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Preparatory measures and behaviour in crisis situations for Swiss nationals in the Republic of Korea

1. Introduction

The Federal Act on Swiss Persons and Institutions Abroad, or Swiss Abroad Act (ASA), which came into force on 1 November 2015, enshrines the principle of personal responsibility of Swiss nationals abroad. The legislator expects every person to assume personal responsibility when preparing and realising a stay abroad or carrying out an activity abroad, to behave in a risk-appropriate manner and to overcome any difficulties that arise on their own.

The Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) can support persons abroad if it is not reasonable or possible for them to protect their interests themselves or with the help of third parties. Consular protection, i.e. possible assistance from the FDFA, begins when the person concerned has done everything possible to overcome the emergency themselves, with the support of the local authorities, their insurance(s) and others. There is no legal entitlement to federal assistance.

2. Sources of information

The local authorities are primarily responsible for the safety of all inhabitants of a country, including the local Swiss community. The local authorities can make recommendations for the protection of the population and initiate crisis management measures. Their instructions must be followed in the event of a crisis.

Specific information on preparation and information in the event of a crisis can be found on the websites of the following authorities:

- **Safe Korea (by Ministry of Interior and Safety)** : https://eng.safekorea.go.kr/safekorea-eng/main/main.do

- **Emergency Ready App (multilingual support disaster alerts, safety guide, and civil defense shelter locations)**: https://english.seoul.go.kr/service/living/disaster-evacuation-tips-citizens/emergency-ready-app/

The general assessments of the federal authorities and international organisations listed below are also available:

In the FDFA's travel advice at https://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/fdfa.html> *Travel Advice & Representations* you will find an up-to-date assessment of the security situation for the Republic of Korea. If you have any questions about the travel advice, you can contact us at any time.

Further useful information and leaflets can be found at https://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/fdfa.html> *Travel advice & representations > Country-independent travel information.*

The Federal Office of Public Health FOPH (https://www.bag.admin.ch/en), the website www.healthytravel.ch and the World Health Organisation (www.who.int) are important sources of health information.

3. Important preparatory measures

You should always have the following items ready in the event of a crisis (non-exhaustive list):

Important documents (incl. copies of these documents)

☐	Valid travel documents
☐	Driving licence and vehicle documents
☐	Foreigner's identity cards
☐	Valid visas

Finances

☐	Cash and foreign currency reserves
☐	Credit card(s)
☐	Bank card(s)

Information and communication

☐	List of important telephone/emergency numbers
☐	Mobile phone, possibly with spare battery or power bank and sufficient call credit
☐	Battery-operated (short-wave) radio with spare batteries

Health

☐	Pocket pharmacy with important medication
☐	Vaccination card
☐	Insurance policies (illness, accident, repatriation)

Emergency supplies

☐	Drinking water
☐	Food (emergency cooker if necessary)
☐	Fuel

You can reduce the risk of damage by taking various preventive measures (non-exhaustive list):

- Have your house and furnishings/equipment checked for earthquake, fire, flood and storm safety and install fire alarms.
- Secure walls, doors and windows against unauthorised entry.
- Arrange a meeting point with your family in case access to your home is not possible.
- Clarify escape routes to a safe place of refuge in Switzerland or a safe third country.
- Keep us informed of any changes of address, new telephone numbers (including mobile phone numbers abroad and in Switzerland) and email addresses so that we can contact you in an emergency. You can also do this yourself via the online desk.

4. Behaviour in the event of a crisis

- Keep yourself informed about the current situation, in particular via the local media, notices from the local authorities and the FDFA website.
- In the event of a crisis, follow the instructions of the local authorities, for example regarding precautionary measures, exclusion zones, evacuations, etc.
- Avoid demonstrations, riots and large gatherings of people of any kind.
- Stay in contact with your relatives.
- Follow the FDFA's travel advice.
- Follow the FDFA's safety recommendations. In the event of an ongoing crisis situation, the FDFA may recommend that Swiss nationals leave the crisis area.
- Swiss nationals make the decision to leave a crisis area on their own responsibility, voluntarily, at their own risk and at their own expense.
- Crises can escalate very quickly; escape routes may be blocked and it may no longer be possible to leave the country or part of the country (safely). If the security situation deteriorates, leave the country/part of the country as long as this is still possible and commercial means of transport are available.
- Be aware that, depending on the situation on the ground, our ability to support you in the event of a crisis may be limited or - in the worst case - non-existent.

5. Travel Admin: Information Travel Admin

You and your family members can enter the details of your short-term stays outside your host country on this portal. Please also ask your visitors from Switzerland to register their trip on Travel Admin. This information will help the FDFA to contact you in the event of a crisis abroad and provide you with important information on how to help yourself.

6. Useful contacts

Telephone number of the Embassy	+82-2-739-9511
E-mail address	seoul@eda.admin.ch seoul.chancery@eda.admin.ch
On-call telephone number (only in emergencies outside normal working hours)	Helpline FDFA +41 800 24 7 365 / +47 58 465 33 33