

SOS-group (SOS-ryhmä in Finnish)

The SOS-group is a group of about 100 Finnish volunteers, who either live permanently or periodically in Costa del Sol. The group has expanded spontaneously by the initiation of our spokeslady Suvi Kauranen. The group is open for everyone, who desires to help their fellow citizens. The group is non-profit, economically and commercially free. The formation of the group was influenced by a couple of regrettable deaths, which could have been avoided by faster help.

The object of the group is to provide the Finns such information, which makes the living in Spain and especially in Costa del Sol easier and safer. At the moment our activities consist of publishing information, giving lessons on safety and providing Finnish-Spanish interpretation in life threatening situations.

The SOS-group is not a First Aid group nor an emergency service group. Our intention is not to be actively involved in any activity of the local authorities. We do however appreciate the information and guidance we do get from the authorities. It helps us to spread right and accurate information to our countrymen.

SOS-group has produced a security guide (Turvaopas in Finnish) and also a SOS-passport. They are both free for the public and available in many Finnish shops, societies, hotels etc. The printing cost and also the phone costs of the SOS-interpreter has been donated by individuals, the Finnish Lions Club, the Finnish Church and also Finnish artists living in the Costa del Sol.

The SOS-passport is a very valuable document to carry with you at all times. It contains all personal-, illness-, medication- and emergency related information of the holder. For a person, who is unconscious or does not speak Spanish well, the information within makes the first aid faster and more accurate.

The security guide is a small booklet, that provides various information on living in Spain safely. It is supported by our internet pages, where a lot more information on safety can be found. Including also links to many official web sites like e.g. the Spanish Policía Nacional.

The SOS-interpreters are the most vital a part of the SOS-group. The interpreters support people in cases of emergency. Finnish person who does not speak Spanish can instead of calling 112 place a call to the interpreter 618 566603. The interpreter then in turn calls the 112 and interprets the emergency call between the person in emergency and the help providing authority. The interpreter never gets physically involved or does not involve in the subject itself. He or she only interprets the discussion.

The interpretation is also available to those emergency numbers of private hospitals, that are comparable to 112. The interpretation is free of charge for the person who is calling. The SOS-phone service started 1.2.2014 and receives already now several phone calls weekly. The service has also been successful in saving lives.

Also the officials can phone to the interpreter in case of emergency, where immediate Finnish-Spanish interpretation is needed to save a life or lives. The doctor's in the Costa del Sol Hospital's Urgencias have already used this opportunity with success. There are several Finnish interpreters who speak fluently Spanish. Only one at a time has the phone. These persons can still be active in the work-life at the same time. Then they do have their employers permission to handle the emergency calls, when needed.

Many authorities and private clinics have welcomed the SOS-group as an information channel to the Finnish society. Especially the interpretation and SOS-passport have already proven their value.

As the work of SOS-group is non-profit and our aim is to make everyone's life safer, our 'products' can and may be adopted to other national groups, if so wished and mutually agreed.

The latest co-operation has taken place with the Rotary District 2203. They have modified and translated the SOS-passport into English. Now the document is available free via Rotaries the first printing being 10.000 copies.

The Emergency Center 112 of Malaga and Policía National have supported the SOS-group from the beginning by providing information and training.

Requests for information or suggestions: info@sosryhma.fi

Web pages: www.sosryhma.net