation evolves and follow the instructions provided by the Authorities.
- Quickly reach the highest neighboring area or climb to the upper floors of a building, avoid heading towards slopes or artificial embankments that could collapse.
- Pay attention to where you walk: there may be sinkholes, pits, open manholes.
- Avoid using the car.
- Avoid underpasses, dikes, bridges.

What to do **next**

- Follow the instructions of the Authorities before taking any action, such as reentering into the house, shoveling mud, emptying water from the cellars etc.
- Do not transit along flooded roads: there may be sinkholes, pits, open manholes or sheared electrical cables. Furthermore, fuels or other substances could contaminate water.
- Before drinking tap water, insured Municipal ordinances or warning is not prohibited; do not eat foods that have been exposed to flood water: they could be contaminated.

Atmospheric events

The atmospheric events are mostly predictable thanks to the analysis and monitoring of weather conditions. The website **Emilia-Romagna Weather Alert** managed by Arpa Emilia-Romagna and the Regional Agency for Territorial Safety and Civil Protection presents the events that can trigger a state of alert in the territory, classified by a color code that identifies the intensity: green, yellow, orange and red.

Stay informed is important: consult regularly allertameteo.regione.emilia-romagna.it.

You can automatically receive weather alerts relating to the territory of Reggio Emilia by following [@ComuneREbot](https://www.instagram.com/ComuneREbot) on Telegram

Thunderstorm

Check beforehand the weather conditions in the planning phase of an outdoor activity by reading the forecast bulletins in advance.

At the onset of a storm:

- If you see lightning, especially at dusk and at night hours, the storm may still be far away, even tens of kilometers away. In this case, move away in time, preceding the possible approach of the storm.
- However, if you hear thunders, even if it seems far away, the storm is a few kilometers away, if not closer. In this case, you are in danger; find a safe sheltered place at once.
- If you are outdoors, avoid stopping near a stream or watercourse, even if it is dry.
- If you are in a car, do not stop on bridges or pass through the underpass, limit your speed and try to reach a safe place to stop.
- Avoid staying in subbasements, basements, lower floors, garage, at high risk of flash flood during intense downpours.



- Install snow tires, useful for those traveling in wintertime in areas with low temperatures, or carry snow chains on board, preferably quick-fit.

What to do **next**

- After a snowfall, ice can form both on the roads and on the sidewalks: pay attention to the road's surface, drive with particular care.
- If you move around on foot choose your shoes carefully to avoid falls and slips and move with caution.

Stiff temperatures

When the outside temperature drops below 0 °C:

- Adjust the indoor room temperatures in such a way that it complies with the recommended standards (18-22 °C).
- Consume hot meals and drinks. Avoid alcohols because they do not help to protect you from the cold: on the contrary they encourage a greater dispersion of the heat produced by the body.
- If you can, avoid going out in the cooler hours of the day: the early hours in the morning and evening.



Wind

If you're indoors

- Stay away from windows and stained glass windows.
- Arrange and fix all objects in areas exposed to wind that are at risk of being carried away by gusts (vases and other objects on window sills or balconies, precariously fixed roofing / awning cladding, etc.).

If you're outdoors

- Move away from green areas, tree-lined streets and from all outdoor facilities, such as cable structures, platforms, gazebos, exhibition or commercial, advertising structures.



High Temperatures

During summertime, when temperatures are above average and / or heat waves:

- Do not go out during the hottest hours, from 12 to 18; the recommendation is particularly important for the elderly, very young children, non self-sufficient or convalescent people.
- At home, protect yourself from the sun with curtains or blinds and keep the air conditioning at 25-27 °C. If you use a electric fan do not aim it directly at the body.
- Drink and eat lots of fruit; avoid alcoholic beverages and caffeine. In general, consume light meals.



Snow

What to do **first**

- Get informed about the development of weather situation.
- Get oneself the necessary equipment against snow and frost or check its condition: shovel and salt supplies are indispensable tools for your home or your place of business.



Health risk

In the event of health risk associated with epidemics and pandemics

- Consult your General Practitioner or the Prevention Department of your local health (AUSL) for reliable and updated information on the development of the disease. You can find the link of the AUSL of Reggio Emilia on www.ausl.re.it.
- Strictly follow the instructions of the Health Authorities
- When symptoms are present, contact immediately your physician.



Industrial risk

The chemical-industrial risk is related to the spillage or dispersion of hazardous substances from manufacturing activities and in the event of road accidents.

- Get informed through the media and institutional communication channels regarding the measures to be adopted.
- In the event of toxic substances emission, take refuge in a closed place.
- To reduce the exposure to toxic substances, close the doors and windows and turn off air conditioners.
- After the alarm has been lifted, ventilate the rooms and await instructions on the development of the post-emergency through the media and institutional communication channels.



IT-alert

IT-alert is the national public warning system that sends out useful messages to mobile phones in a certain geographical area in the event of imminent or ongoing disasters or serious emergencies in order to minimise any individual and collective exposure to danger.

IT-alert messages are received by anyone in the area affected by the emergency, who has their mobile phone switched on and connected to the network.



It has been used since 13 February 2024 for the following risks:

- Nuclear accidents or radiation emergencies
- Major accidents at industrial plants
- Collapse of a large dam
- Volcanic activity around the Phlegraean Fields, Vesuvius and the island of Vulcano

To find out about the risk scenarios where IT-alert is already operational or currently being trialled, please visit www.it-alert.it

Useful numbers in case of emergency

FIRE BRIGADE	115
HEALTH EMERGENCY	118
POLICE	113
CARABINIERI	112
REVENUE GUARD CORPS	117
REGGIO EMILIA LOCAL POLICE	0522 4000

www.comune.re.it
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www.protezionecivile.gov.it
iononrischio.protezionecivile.it