



Addressing Risk in Regulatory Policy Making

Towards a risk based policy
against the wildfires

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Work hypothesis (1)

1. The risk regulatory concept is understood as part of public management reforms.
2. Risk is used not only in an instrumental way regarding specific operations which should be undertaken, but it is also used as a means of understanding and reflecting on an existing reality.
3. The operation of a risk regulatory concept and policy is not straightforward and is always embedded in a particular cultural and legal context.



Work hypothesis (2)

4. Risk overpasses governments: It is a Governance issue (and even more: a personal issue for each emancipated citizen).
5. Personal responsibility is required for the establishment of collective organizational accountability.
6. Formal rules that are to be enforced must be flexible enough in order for the rules that are shaped in the real world to be complementary to them.



THE CASE: WILDFIRES IN GREECE



Firefighters Struggle in Athens

By [ANTHEE CARASSAVA](#),
Published: August 24, 2009

ATHENS — [Two years ago](#), ferocious fires tore through scores of villages and olive groves, killing at least 65 people and destroying 6 percent of [Greece](#)'s tree cover.

On Monday, the fourth day of a major operation that is struggling to contain brush fires burning the outskirts of Athens, Greeks were asking how their country could still appear so unprepared for a similar disaster.



GREECE

ATTIKI

Boeotia

Athens

Piraeus

Saronic Gulf

Gulf of Petalión

Gulf of Corinth

E94

E65

305

Tiryns

cross

Livanátaí
Elátia
Skála
Sfáka
Malesína
Delphi
Martínion
Kariá
Strovíkion
Korónia
Kiriákion
Thísui
Xironomí
Alikí
Asprókambos
Písia
Corinth

Levádhia
Aliartos
Thespiáí
Ellopía
Erithraí
Vília
Magoúla

Mount Kithairón

Salamís
SALAMÍS

Káto Almirí
Athíkiá
Kórfos
Angelókastron
Aíyina
Álonos

Kounoupítsa
Epidaurus
Kallonií
Méthana
Galatás

Íria
Karnezaiíka
Koílás
Ermióni

Pagóndas
Nerotriviá
Kastélla
Néa Artáki
Ilíki
Platanákia
Árma
Thívai
Tanagra
Asopía
Píli
Stefáni
Páncis
Ekáli
Bála

Khalkís
Vasilikón
Erétria
Néa Palátia
Oropós
Malakása
Varnávas
Áyios Stéfanos

Elefsis
Néa Lióssia
Akharnaií
Zografos

Glifádha
Kouvarás
Vouliagméni
Keratéa
Anávissos
Legrená

Pláka
Thorikón

Méthana
Galatás

Ermióni

Makrikápa
Paliouras
Pírgos
Vrísi
Pissónas
Poúrnos

Kallithéa
Lépoura
Amárinthos
Boúfalos

Mount Pendéli

Rafína
Loútsa
Eleftherios Venizelos Airport

Pláka
Thorikón

Legrená

Kithnos
KÍTHNOS

Paralía Kímis
Oxíliθος
Okhthonía

Petriaí
Zárakes
Almiropótamos
Polipótamos

Kalérgho

Áyia Aikateríni
Marmárior
Vília
Embiriókou
Grambiá

Kókka
Otziás
Káto Sounion
Meriá
Kéa

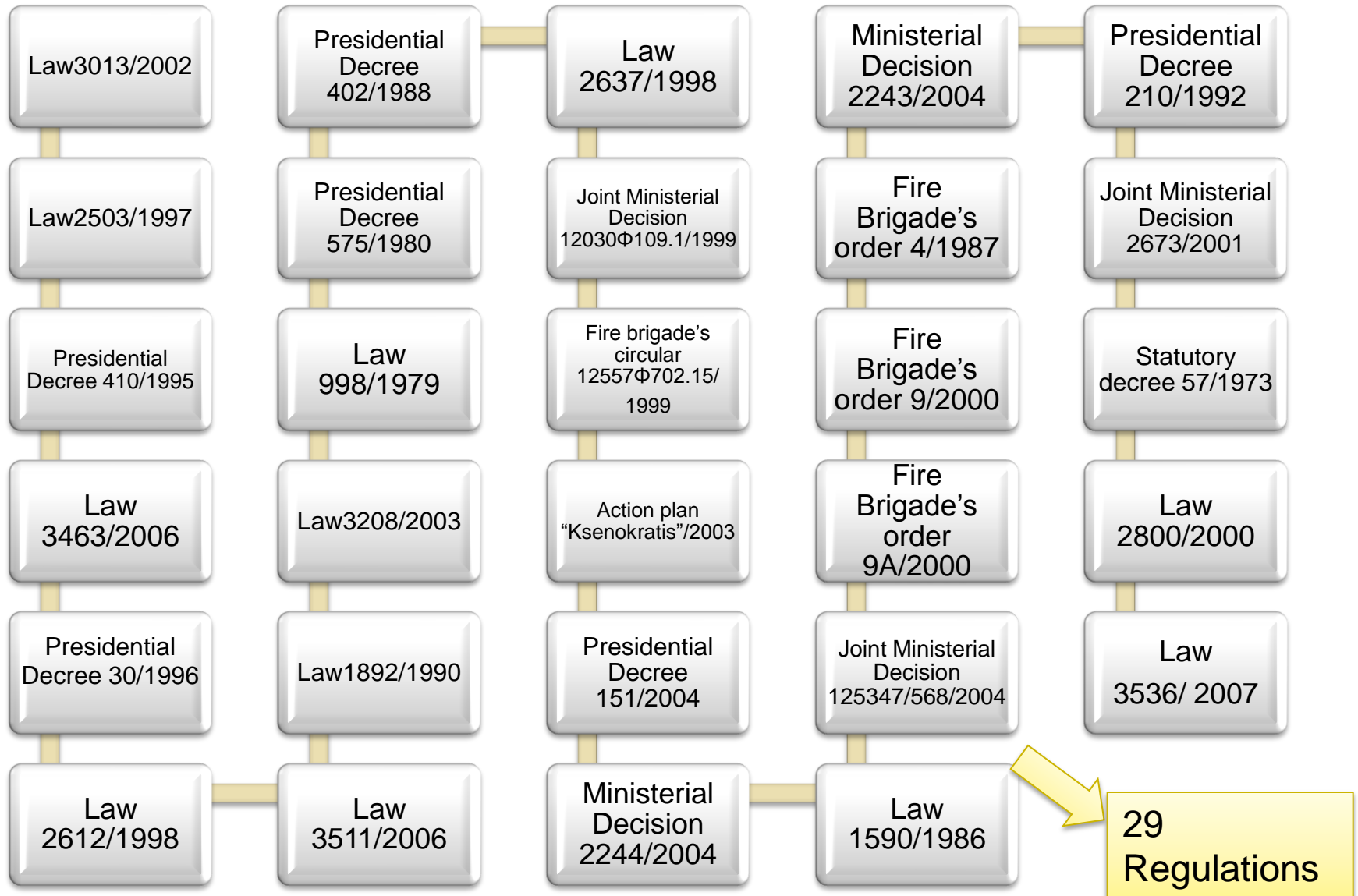
Kéa

Kithnos
KÍTHNOS



Looking for some explanations

Dispersion of the regulatory framework



Overlapping competencies

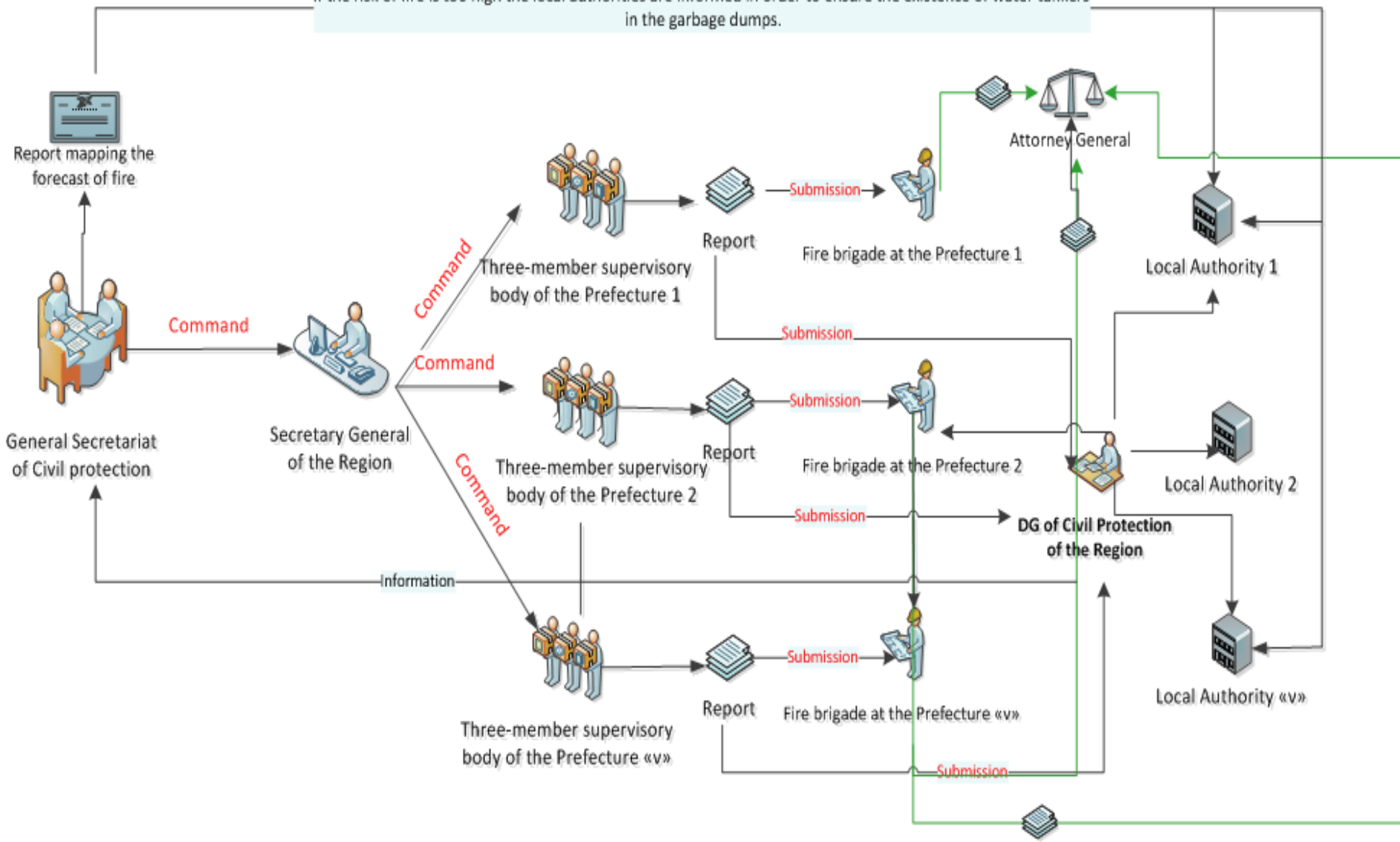
Example: Clean up the forests' vert to minimize ignition risk

Competent
structure

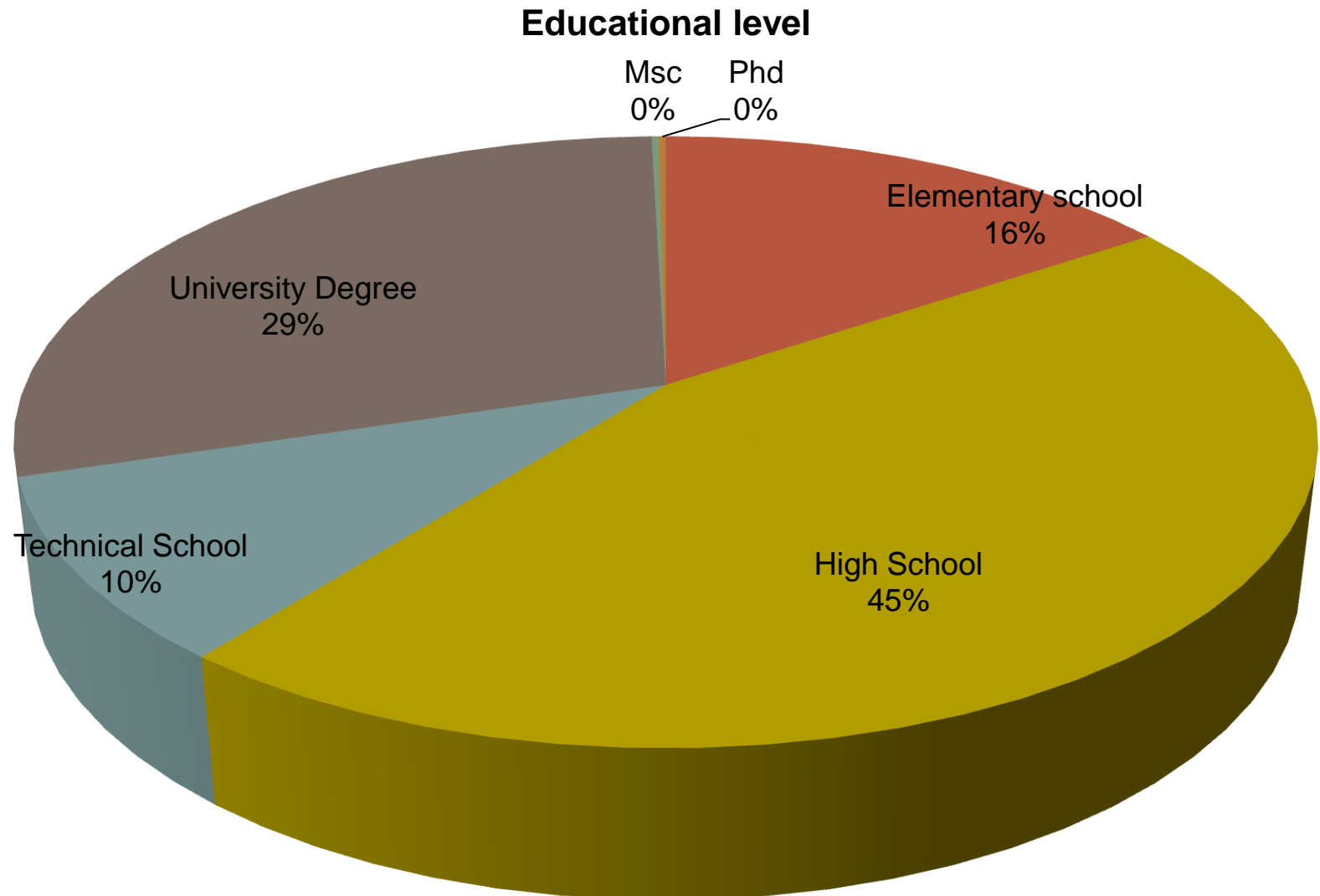


Complicated procedures: i.e. How to avoid ignition in the garbage dumps

If the risk of fire is too high the local authorities are informed in order to ensure the existence of water tankers in the garbage dumps.



The HR for civil protection in Greece





The phase of suppression of the disasters

- Problems of coordination of resources
- Significant delays
- Lack of alternative plans
- Lack of information to people on how to be protected
- Low awareness

...But also, some good news

- The massive participation of volunteers in certain areas where the wildfires had been expanded, led to some interesting remarks:
 - Diverse results: In areas where the people was involved, the catastrophic results of the wildfires were much less.
 - Self organization flourished in parallel to the official procedures: Structures, rules and procedures emerged ad hoc.
 - More actors were involved: Skills otherwise unexploited were optimally used.



Towards a risk based civil protection policy

1. Instrumental changes are needed: A regulatory reform in civil protection could be helpful.
2. Strengthening the civil participation which is complementary to the rationally designed procedures and fills the gaps of a formal policy, is also needed. Nevertheless, it does not replace the instrumental changes.



The added value of a participatory civil protection policy

- Better definition of the problem.
- Clarity of the results to be attained and the means to be used.
- Optimal use of resources.
- Maximum legitimation of the public policy and the decisions taken.



Suggestions

- The embedment of openness in all phases of the policy process.
- Proper communication at all levels.
Awareness campaigns.
- Redrawing of the ethical standards and rigid implementation.
- Make use of all possible institutional instruments.