

INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

MONTENEGRO: ACCIDENT AT AN EXPLOSIVES WAREHOUSE

Information Bulletin
no. 01/2006
11 July 2006

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 183 countries.

In Brief

This Bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the situation and the information available at this time. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

The International Federation undertakes activities that are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to achieve the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- In Montenegro: Slobodan Kalezic/ Montenegro Red Cross secretary
Tel : +381 81/241-819 , fax +381 81/241-613 , mobtel +381 69/040-452 , e-mail ckcg@cg.yu .
Martinovic Momcilo – DM coordinator/ Montenegro Red Cross Society
Tel : +381 85/373-608 , fax +381 85/373-124 , mob tel +381 69/334-262 , e-mail: djelovanje.unesrecama@ckcg.cg.yu
- In Serbia & Montenegro: Knut Felberg, Head of Delegation, Belgrade, knut.felberg@ifrc.org phone: +381 11 3282 202, fax: ++381 11 3281 791
- In Budapest Regional Delegation: Slobodanka Curic, Regional Disaster Management coordinator, slobodanka.curic@ifrc.org, phone: +387 65665 747
- In Geneva: Erja Reinikainen, Regional Officer, Europe Dept, erja.reinikainen@ifrc.org, phone: + 41.22.730.4920, fax +41.22.733.03.95

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The Situation

On 8 July, around half an hour after midnight, “Buster” warehouse, storing commercial explosives at Vir, about 10 km away from Niksic, exploded, but fortunately no one was killed. The terrible detonation destroyed or partially damaged almost all the houses within a few kilometres of the warehouse. Houses closest to the warehouse are completely devastated, and ones farther away were left without roofs and windows, country homes were turned into mere walls and in the small village of Avtenice, stacks of hay caught fire. Inhabitants of the villages were in shock. Ambulance and private cars continually took the injured people to hospital and relatives from the city have kept coming to check on their children and parents. Police blocked the bridge at Vir, not allowing access to the warehouse fearing further explosions.

Police, medical teams, firefighting unit and Montenegro Red Cross disaster response unit along with the DR unit of the Niksic RC branch soon arrived at the scene of the explosion.

According to the chief surgeon of the Operation Ward in the Niksic hospital up to 3 am, 50 injured persons were admitted to the hospital, five with severe injuries. Of those who were lightly injured, five persons were discharged and 20 persons are recovering at the Operation Ward.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

After receiving information about the accident, Montenegro Red Cross mobilised its Disaster Response Unit, together with the Niksic branch DR unit, with both units quickly on the scene. Immediately after contacting



Red Cross provided tents for the 40 families who had lost their homes to shelter.

Municipal Crisis Headquarters, formed due to the accident from representatives of the local authorities, Red Cross provided human resources. This was in the form of Emergency Response Unit – Montenegro Red Cross, 20 volunteers of the Niksic branch, as well as the branch staff, and one equipped vehicle. For the relief and support of the affected municipality, the Red Cross provided tents in which about 40 families that have lost their homes were sheltered. Huge amounts of plastic material (about 2000 square metres) were also provided to cover houses with severely damaged roofs. 300 pads and 200 jerry-cans were also provided. Volunteers of the Niksic branch formed information points to provide information on current events.

Red Cross is in constant communication with the Municipal Crisis Headquarters and they will act according to the needs. About 20 volunteers are in the field providing

information and psycho-social support to the affected population.

Actions taken by others

In order to mitigate the consequences of the explosion as soon as possible, Crisis Headquarters was formed in the municipality, with 20 expert teams doing emergency distribution of the most needed material for urgent repair of the damaged houses and fixing the electricity network. Families that cannot use their houses are currently accommodated in a local hotel.

[Click here to return to the title page or contact information.](#)