

PREPAREDNESS PLAN FOR FINNS RESIDING OR TRAVELLING IN SOUTH AFRICA

This plan consists of general advice on basic preparedness and of measures to take in case of an emergency. Crisis situations may vary significantly therefore detailed instructions are difficult to give. If the need arises, everyone should be prepared to use their own judgement on the steps to take.

The general situation in South Africa is relatively stable. The nature of a crisis may be that of a natural disaster, catastrophe, social unrest or a large-scale epidemic.

We urge Finnish citizens residing or travelling in South Africa to register via the [Matkustusilmoitus.fi](https://matkustusilmoitus.fi) -site. This enables us to contact you in case of an emergency or crisis situation.

BASIC READINESS

Be prepared before the crisis hit. Make sure that you have the following items and that they are easily accessible:

- Identity documents, passports, vaccination documents, prescriptions and insurance
- Nonperishable food, necessary medicines, first aid kit and drinking water. Be prepared for water and power outages.
- A camping cooker, gas or other fuel and matchsticks for cooking
- Car – ensure that the documents and equipment are in order including spare tyre. Check that there is enough fuel in the tank. Remember the first aid kit and maps.
- Candles, torches, batteries and oil lamps in case of power shortage or black out
- Battery powered radio
- Local currency, also small notes
- Camping equipment, blankets and compass can be useful
- Make sure your home's security arrangements are in order; you must be able to trust your staff also. Know your neighbours.
- Find out the safest route between your home/workplace and meeting place

CONTACT INFORMATION IN CRISIS

The Embassy of Finland in Pretoria is responsible for assisting Finnish citizens. In case of an emergency, as a member of the European Union, Finnish citizens can also get assistance from Nordics and EU delegations, consular or honorary consulates.

Follow the local media and also the Facebook and Twitter sites of the Embassy and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Avoid rumors.

<p>Embassy of Finland</p> <p>628 Leyds Street Muckleneuk, Pretoria 0002 Tel. +27-12-343 0275 Fax. +27-12-343 3095 sanomat.pre@formin.fi www.finland.org.za Facebook.com/FinnishEmbassyPretoria Twitter.com/FinEmbPretoria</p>	<p>Ambassador's residence 330 Victoria Street, Waterkloof, Pretoria</p> <p>Finnish Foreign Ministry Emergency service (24/7) Tel. +358-9-160 55 555 paivystys.um@formin.fi www.formin.finland.fi Facebook.com/ulkoministerio or Nettikonsuli Twitter.com/ulkoministerio</p>
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<p>Honorary Consulate of Finland in Cape Town</p> <p>Mr Philip Palmgren D3 Westlake Square 1 Westlake Drive Tokai 7945 CAPE TOWN cptconsul.fin@npp.co.za Tel. +27 21 700 2800</p>	<p>Honorary Consulate of Finland in Durban</p> <p>Mr Jouni Dahllund 22 Silver Oak Avenue Mount Edgecombe Old Village Kwazulu Natal 4301 Tel. +27 31502 7672 dahllund@telkomsa.net</p>
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FIRST PHASE OF THE CRISIS – MEASURES TO TAKE

In case of crisis limit staying outside your home or workplace. Home is usually the safest place and also the easiest place to reach you. Follow the media including local and international radio stations. Follow the instructions given by authorities of the respective country and/or the Embassy.

Check that basic readiness is in order. Store water in case of water outages. Remember when packing your valuables and personal items, that in case of an evacuation you can take only a limited amount of items with you. Arrange guarding or lock up of your property in advance.

In case of an evacuation situation prepare a list of your property and items which stay behind.

If the risk of bombing or exchange of fire is real, stay away from windows and cover them with carpets or mattresses. Seek safety in the inner parts of the house, preferably spaces without windows and stay as low as possible.

SECOND PHASE OF THE CRISIS – PROCEEDING TO THE MEETING PLACES

In case the crisis worsens, the Embassy may recommend you move to the nearest meeting place. Use your own discretion when selecting the route to the meeting place.

It is advisable to take your passport, identity card, cash and other means of payment with you. A sleeping pad and bag are good to have as well as basic food items and drinking water.

Remember that the most important thing is to take care of yourself and your family - not the belongings.

THIRD PHASE OF THE CRISIS - EVACUATION

The third phase of the crisis may include evacuation by air, land or sea to a safer area within the country, the continent or to Finland. Even though the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, together with the Embassy decides about the evacuation, it is still voluntary.

The cost of evacuation will be charged to the party concerned. Unprompted transition/evacuation may be a good option depending on the situation and distances. Inform the Embassy or the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of your decision and whereabouts. This helps us to keep track of Finnish citizens and share the information to relatives and other relevant contacts in Finland.

In the case of an evacuation, pack only the most essential belongings, don't forget to take some food and water. Pets will not be evacuated.

GLOBAL INFECTIOUS DISEASES (PANDEMICS)

Finnish citizens with permanent residence in South Africa are part of the local healthcare system. It is important to take care of one's health and safety. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland does not supply medicines or vaccines for expatriate Finns. Patient evacuations are unlikely.