

Translated from Arabic

Disasters that are likely to occur in the Sultanate and ways to
mitigate their severity

One of the main priorities of the Government of the Sultanate of Oman is to ensure security, in the comprehensive sense of the term, for all categories of nationals and persons residing in the territory of the Sultanate by safeguarding and protecting the population, national resources, facilities, property, installations, buildings and projects from the dangers of general disasters with a view to ensuring that life follows its normal course.

Responsibility for the security of Omani society is not confined to agencies of the State; every individual must protect himself and help to protect his community.

Accordingly, with a view to optimizing the procedures and measures taken to protect the population, safeguard property and resources, organize and coordinate action and define the duties and responsibilities of all public and private bodies, H.M. the Sultan has promulgated the following decrees: Royal Decree No. 22/88, as amended, calling for the establishment of the National Committee on Disasters; Royal Decree No. 76/91, concerning the Civil Defence Act; and Ordinance No. 21/93, drafted by H.E. the Inspector General, concerning regulations for the implementation of civil defence measures.

A. Natural disasters in the Sultanate

The geographical location, topography and climate of the Sultanate of Oman, as well as the economic development boom that it has experienced, expose it to the hazards of various disasters. These hazards can be divided into two principal categories:

1. Natural hazards

These are hazards resulting from sudden natural disasters for the occurrence of which man cannot be held responsible. Although they can be forecasted and predicted, the actual time of their occurrence cannot be determined, nor is it possible to avert or limit the extent of their effects. They include:

Earthquakes (earth tremors)

The Sultanate has never been exposed to this type of hazard, at least not in the recent past.