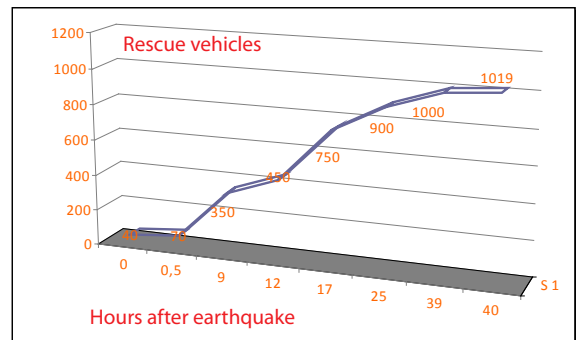
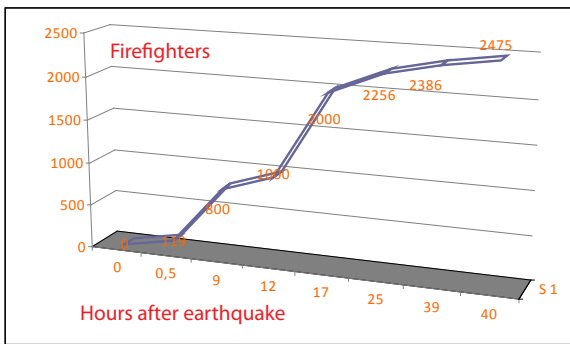


Rescue service



The earthquake seriously affected the city of L'Aquila and its neighbouring villages and hamlets. The Provincial Central Fire Station of L'Aquila promptly activated its operational system to provide first rescue. The Regional Fire Service Directorates of Abruzzo and Molise activated all the operational sections of the two regions. The National Fire Operations Centre at the Ministry of the Interior ordered the immediate dispatch of operational sections to the area hit by the earthquake. These sections came from several Provincial Fire Departments within the following regions: Lazio, Campania, Umbria, Tuscany, Emilia Romagna, Veneto, Lombardy, Liguria, Puglia, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Basilicata, Calabria and Piedmont. Besides, two complete Regional Rescue and Relief Convoys, coming from Tuscany and Emilia Romagna regions, were deployed to the site. An inter-institutional coordination was implemented by the Department of Civil Protection and, lately, by the DI.COM.AC

(the central coordination structure set up on site). The Italian National Fire and Rescue Service also deployed the "Advanced Command Post vans" (PCA) for the operations coordination, and the following special vehicles: turntable ladder trucks, tri-dimensional platforms, breakdown lorries, earth moving lorries cranes and lighting towers enabling rescuers to carry on with operations also at night time. With time, the rescue system set up by the National Fire Operations Centre has been increasing, in short time reaching a deployment of 168 fire operational sections for a total amount of 2700 firefighters, 190 firefighter officers, 100 of which specialized in buildings stability assessment, 130 SAF teams (Firefighters trained for mountain, cave and fluvial rescue commonly known as High Angle Rope Rescue) carrying out interventions on damaged buildings, 6 USAR (Urban, Search & Rescue) teams, trained to rescue people trapped under rubble, 48 canine squads, 1200 fire vehicles, 4 helicopters.

The National Fire Brigade



THE FIRE AND RESCUE SYSTEM

In the event of major emergencies the fire rescue system is pre-established and consists of a modular rescue system. The base unit, which can be immediately operational, and is formed by 9 Firefighters and 4 vehicles differently equipped according to the nature of the emergency (earthquake, flood, etc.). The base unit is called operational section. The aggregation of more operational sections represents a "Colonna Mobile Regionale" (Regional Rescue and Relief Convoy), provided in turn with logistics sections which can support the operational sections for any need in the case of prolonged stays on the emergency sites.

THE NATIONAL FIRE OPERATIONS CENTRE

The National Fire Operations Centre is a structure of the Ministry of the Interior working h.24, 365 days a year. The personnel are divided into 4 work shifts carrying out the following tasks:

- information gathering about major rescue operations performed by the fire teams and its notification to the involved national organizations
- dispatch of fire personnel and vehicles in order to strengthen the rescue system in one or more Italian regions affected by an emergency.



DI.COM.AC

A Fire Division has been set up at the DI.COM.AC (the central coordination structure) with the following tasks

- * Administrative tasks
- * Call centre
- * Operational Support
- * TAS (topography applied to rescue)
- * Stability assessment

Afterwards, and at different times, the following tasks have been added:

- Access to forbidden areas
- Protection of Cultural Assets
- Shoring and demolitions

