

**Interreg - IPA CBC**

Italy - Albania - Montenegro



EUROPEAN UNION

**TO BE READY**

# **THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM CROSSBORDER OPERATING PROCEDURES**

- 1. HYDRAULIC RISK**
- 2. HYDROGEOLOGICAL RISK**
- 3. FOREST FIRE HAZARD**
- 4. REMOTE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

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## ***ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS***

SC – Steering Committee

LP – Lead Partner

PP – Project Partner

TOBEREADY - The fIlood and Big firE foREst, prediction, forecAst anD emergencY management

AF – Application Form

WP – Work Package

DG ECHO - European Commission Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection

DG SANTE - European Commission Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety

EU - European Union

IATA - International Air Transport Association

ICAO - International Civil Aviation Organization

NATO - North-Atlantic Treaty Organization

OSCE - Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

PPE - Personal Protective Equipment

TTX - Table-Top Exercise

UN - United Nations

UNDRR - United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

UNEP - United Nations Environment Programme

WHO - World Health Organization

WMO - World Meteorological Organization

DD/GG – Days/Giorni

HH – Hours/Ore

MC – Cubic meters/metri cubi

L – Liters/litri

FF – Forest Fire

HYD – Hydraulic/Hydrogeologic

SV - Special Vehicles

## INTRODUCTION

*This document aims to represent a first tool for assessing and regulating the activities to be implemented for the management of cross-border crises and the coordinated support of the partners of the project The flood and Big fire foREst, prediction, forecAst anD emergencY management acronym To Be Ready , project financed by the Interreg Program – IPA CBC Italy, Albania Montenegro.*

*At the time of writing, activations compliant with the European Civil Protection Mechanism are not possible, for which a first assessment of the individual organizations was drawn up with the administration of the initial analysis questionnaire.*

*Subsequently, n. 4 operating procedures in principle, and not in detail, potentially applicable to the 4 project partners on 3 risks and 1 activation of tactical means, listed below:*

- *Hydraulic risk*
- *Hydrogeological risk*
- *Forest fire risk*
- *Emergency tactical vehicle*

<i>Procedure</i> <i>Project partner</i>	<i>Hydraulic risk</i>	<i>Hydrogeological risk</i>	<i>Forest fire risk</i>	<i>Emergency tactical vehicle</i>
<i>LP – Region Molise - Italy</i>				
<i>PP2 – Region Puglia - Italy</i>				
<i>PP3 – Ministry of Interiors- Montenegro</i>				
<i>PP3 – Ministry of Difense - Albania</i>				

*The procedures relating to Hydraulic Risks and Hydrogeological Risks have been absorbed into a single procedure as the activities and instruments, as well as the technological and human resources are similar.*

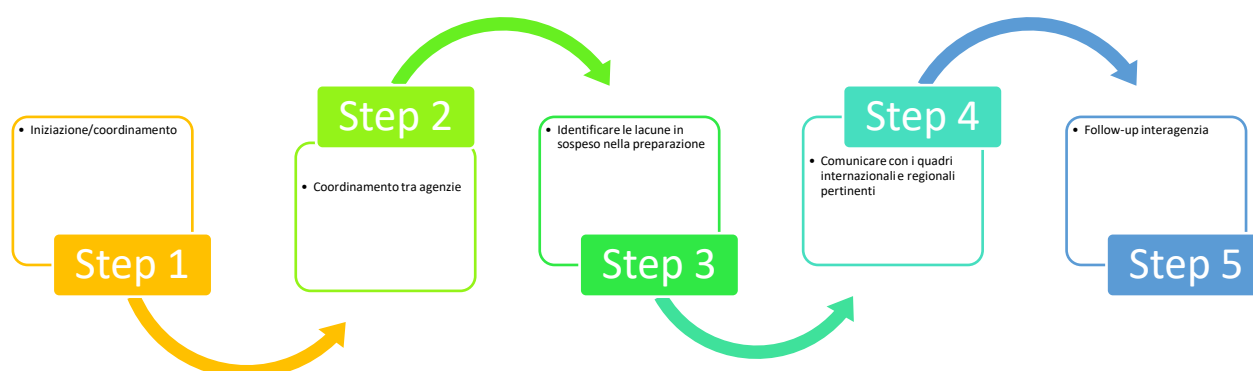
*The analysis and data exchange sheets (G1, M1) are a further development of the document produced with the support of the Civil Protection Section of Puglia Region, based on the results obtained within the 3 watchout project funded by the IPA CBC INTERREG Italia Program -Albania-Montenegro 2014-2020*

## SELF ASSESSMENT

*This introductory chapter was entirely taken from the document "SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOL FOR NATIONS TO INCREASE PREPAREDNESS FOR CROSS-BORDER IMPLICATIONS OF CRISES" drawn up by the OECD in the 2021 version. Indeed the same document turns out to be an excellent guide for a self-assessment for cross-border events. The chapter will be repeated on all procedures.*

### HOW TO CARRY OUT A SELF-ASSESSMENT

A self-assessment should lead to better response preparedness, and the conduct of this exercise contributes to that aim. When the following methodology, divided into five consecutive steps, is used, preparedness would already be strengthened in each phase.



#### STEP 1: Initiation/co-ordination

The national agency or ministry that should ideally initiate the conduct of this self-assessment would be the one responsible for disaster/crisis management, depending on the specific organizational structure of a government. Prior to the onset of an emergency, the roles and responsibilities of all relevant ministries and agencies supporting disaster/crisis management and response should be clearly defined and its mechanisms outlined in national laws and procedures.

The leading agency/ministry is expected to co-ordinate with other national structures during a response to a crisis. If this agency also takes a guiding role in response preparedness it may facilitate a more effective and efficient response. In particular, the assessment questions in the first chapter of this guide would be of relevance for general preparedness efforts and strengthening national capacities. An interagency self-assessment would provide an overview of existing national capacities and also highlight requirements where further development and/or assistance might be needed.

Given the collaborative nature of the development of this tool, the sources of information as indicated throughout the document and the identification of the key regional and international organizations that specialize in certain areas, the agencies/ministries leading national efforts in disaster/crisis management will be able to target their efforts and any requests for assistance in a timely and an effective manner.

### *STEP 2: Interagency co-ordination*

The seeds of good interagency co-ordination need to be planted in the preparedness phase. Therefore, the self-assessment requires that all relevant border-related agencies would jointly conduct the assessment. In some countries, it may be the first time that a meeting of this kind would be held in advance of a crisis. It is an opportunity not only for the national lead for disaster/crisis management to establish contact with border-related agencies, but also to promote contact between Customs and Immigration officials, Border Guards/Police and officials of Ministries of Health, Agriculture, Foreign Affairs, Trade, Interior, environment, Civil Protection and others. Regional and local authorities or civil society could equally be included to promote an even better preparedness effort.

Co-operation between different agencies is the only way for the self-assessment to result in complete and coherent findings. In addition, this working method alone is an awareness exercise. Officials from various backgrounds would be able to learn how colleagues from different agencies/ministries operate, the challenges they face and how they could contribute to a response or recovery effort following a disaster/crisis. Overall national preparedness would be enhanced through networking and sharing of information. The concept of routine interagency meetings to foster co-operation was promoted by Sweden and its practice of weekly co-ordination meetings during COVID-19 pandemic. The relationships that developed through the regular dialogue between the interagency counterparts contributed to a whole of government response to the pandemic. To take the effort one step further transboundary co-ordination could also be pursued, if deemed helpful

### *STEP 3: Identify outstanding gaps in preparedness*

It is anticipated that the answers to the questions in the tool will initiate discussion between national agencies and ministries, encouraging an exchange of capabilities, experiences and requirements between them. The questions are drafted in such a way that with a positive answer, the issues would not necessarily be further explored. However, should the answer to any of the questions be negative, it can be assumed that there is a need for improvement and that future adjustments are necessary. The tool is not designed to give an overall score to States on their preparedness for cross-border implications, but it will indicate the gaps in national legislation, procedures and practices and what organizational specialization in each specific area that could provide expertise if States desire.

The first chapter on general response preparedness is a snapshot of a comprehensive preparation check in all sectors of disaster response. The list serves as an indicator of basic preparation levels that exist within a nation. It also raises awareness of the variety of issues to be taken into account to achieve preparedness at an acceptable level. Other chapters focus on several cross-border implications/situations in more detail.

The variety of situations covered allows a national service to test different scenarios and conduct risk and vulnerability assessments to determine the probability of a certain type of crisis and its potential impact. Related issues to the topics that are of a more general nature, but that are not linked to cross-border co-operation are excluded. However, a list of sources is added to help users easily find more information on a particular question. It is important to note that where there is no reference to existing materials, the questions originated out of the project development, revision and update.

#### *STEP 4: Communicate with relevant international and regional frameworks*

After conducting the assessment, interested States are invited to explore the reference tools further or to contact international or regional organizations for more in-depth assessments and information. The activities and publications of some expert organizations on the different topics are summarized at the end of this document for States to have an overview of assistance that could be provided. The organization may be contacted directly for further information or to discuss possible co-operation, for example the drafting of a specific action plan for a border-related sector in a region, assistance with relevant legislation or advice on how to implement national and international guidelines.

There is no obligation to report back in any international or other forum after the self-assessment. However, States are strongly recommended to do so, for example in the OSCE Security Committee, in order to foster cross-border co-operation and to continue the undertaking of strengthening national and international preparedness for crises. Should the assessment identify the need for more transboundary co-operation, States are advised to contact their neighbours directly for follow-up actions. It was through the comments of several participating States that the OSCE determined the need to revisit this tool and update the questions that are contained as part of the self-assessment given the unique challenges that all nations have faced in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and prolonged migration issues.

#### *STEP 5: Interagency follow-up*

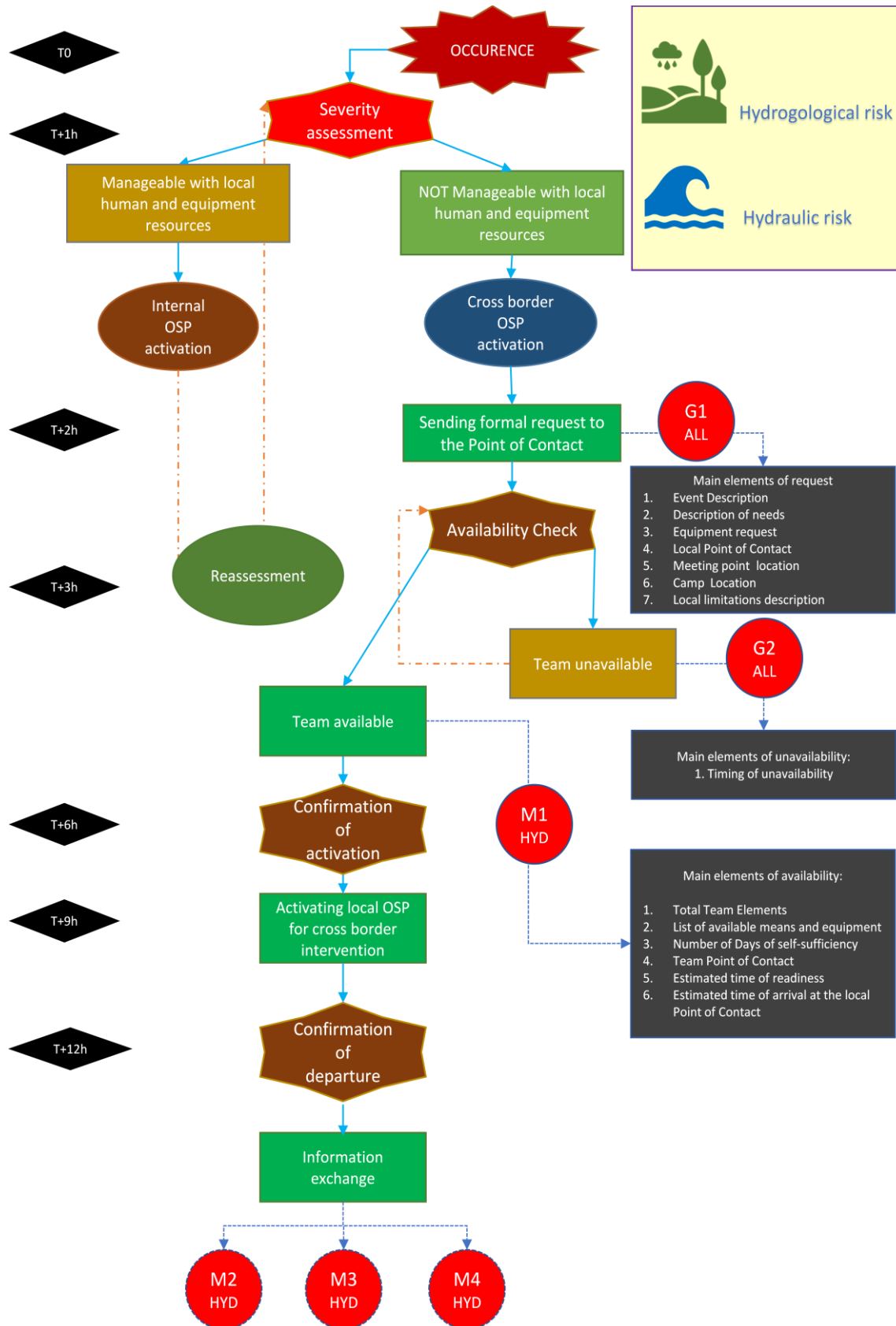
Following the conduct of the self-assessment tool and completion of activities undertaken in some of the areas that were identified and required efforts to increase capabilities, it would be beneficial to meet again in the interagency setting used for the self-assessment to continue the momentum of joining efforts to

exchange information and provide new staff with networking possibilities. Shared learning processes and joint simulation events could be organized to allow even better response preparedness. Regional meetings, or the self-assessment of preparedness levels at the regional or local level, could also be considered, particularly if nations have mutual aid agreements and rely on neighbouring countries to support crisis responses. The tool may be utilized in the future to document improvements made to previously identified gaps and to determine outstanding areas of national processes and practices that require further attention. Several participating States have noted the value of regular interagency meetings that have assisted over time with dealing with the new challenges that nations had experienced in recent years. Some indicated that the more developed relationships between interagency personnel have been critical in bringing national services together and fostering creative responses to unprecedented issues.

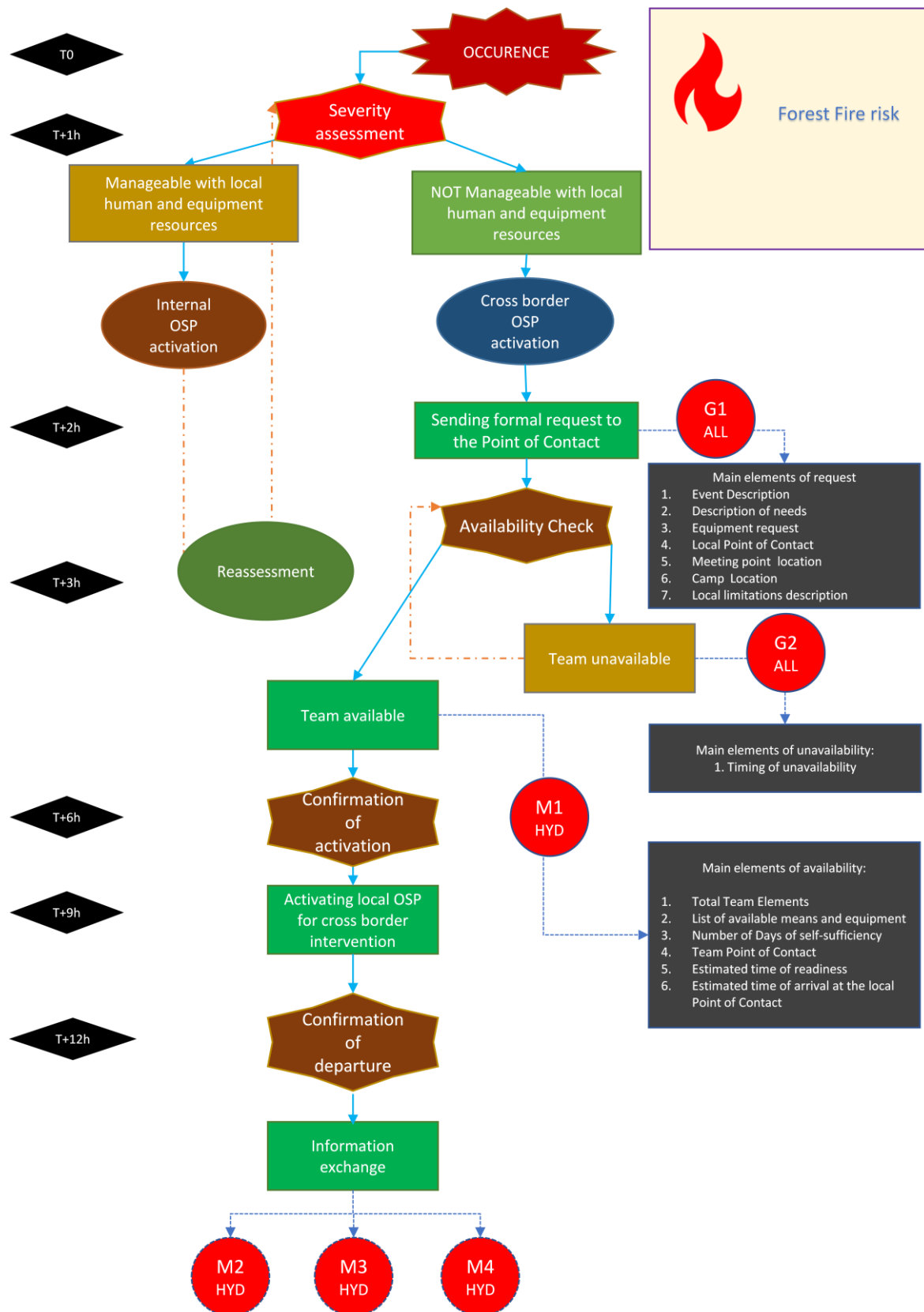


## **CROSS BORDER OPERATING PROCEDURES**

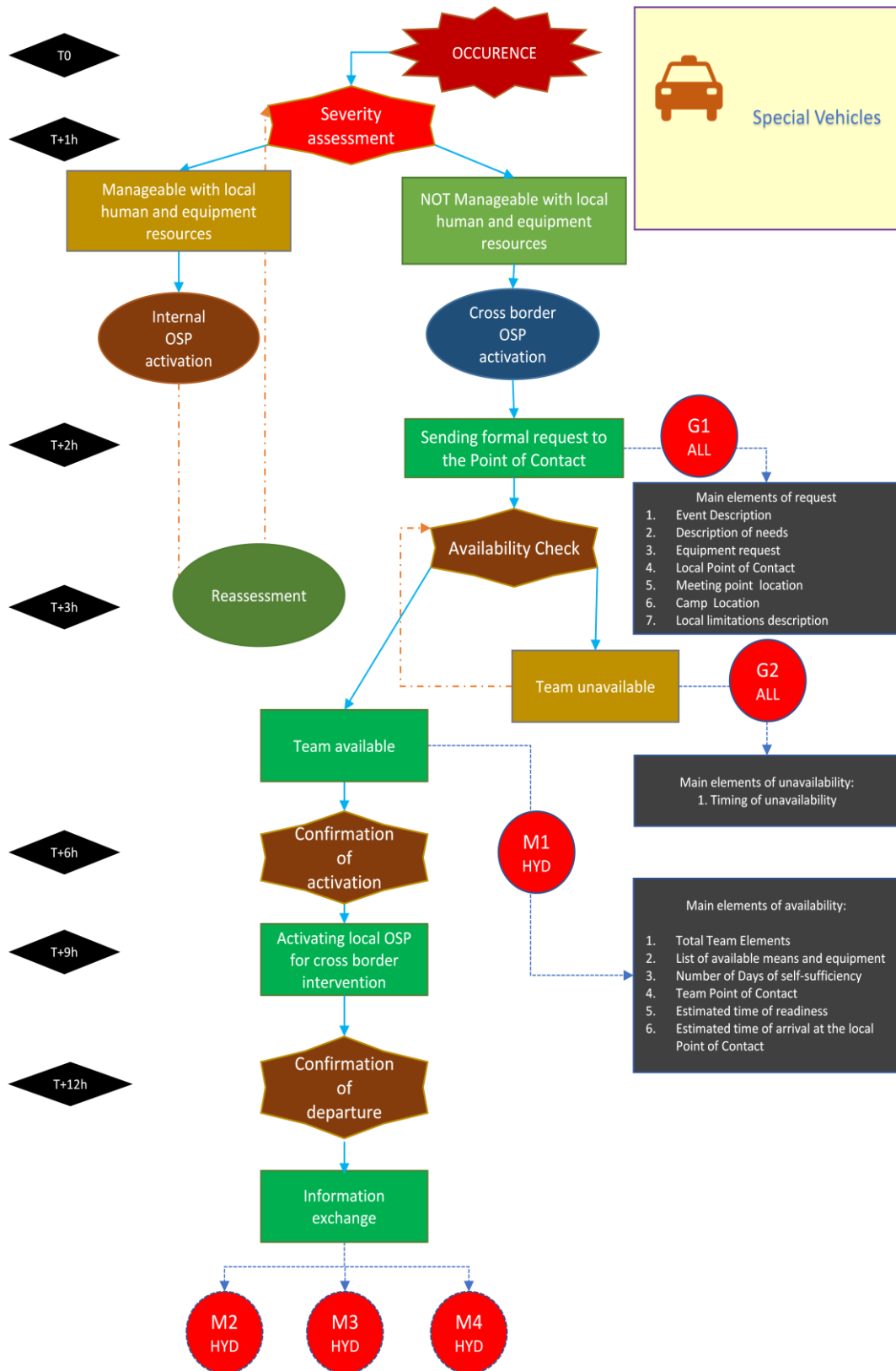
## CROSS BORDER OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR HYDRAULIC RISK /HYDROGEOLOGICAL RISK



## CROSS BORDER OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR FOREST FIRE RISKS



## THE OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR EMERGENCY TACTICAL VEHICLES



## PROCEDURE MODULES

The table her below shows the active modules with respect to the Procedures with an indication of the latest adopted version.

<div> <div>RISK PROCEDURES</div> <div>MODULES</div> </div>	HYDRAULIC and HYDROGEOLOGICAL	FOREST FIRE	EMERGENCY TACTICAL VEHICLE
MODULE G1	SI – VERS. 06/2023	SI – VERS. 06/2023	SI – VERS. 06/2023
MODULE M1 HYD	SI – VERS. 06/2023		
MODULE M1 FF		SI – VERS. 06/2023	
MODULE M1 SV			SI – VERS. 06/2023
MODULE M2 HYD			
MODULE M2 FF			
MODULE M2 SV			
MODULE M3 HYD			
MODULE M3 FF			
MODULE M3 SV			