

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Crisis Response Law

Adopted by Decree No. 1077 of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly on October 6, Juche 111 (2022)

Chapter 1: Basics of the Crisis Response Law

Article 1 (Mission of the Crisis Response Law) The Crisis Response Law of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea contributes to establishing strict systems and order to swiftly respond to national emergencies, protecting the safety of the state and the lives and property of the people, and ensuring social stability.

Article 2 (Definition) Crisis response refers to the proactive, stable suppression, management, and resolution of various crises such as the introduction and spread of malignant infectious diseases, floods, typhoons, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions, minimizing damage to the state, society, and people, and ensuring smooth national activities.

Article 3 (Basic Principles of Crisis Response) The state establishes a unified command system and emergency business system to swiftly respond to health crises and natural disaster crises, ensuring dynamic and efficient coordination to successfully overcome sudden emergencies.

Article 4 (Principle of High Awareness and Nationwide Resistance) The state ensures high awareness and unity in crisis response, relying on the masses for nationwide resistance and cooperation to stably suppress, manage, and resolve the crisis.

Article 5 (Principle of Punishment for Those Who Obstruct Crisis Response) The state imposes severe administrative and criminal sanctions on anyone who obstructs crisis response during national emergencies, regardless of their identity or reasons, treating it as if it were wartime.

Article 6 (Application of Relevant Laws) Matters not regulated by this law regarding crisis response are governed by relevant laws.

Chapter 2: Establishment of Crisis Response Command System and Emergency Business System

Article 7 (Basic Requirements for Establishing Crisis Response Command System and Emergency Business System) Establishing a proper crisis response command system and emergency business system is a firm guarantee for swiftly and accurately responding

to national emergencies. The Cabinet, ministries, central agencies, local people's committees, institutions, enterprises, and organizations must establish a unified command system and emergency business system to swiftly and accurately respond to national emergencies.

Article 8 (Organization of Emergency Crisis Response Committees) When national emergencies such as the introduction of malignant infectious diseases and natural disasters occur, emergency crisis response committees are organized at the central level and at the provincial (directly governed city), city (district), and county levels to promptly address issues related to the safety and stability of the people's lives, recovery from natural disaster damage, and other matters.

Article 9 (Composition and Operational Support of Emergency Crisis Response Committees) The National Emergency Crisis Response Committee is chaired by the Prime Minister and includes senior officials from the central planning guidance agency, Ministry of National Defense, central social safety guidance agency, central agricultural guidance agency, central prosecution agency, and relevant agencies as vice-chairpersons, and officials from the national inspection agency, central health guidance agency, central emergency disaster guidance agency, and relevant agencies as members. Operational support is provided by the central emergency disaster guidance agency or central health guidance agency, depending on the type of crisis.

Provincial (directly governed city), city (district), and county emergency crisis response committees are chaired by senior officials of the province (directly governed city), city (district), and county, and include officials from the people's committee, social safety agency, and military agencies stationed in the area as vice-chairpersons, and officials from the prosecution agency, health agency, and relevant agencies as members. Operational support is provided by the emergency disaster command department or health department of the provincial (directly governed city), city (district), and county people's committee, depending on the type of crisis.

Article 10 (Duties and Authority of the National Emergency Crisis Response Committee) The National Emergency Crisis Response Committee has the following duties and authority:

1. Unified command of activities to swiftly respond to national emergencies.
2. Declaration or cancellation of health crises according to the relevant epidemic grade of the Emergency Epidemic Prevention Law, and natural disaster crises according to the relevant disaster grade of the Disaster Prevention, Rescue, and Recovery Law.

3. Drafting, reviewing, and issuing emergency measures to proactively, stably suppress, manage, and resolve sudden emergencies, and controlling their execution by institutions, enterprises, and organizations.
4. Establishing measures to efficiently adjust and implement national crisis response policies according to changing emergency situations.
5. Implementing emergency measures such as regional isolation, unit isolation, and blocking disaster-affected and dangerous areas according to crisis response grades, and mobilizing necessary forces, means, equipment, and materials.
6. Establishing immediate measures for the safety and stability of the people's lives, disaster rescue, and recovery activities.
7. Establishing measures to rationally introduce scientific response methods according to the type of crisis.
8. Establishing measures to maintain social stability and order, preventing even minor negative phenomena.
9. Ensuring seamless command and operation of all national activities even during emergency situations.
10. Establishing measures for other issues related to crisis response.

Article 11 (Duties of Provincial, City, and County Emergency Crisis Response Committees) Provincial (directly governed city), city (district), and county emergency crisis response committees must promptly and accurately respond to national or regional emergencies under the command of the superior emergency crisis response committee, addressing issues such as personnel rescue, isolation, emergency medical measures, evacuation to safe areas, secondary damage prevention, and stabilization of people's lives in their respective areas.

Article 12 (Establishment of Government Administrative Command System) Ministries, central agencies, local people's committees, institutions, enterprises, and organizations must promptly issue and organize the execution of the Cabinet's administrative orders, decisions, instructions, and the National Emergency Crisis Response Committee's instructions to the lowest execution units during emergencies, and establish strong discipline to promptly report execution status to the Cabinet.

Article 13 (Drafting and Issuing Emergency Action Guidelines) The Cabinet must promptly draft and issue emergency action guidelines that enable immediate transition to emergency mode nationwide in case of emergencies. The emergency action guidelines

must specifically reflect the order of actions for institutions, enterprises, organizations, and citizens during emergencies, the order of using emergency reserve materials, the order of ensuring the production and supply of food, medicines, essential goods, tents, and drinking water necessary for stabilizing people's lives, and the mobilization of equipment and materials necessary for disaster rescue and recovery.

Article 14 (Drafting Emergency Action Plans and Establishing Emergency Business System) Ministries, central agencies, local people's committees, institutions, enterprises, and organizations must draft specific emergency action plans according to the emergency action guidelines issued by the Cabinet, reflecting the circumstances of their sectors, regions, and units, and establish a proper system for executing emergency action plans during emergencies.

Article 15 (Duties of Institutions, Enterprises, Organizations, and Citizens) Institutions, enterprises, organizations, and citizens must absolutely obey the unified command of the Cabinet and the National Emergency Crisis Response Committee during emergencies. They must not interpret, conclude, or act arbitrarily, and must not spread rumors that disturb public sentiment or create disorder and confusion in economic activities.

Chapter 3: Enhancing Crisis Response Capabilities

Article 16 (Basic Requirements for Enhancing Crisis Response Capabilities) Enhancing crisis response capabilities is an important requirement for firmly protecting socialist construction, national safety, and the lives and property of the people. Institutions, enterprises, and organizations must actively prepare material and technical measures to respond to prospective threats and challenges, realize scientific, informational, and modern crisis management at a high level, and continuously raise the crisis response awareness of the entire people.

Article 17 (Issuing Emergency Reserve Material Plans) Central planning guidance agencies, central agricultural guidance agencies, central health guidance agencies, and central commercial guidance agencies must draft specific emergency reserve material plans, including food, medicines, and essential goods to be used during emergencies, calculating storage standards, periods, and required quantities, and issue them to relevant institutions, enterprises, and organizations.

Article 18 (Executing Emergency Reserve Material Plans and Self-Accumulation) Institutions, enterprises, and organizations receiving emergency reserve material plans must accumulate emergency reserve materials according to the specified standards within the prescribed period. Institutions, enterprises, and organizations not receiving emergency reserve material plans must self-accumulate necessary emergency reserve materials such

as food, medicines, essential goods, side dishes, and fuel according to their circumstances for use during emergencies.

Article 19 (Order of Storage and Use of Emergency Reserve Materials) Institutions, enterprises, and organizations must regularly replace stored emergency reserve materials according to storage periods to prevent spoilage and deterioration, and use them according to established procedures. Emergency reserve materials must not be used for activities unrelated to crisis response.

Article 20 (Organizing Regular Emergency Mobilization Training) Ministries, central agencies, and local people's committees must regularly conduct emergency mobilization training by institution, sector, and region according to emergency action guidelines to continuously enhance crisis response capabilities.

Article 21 (Enhancing Health Crisis Response Capabilities) Emergency epidemic prevention agencies, health agencies, and relevant institutions must fully equip scientific testing means, medicines, medical equipment, medical consumables, epidemic prevention materials, patient accommodation capacity, treatment capacity, and isolation facilities, and research and develop advanced treatment tactics and methods, highly effective treatment drugs, and traditional medicines to enhance health crisis response capabilities.

Article 22 (Enhancing Natural Disaster Crisis Response Capabilities) The central emergency disaster guidance agency and local people's committees must fully equip emergency rescue teams, disaster materials, transportation equipment, emergency mobilization equipment, ambulances, medical teams, communication means, and signaling equipment to be mobilized during natural disaster crises such as floods, heavy rains, typhoons, tsunamis, and earthquakes, and improve the planning, informatization, and scientific management levels of disaster management to continuously enhance natural disaster crisis response capabilities.

Article 23 (Duties of Supervision and Control Agencies During Crises) Prosecutors, social safety agencies, national inspection agencies, and relevant supervision and control agencies must strengthen legal supervision and control to ensure the prompt and accurate execution of the Cabinet's administrative orders, decisions, instructions, and the National Emergency Crisis Response Committee's instructions during national crises.

Article 24 (Guaranteeing Conditions for Crisis Response Activities) The Cabinet, national planning agencies, labor administrative agencies, financial institutions, local people's committees, and relevant agencies must prioritize guaranteeing the labor, equipment, materials, funds, and other necessary resources to firmly establish the

material and technical foundation of the emergency epidemic prevention sector, health sector, and disaster prevention sector to respond to prospective threats and challenges.

Article 25 (Enhancing Citizens' Crisis Awareness and Sense of Responsibility)

Emergency epidemic prevention agencies, health agencies, central emergency disaster guidance agencies, publishing and reporting agencies, information industry guidance agencies, and relevant agencies must continuously broadcast common knowledge related to various crises, evacuation and relocation orders during crises, and changing crisis situations through broadcasting, newspapers, computer networks, mobile phones, and other publishing and reporting means and information communication means to continuously enhance citizens' crisis awareness and sense of responsibility.

Article 26 (Duties of the Economic Sector During Crises) The Cabinet, ministries, central agencies, local people's committees, institutions, enterprises, and organizations must meticulously organize, guide, and command economic activities according to crisis situations, mobilize internal potential and possibilities to the maximum extent, and vigorously conduct production struggles and increased production struggles to unconditionally execute the people's economic plan by sector, month, quarter, and indicator without bias.

Article 27 (Duties of the Education Sector During Crises) The central education guidance agency and relevant agencies must actively introduce various rational education methods such as remote education and guided classes through information communication means according to crisis situations to ensure uninterrupted student learning.

Article 28 (Grasping and Reporting Damage Situations During Crises) Emergency epidemic prevention agencies, health agencies, central emergency disaster guidance agencies, local people's committees, institutions, enterprises, and organizations must accurately grasp the damage situation of their regions and units during crises and promptly report to the emergency crisis response committee and superior agencies.

Article 29 (Restoring Epidemic Stability and Recovery Activities) Emergency epidemic prevention agencies, health agencies, central emergency disaster guidance agencies, local people's committees, institutions, enterprises, and organizations must concentrate their efforts on ultimately resolving epidemic crises and restoring epidemic stability, and rationally determine the scale and sequence of recovery activities, prioritizing the restoration of important targets such as roads, bridges, railways, communication networks, hospitals, housing, and schools, and promptly conduct recovery activities.

Chapter 4: Legal Responsibility for Violating Crisis Response Order

Article 30 (Crime of Neglecting Execution of Orders, Decisions, and Instructions Related to Crisis Management)

If significant confusion is caused in crisis management due to the failure to promptly and accurately execute national orders, decisions, instructions, the Cabinet's administrative orders, decisions, instructions, and the National Emergency Crisis Response Committee's instructions related to crisis management during national emergencies, the relevant provisions of the Emergency Epidemic Prevention Law and the Disaster Prevention, Rescue, and Recovery Law regulating the crime of neglecting the execution of orders, decisions, and instructions related to emergency epidemic prevention and disaster prevention, rescue, and recovery activities are applied, and the offender is sentenced to fixed-term labor reform, indefinite-term labor reform, or death.

Article 31 (Crime of Neglecting Crisis Management Duties) If crisis management activities are hindered due to the failure to properly organize crisis management activities or irresponsibly conduct activities to enhance crisis response capabilities during national emergencies, the relevant provisions of the Emergency Epidemic Prevention Law and the Disaster Prevention, Rescue, and Recovery Law regulating the crime of neglecting emergency epidemic prevention duties and disaster prevention, rescue, and recovery duties are applied, and the offender is sentenced to labor training or fixed-term labor reform.

Article 32 (Crime of Neglecting Conditions for Crisis Management) If crisis management activities are hindered due to the failure to promptly guarantee labor, equipment, materials, funds, and other necessary resources during national emergencies, the relevant provisions of the Emergency Epidemic Prevention Law and the Disaster Prevention, Rescue, and Recovery Law regulating the crime of neglecting conditions for emergency epidemic prevention and disaster rescue and recovery activities are applied, and the offender is sentenced to labor training or fixed-term labor reform.

Article 33 (Crime of Illegal Disposal and Black Market Trading of Emergency Reserve Materials During National Emergencies) If crisis management activities are hindered due to the illegal disposal or black market trading of emergency reserve materials during national emergencies, the relevant provisions of the Emergency Epidemic Prevention Law and the Disaster Prevention, Rescue, and Recovery Law regulating the crime of obstructing emergency epidemic prevention activities and disaster rescue and recovery activities are applied, and the offender is sentenced to labor training, fixed-term labor reform, indefinite-term labor reform, or death.

Article 34 (Crime of Spreading Rumors During National Emergencies) If public sentiment is disturbed or disorder and confusion are created in people's lives and economic activities due to the spreading of rumors during national emergencies, the

relevant provisions of the Emergency Epidemic Prevention Law and the Disaster Prevention, Rescue, and Recovery Law regulating the crime of obstructing emergency epidemic prevention activities and disaster rescue and recovery activities are applied, and the offender is sentenced to labor training, fixed-term labor reform, indefinite-term labor reform, or death.

Article 35 (Administrative Responsibility) If the acts specified in Articles 30-34 do not constitute criminal responsibility, administrative punishment is imposed according to the relevant provisions of the Emergency Epidemic Prevention Law and the Disaster Prevention, Rescue, and Recovery Law.