



# Rescue Act in Finland

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Norway, Norwegian Fire Academy

# New Rescue Act, 1 July 2011

- Objectives
  - Reform fire inspection system in order to improve quality and efficiency
  - Emphasise local and regional safety work
  - Enhance enforcement
  - Better legislation

# Reform of fire inspection system

- Deregulation
  - From regulated fire inspections to general supervision
  - Risk-based inspection schemes
- Objectives
  - Improving quality and efficiency
  - Enhancing enforcement
- Enforcement of Rescue Act (not building regulations)
  - Emphasis on evacuation safety and fire safety management instead of constructional fire safety
  - Highlighting fire and rescue services' specific needs



# Fire inspections year 2008

	1-year objects	Other objects	Total
Objects	39 000	1 471 000	1 510 000
		142 000	181 000
Inspections	36 000	85 000	121 000
	92 %	60 %	

+ Other inspections 43 000

**→ In total 164 000 inspections**

# Fire investigations as a task for Rescue Services

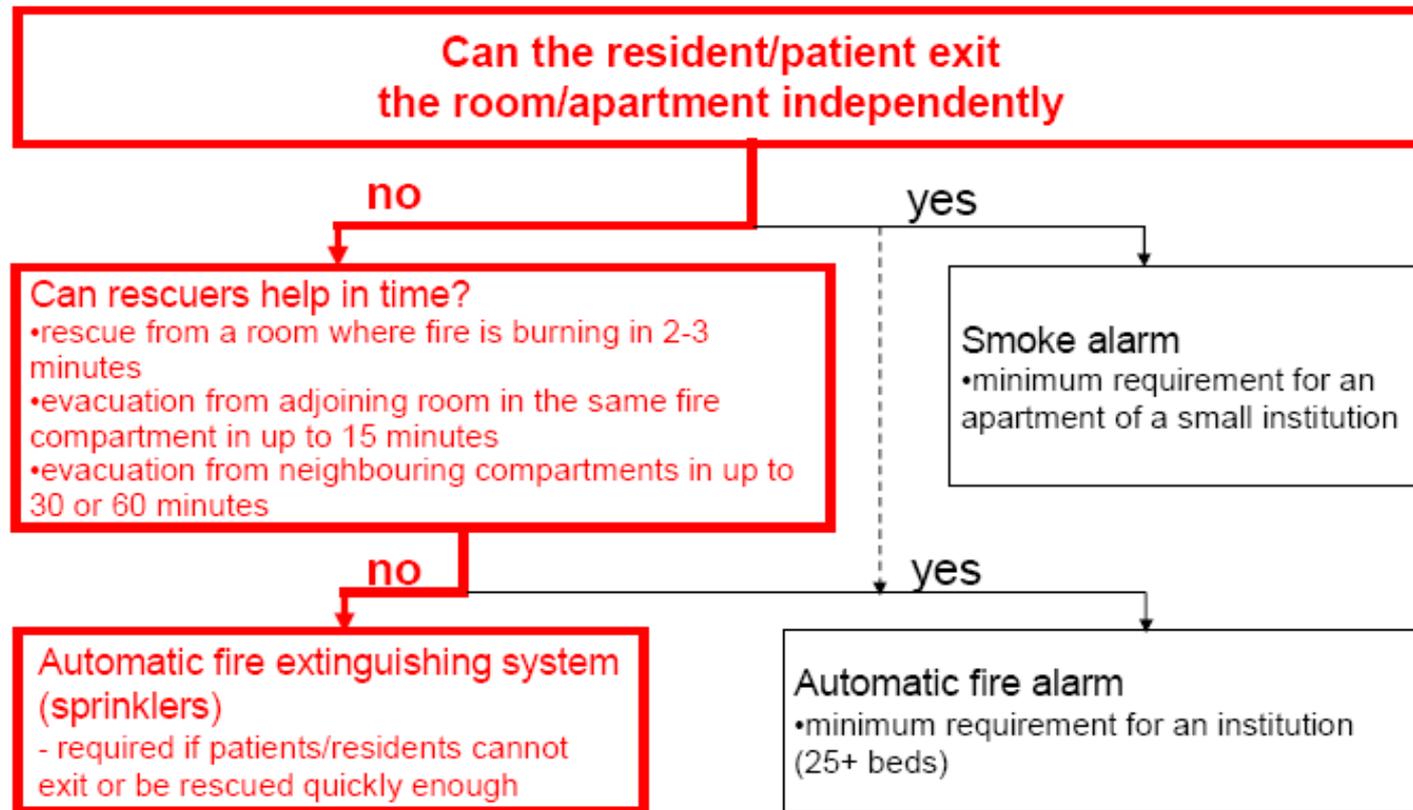
- Rescue services investigate all fires
  - Together with the police and other authorities when necessary
- Objectives
  - Prevention of similar accidents
  - Development of fire and rescue services
  - Not criminal investigation (or finding who to blame)
- Basis of investigation
  - Seriousness of losses
  - Arson
  - Neglect or offence under Rescue Act
- Emergency Services College has responsibility for statistics and analysis
  - National data basis (Pronto)



# Evacuation safety of hospitals, nursing care, sheltered housing and assisted living

- “Responsible person” makes an evacuation safety report before premises are occupied and reviews it at least every three years
    - Constructional fire safety
    - Fire safety installations
    - Arrangements to provide assisted escape
    - Staff trained and drilled in the duties they are to perform in case of fire
    - Evacuation time calculations
- **ASET (available safe escape time) > RSET (required safe escape time)**

# Simple fire risk assessment



CFPA E Guideline No 6:2004  
Fire safety in residential homes for the elderly

# Evacuation safety assessment of hospitals, nursing care, sheltered housing and assisted living

- Local rescue authority controls whether the safety precautions are adequate and when necessary requires improvements
  - Additional personnel, retroactive fitting of automatic fire sprinkler systems, etc.

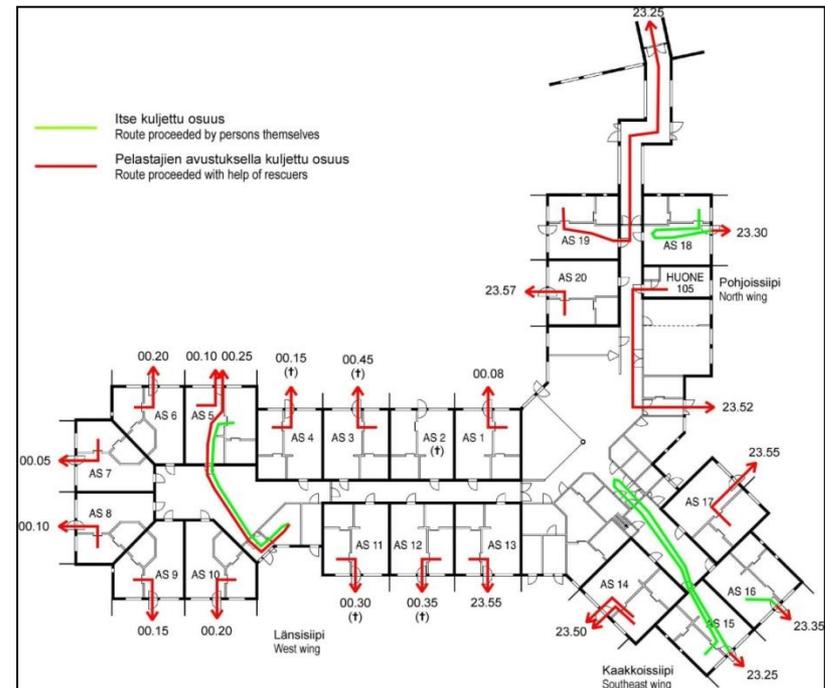


Photo: Safety Investigation Authority

# Cooperation in the prevention of accidents

Rescue Act, Section 42 §:

In order to prevent accidents and maintain safety, rescue departments shall cooperate with other authorities and the organisations and residents in the region and participate in local and regional safety planning work.

**If the authorities, as part of their official duties, notice or otherwise find out about a manifest risk of a fire or other accident in a building, flat or other site, they shall, notwithstanding any secrecy provisions, notify regional rescue authorities of the matter.** The duty to notify also applies to municipalities, other bodies governed by public law and their employees, and the operators referred to in section 18(2) responsible for maintaining care institutions and organising service and supported housing and their employees.