

## Creta Maris Conducts its Annual Evacuation Drill

*Active participation of the Fire Department, the Police Department, the Cretan Medical Center and the Local Authorities*



Creta Maris Beach Resort held an **Evacuation Drill** for the eighth consecutive year within its facilities, in Hersonissos on the island of Crete. The drill was part of Creta Maris' annual action "**Crisis Management as a result of a natural phenomenon**" and was attended by the Greek Deputy Minister of Culture and Sports, Mr. Lefteris Avgenakis; the Ambassador of Denmark in Greece, Mr. Klavs A. Holm; the General Secretary of Civil Protection, Mr. Nikos Chardalias; the Vice Consul of Great Britain in Crete, Mrs. Aristeia Chourdaki; and the CEO of Metaxa Hospitality Group and Consul of the four Scandinavian countries in Eastern Crete, Mr. Andreas Metaxas.

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The evacuation drill is being held on an annual basis, as the resort has as a first priority the prevention, the timely preparation, and the safety of the resort's employees and guests in case of an extraordinary natural phenomenon. This year's **exercise scenario** included the implementation of the "**Crisis Management Policy**" in case of an earthquake, thus, aiming the maintenance of the **high level of preparedness** and the expansion of the resort's specialized emergency team's **know-how**. The participation of all major rescue teams, such as the Fire Department, the Hellenic Police Force and the Cretan Medical Center, aimed at the smooth and coordinated collaboration with Creta Maris staff to ensure the safe transition of all the resort's guests in a protected area.



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The evacuation exercise was carried out under the supervision of Dr. Efthimios Lekkas, professor of the Geology & Geoenvironment Department of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, in cooperation with local authorities. In the context of the exercise, Professor Lekkas gave a lecture under the theme “Management of natural disaster risks in a hotel environment – international and national cases”, thus enhancing the knowledge of Creta Maris’ employees in terms of preparedness to deal with natural disasters.



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This year's evacuation drill was attended by the Fire Department with the 1<sup>st</sup> Heraklion's Fire Station, the Fire Echelon of Hersonissos and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Unit of Disaster Response (EMAK) of Crete, the Hersonissos Police Department, the Hersonissos' Port Authority, the volunteer groups "Hellenic Red Cross with the Samaritan Rescuers" and "Filius Zeus", as well as the National Centre for Emergency Care (EKAV) and the Medical Center "Cretan Medicare Center".



Moreover, the exercise attended, as observers: the Regional Commander of the Fire Department, Fire Colonel Nikolaos Lagoudakis; the Commander of the Fire Department of the Prefecture of Heraklion, Mr. Georgios Tsikalas; the Commander of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Unit of Disaster Response (EMAK) of Crete, Fire Major Stavros Kalogiannakis; the Commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> Heraklion's Fire Station,

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Lieutenant Michalis Seliniotakis; the President of Civil Protection of the Decentralized Administration of Crete, Mrs. Kiliadi Kyriaki; the Head of the Regional Branch of Greek Tourism Organization, Mr. Aristides Stratakis; Mrs. Plumidi Eleni from the Department of Civil Protection of the Region of Crete; the Executive Consultant of the Civil Protection Office of the Municipality of Heraklion, Mr. Pattakos Marinos; the Deputy Mayor for Administrative Affairs, Social Policy & Culture, Mr. Zacharioudakis Konstantinos; the President of Hersonissos Municipal Council Mr. Georgios Chirakakis; the Commander of the Hersonissos Police Department, Georgios Makrogiannakis; the Hersonissos' Port Authority Chief, Mrs. Athanasia Perisinaki; Mr. Dimitris Apostolopoulos from the Fire Echelon of Hersonissos and the President of the Pancretan Association of Hotel Managers, Mr. Koumparakis Dimitrios.

Mr. Andreas Metaxas, CEO of Metaxa Hospitality Group and Consul of the four Scandinavian countries in Eastern Crete praised the successful execution of the drill, while also stated that he is very proud of the overall effort the Creta Maris team performed in order to be properly prepared and well trained to deal with any crisis.

At the end of the exercise, the General Manager of Creta Maris Beach Resort and organizer of the drill, Mr. Nikos Vlassiadis stated the following:

*"This year evacuation exercise was a great repetition for all what we have learned about crisis management and preparedness to deal with natural disasters, since today. We utilize this specialized training of ours and the security systems to which we invest in with the aim to be able to respond promptly and effectively in the event of any risk. I would like to thank all the participants, as the evacuation exercise could not have been carried out without their significant contribution."*



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**About Creta Maris Beach Resort:**

Creta Maris Beach Resort, member of Metaxa Hospitality Group, has been originally launched in 1975 and is situated next to Hersonissos, just 24km from the Heraklion Airport. With a capacity of 680 rooms, suites and bungalows, 6 restaurants, 2 snack points, 9 bars, 7 swimming pools, waterpark, open-air cinema, fitness center, Hammam spa, Asterias Children's Club, and a great space for outdoor and indoor activities, Creta Maris is a blend of tradition and luxury together on a beautiful beach with crystal clear waters where guests can experience the authentic Cretan hospitality.

Please find pictures on high resolution on the below link:

<https://we.tl/t-9o8BArfnpg>

Please find pictures of Creta Maris Beach Resort on high resolution on our site:

<https://www.cretamaris.gr/media-and-photo-gallery-crete-hotel/photos>

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