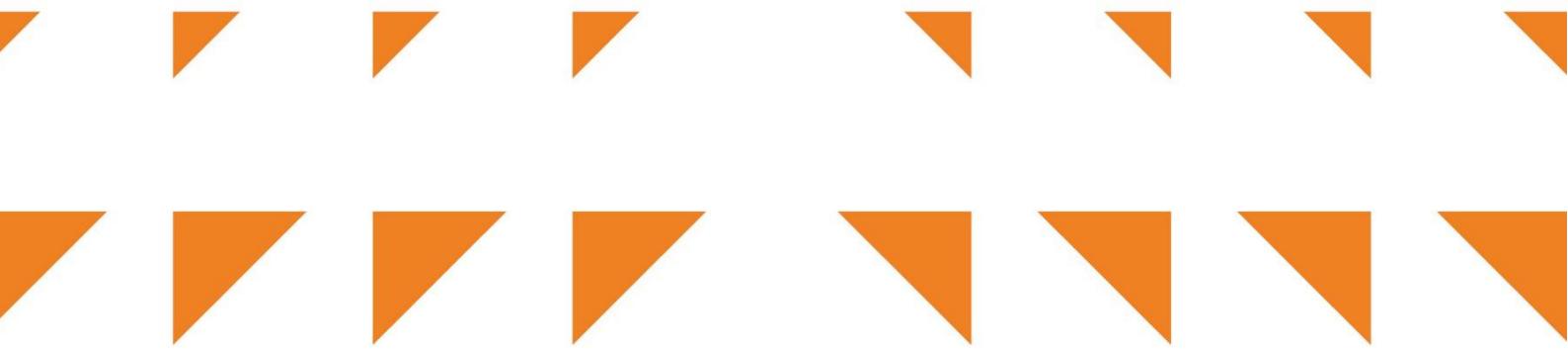




Jabiru

Local Emergency Plan



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1. Document control

1.1. Governance

Document title	Jabiru Local Emergency Plan
Contact details	NT Emergency Service, Planning and Preparedness Command
Approved by	Territory Controller
Date approved	29 December 2014
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1.2. Version history

Date	Version	Author	Summary of changes
29/12/2014	1	John McRoberts	First version
04/11/2015	2	Reece P Kershaw	Reviewed and updated
30/12/2016	3	Kate Vanderlaan	Reviewed and updated
07/12/2018	4	Travis Wurst	Reviewed and endorsed by the Regional Controller, as the Territory Controller's delegate
23/01/2020	5	Michael Hebb	Reviewed and endorsed by the Regional Controller, as the Territory Controller's delegate
17/11/2020	6	Travis Wurst	Reviewed and endorsed by the Regional Controller, as the Territory Controller's delegate
13/01/2022	7	Janelle Tonkin	Reviewed and endorsed by the Regional Controller, as the Territory Controller's delegate
13/06/2023	8	Travis Wurst	Reviewed and endorsed by the Regional Controller, as the Territory Controller's delegate
19/06/2024	9	Matthew Hollamby	Reviewed and endorsed by the Regional Controller, as the Territory Controller's delegate
11/03/2025	10	Peter Malley	Reviewed and endorsed by the Regional Controller, as the Territory Controller's delegate
06/01/2026	11	James A O'Brien	Reviewed and endorsed by the Regional Controller, as the Territory Controller's delegate

Disclaimer: Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained within this plan is accurate and where possible reflects current best practice. However, the Northern Territory Emergency Service does not give any warranty or accept any liability in relation to the content of material contained in the document.

1.3. Local Emergency Committee members and key stakeholders engaged for review

The following Local Emergency Committee members and key stakeholders were engaged with during the review of the Jabiru Local Emergency Plan, to ensure it addresses the specific needs of the community.

Agency/organisation	Name	Role/position
Crocodile Hotel	Jacinta Koch	Committee member
Department of Children and Families	Helen Bonnar	Committee member
Dept. of Housing, Local Government and Community Development	Claire Joyce	Committee member
Dept. of the Chief Minister and Cabinet	Thomas Archibald-Manning	Committee member
Energy Resources Australia (ERA)	Justin McLean	Committee member
ERA	Matt Jones	Committee member
ERA	Michael Starr	Committee member
G&I	Marc Breton	Committee member
GAC	Carmen Greiner	Committee member
National Indigenous Australians Agency	David King	Committee member
National Indigenous Australians Agency	Donna Nadjamerrek	Committee member
National Indigenous Australians Agency	Lee Wortley	Committee member
NT Emergency Service	Jamie Richardson	Planning Officer
NT Emergency Service	Mark Cunningham	Commander Operations
NT Fire and Rescue Service	Keith Hutton	Committee member
NT Fire and Rescue Service	Royal Salt	Committee member
NT Police Force	Christopher Harden	Local Controller
Red Lily	Mark Di Fransesco	Committee member
West Arnhem Regional Council	Rick Mitchell	Committee member
West Arnhem Regional Council	Kevin Voiseg	Committee member
West Arnhem Regional Council	Marnie Mitchell	Committee member

2. Acknowledgement of Country

The Northern Territory Fire and Emergency Services (NTFES) and the Northern Territory Police Force (NTPF) acknowledges the First Nations people throughout the Northern Territory (NT), from the red sands of Central Australia to the coastal people in the Top End.

We recognise their continuing connection to their lands, waters and culture. We also pay our respects to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with whom we work and who we serve and protect.

We pay our respects to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, and to their leaders past, present and emerging.

3. Introduction

3.1. Purpose

The purpose of this Plan is to describe the emergency management arrangements for Jabiru Locality (the Locality).

3.2. Application

This Plan applies to the Locality.

3.3. Key considerations

The *Emergency Management Act 2013* (the Act) is the legislative basis for emergency management across the NT. The Act reflects an all hazards approach to emergency and disaster events, natural or otherwise. It provides for the adoption of measures necessary for the protection of life and property from the effects of such events.

The Act defines the emergency management structures, roles and responsibilities for the NT and, in conjunction with the Territory and Regional Emergency Plan(s), form the basis for this Plan.

This Plan:

- confirms appointment of a Local Emergency Controller
- confirms establishment of the Local Emergency Committee (LEC)
- confirms appointment of a Local Recovery Coordinator
- confirms establishment of a Local Recovery Coordination Committee
- assesses hazards most likely to affect the community
- specifies control and coordination arrangements for mobilisation of local, and if necessary, regional resources
- identifies roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders
- details specific emergency response procedures for the higher risk situations

4. Locality context

This Plan complements the Northern Regional Emergency Plan¹ as it relates to the Locality. For further information on the hierarchy of plans, refer to the Territory Emergency Plan². The Locality is approximately 220 kilometres (km) east of Darwin. To obtain more information about this Locality, Bushtel³ is the central point for information about the remote communities of the NT, their people and cultural and historical influences.

The population centres within the Locality are estimated as follows:

Bushtel ID	Locality	Aliases	Approx. population
13836	Jabiru		886
Bushtel ID	Homelands	Aliases	Approx. population
1027	Buffalo Farm		Less than 5
304	Cannon Hill	East Alligator and Mel	8
981	Djirrbiyak	Whistle Duck Dreaming	30
945	Gimbat		not recorded
1028	Hawk Dreaming	Awarcnarju	5
980	Kapalga	Naramu	8
380	Mudginberri		40
801	Mumukala	Mamukala and Mumakala	18
281	Paradise Farm	Alderson, Alderson Station, Jim Jim Park Hq and Jim Jim Ranger Station	12
409	Patonga (airstrip)	Murdujul	25
900	Patonga (homestead)		10
799	Red Lily	Giinda and Gina	5
419	Spring Peak	Urgdurr	14

¹ More information can be found at: <https://www.pfes.nt.gov.au/emergency-service/publications>

² More information can be found at: <https://www.pfes.nt.gov.au/emergency-service/emergency-management>

³ More information can be found at: <https://bushtel.nt.gov.au/>



4.1. Climate and weather

The Locality experiences similar weather conditions which occur throughout the Top End of the NT. There is a distinct Wet Season (October to April) and Dry Season (May to September). Compared to Darwin, temperatures tend to be slightly higher during the Wet Season and slightly lower during the Dry Season.

4.2. Geography

The topography of the Locality ranges from flat coastal plains to the Arnhem Land escarpment. The highest point in the Locality is over 300 metres (m). The Locality is drained by a number of rivers and creeks, of note these are:

- Adelaide River
- Mary River
- Wildman River
- West Alligator River
- South Alligator River
- East Alligator River

4.3. Sacred sites

The Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA) is a statutory body established under the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989* and is responsible for overseeing the protection of Aboriginal sacred sites on land and sea across the NT.

A sacred site is defined by the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (Cth) as being 'a site that is sacred to Aboriginals or is otherwise of significance according to Aboriginal tradition.' Sacred sites are typically landscape features or water places that are enlivened by the traditional narratives of Aboriginal people.

AAPA requests notification of any action that may have affected a sacred site. For more information on sacred sites relevant to this Locality or to report an action that may have affected a sacred site, contact AAPA on (08) 8999 4365 or via email at enquiries.aapa@nt.gov.au.

4.4. Sites of conservation

The Alligator River coastal floodplains and Western Arnhem Plateau are sites of conservation significance for this Locality. For further information about these sites contact the Department of Lands, Planning and Environment⁴ (DLPE).

4.5. Mining and industry

The Locality includes a mining industry with the main source having been uranium. There is one mine and a mineral lease in the area, being:

- Ranger Uranium Mine (decommissioned)
- Jabiluka Mineral lease

⁴ More information can be found at: <https://nt.gov.au/environment/environment-data-maps/important-biodiversity-conservation-sites/conservation-significance-list>

4.6. Tourism

Tourism is also a major economic contributor to the Locality, particularly through the months of May to October.

4.7. NT and local government

This Locality sits within the Top End Boundary, with the following NT Government (NTG) agencies that have a presence in the Locality:

- NTPF
 - Jabiru Police Station
- NTFES
 - NT Fire and Rescue Service (NTFRS)
- Department of Children and Families (DCF)
- Department of Education and Training (DET)
 - West Arnhem College
- Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development

Jabiru is within the West Arnhem Regional Council (WARC) region.

4.8. Building codes

Buildings and construction in the Locality are subject to the *Building Act 1993* and the *Building Regulations 1993*.

4.9. Land use

Jabiru land usage is in consultation between the WARC and Traditional Owners, and include infrastructure in the areas of:

- residential
- sewage ponds
- air strip
- mining
- waste management

4.10. Homelands

Homelands are typically located on Aboriginal land, which is held by the Aboriginal Land Trusts established under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (Cth). There are also some homelands that are located on Community Living Areas or parcels of land within national parks. Assets on homelands are owned by the underlying leaseholder, which for the majority of homelands is the relevant Aboriginal Land Trust. Generally, homelands are not subject to the NTG leasing or part of the NT's remote public housing system.

The homeland service provider for this Locality is Warnbi Aboriginal Corporation - Kakadu. Homeland service providers contribute to the delivery of housing, municipal and essential services, including fire breaks, where funding allows. Homeland service providers do not deliver emergency services. Land councils and local ranger groups within the Locality may provide land management activities on Aboriginal land, such as back burning, installing firebreaks and other mitigation works.

4.11. Power generation and distribution

Power supplied to Jabiru is serviced by ERA. Jabiru is also home to the Jabiru Hybrid Renewable Power Station, which supplies the remote, off-grid township of Jabiru with at least 50% renewable energy.

4.12. Water services

WARC are responsible for the supply of water to Jabiru. WARC are responsible for the distribution using local contractors.

4.13. Health infrastructure

The Jabiru Health Centre has the capacity to provide emergency medical aid in addition to routine health treatment. Serious medical cases are required to be evacuated to Darwin. Patients can be evacuated either via road or air.

4.14. Medically vulnerable clients

The Jabiru Health Centre has a list of vulnerable clients and it is updated regularly. Aged care in the Locality is provided by WARC.

4.15. Emergency service infrastructure

The Locality has the following emergency service infrastructure:

- police station and cells
- NTFRS – Jabiru Fire Station
- Jabiru Health Centre

4.16. Roads

The 2 main roads in the Locality are the Arnhem Highway, which links with Darwin, 220 km to the west and the Kakadu Highway which links with Pine Creek, 200 km to the south. During the Wet Season, other roads within the Locality become impassable, these include the Gunbalanya Road and the Old Jim Jim Road.

4.17. Airports

The table below lists the airstrips in the Locality:

Name of the strip	Datum	Certified Aerodrome	Details (type, length, etc.)	Operator of the strip
Jabiru	12°39'35"S 132°53'31"E	Certified	Surface: sealed Dimensions: 1402 metres (m) x 23 m Windsock: south side of strip Lighting: solar powered Fuel: AVTUR/AVGAS	Energy Resources Australia
Cooinda	12°54'15"S 132°31'52"E	Non-Certified	Surface: unsealed Dimensions: 1291 m x 30 m	Kakadu National Park

Name of the strip	Datum	Certified Aerodrome	Details (type, length, etc.)	Operator of the strip
			Windsock: southern side of strip Hazards: wildlife Lighting: emergency lighting held by NTPF, Jabiru Fuel: Yes	

Certified Aerodrome: An airport officially approved by the Australian Government Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) that meets strict safety and operational standards, often including air traffic control services⁵.

4.18. Telecommunication

Telecommunications are available across the Jabiru township via a combination of landline, mobile and satellite communications delivery.

4.19. Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters

As a result of the Royal Commission into the 2019-2020 summer bushfires, the Commonwealth government implemented the Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters (STAND) initiative. STAND is a Commonwealth funded program, aimed at enhancing the resilience of Australia's telecommunication networks, to prevent, mitigate and manage outages during emergencies.

There are currently 56 sites across the Territory that have STAND capability, and additional sites will be incorporated within the next stage of installation.

There is one STAND site within this Locality which is located at and managed by the following facilities:

- Jabiru Area School

4.20. Local radio stations

Jabiru does not have a local radio station, but has the following broadcasts:

- 107.7 FM Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) Local Radio
- 102.1 FM ABC News Radio

⁵ More information can be found at: <https://www.casa.gov.au/operations-safety-and-travel/aerodromes>

5. Prevention

5.1. Emergency risk assessments

The Jabiru LEC are responsible for undertaking appropriate activities to prevent and mitigate the impact of emergencies in their locality.

5.2. Disaster hazard analysis and risk register

The Territory Emergency Management Council (TEMC) have identified 30 hazards, as outlined in the Territory Emergency Plan, that may pose a risk across the NT, which have been allocated to designated Controlling Authorities and Hazard Management Authorities.

Many hazards require specific prevention and mitigation measures, an annual risk assessment (rated against the National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines) is undertaken by the LEC and determines which hazards pose a greater risk to the Locality.

The LEC has identified the following hazards as posing a risk to the Locality, with further advice provided within **Annex C** for those hazards rated at medium risk or higher:

- bushfire (within Fire Protection and Management Zones)
- fire (within Gazetted Area)
- flood
- heatwave
- road crash
- tropical cyclone

These hazards have been rated against the National Disaster Risk Assessment Guidelines (NERAG):

Hazard	Overall Consequence	Overall Likelihood	Risk Rating
Bushfire (within Fire Protection and Management Zones)	Minor	Unlikely	Low
Fire (within Gazetted Area)	Minor	Unlikely	Low
Flood	Major	Unlikely	High
Heatwave	Moderate	Unlikely	Medium
Road crash	Moderate	Unlikely	Medium
Tropical cyclone	Major	Unlikely	High

5.3. Hazard specific prevention and mitigation strategies

Prevention and mitigation relates to measures to reduce exposure to hazards and reduce or eliminate risk. Actions include identifying hazards, assessing threats to life and property, and from these activities, taking measures to reduce potential loss of life and property damage.

The cornerstone of mitigation is guided and coordinated risk assessments, which should involve all potentially affected members of a community. Strategies are developed based on a thorough understanding of hazards identified in emergency risk planning and their interaction with all aspects of society. Specific prevention and mitigation strategies for identified hazards can be found at **Annex C**.

6. Preparedness

Arrangements to ensure that, should an emergency occur, all resources and services that are needed to provide an emergency response and or recovery can be efficiently mobilised and deployed.

6.1. Planning

NT emergency plans⁶ are required by the Act and are maintained at a Territory, regional and local level. Arrangements in plans aim to be flexible and scalable for all hazards. The planning process enables agreements to be reached between people and organisations in meeting communities' needs during emergencies. The plan becomes a record of the agreements made by contributing organisations to accept roles and responsibilities, provide resources and work cooperatively.

The Regional Controller is responsible for the annual review of operations and the effectiveness of the Local Emergency Plan, supported by the LEC and the NT Emergency Service (NTES) Planning and Preparedness Command.

6.2. Emergency resources and contacts

The Local Controller is responsible for maintaining the emergency resource register and LEC contact lists. Local emergency management stakeholders are to advise the Local Controller of changes to resource holdings, operational response capabilities and key personnel contacts. Emergency resource and LEC contact lists for each Locality are available on Web-based Emergency Operations Centre (WebEOC).

6.3. Training and education

The Act provides the legislative requirement for those involved in emergency management activities to be appropriately trained. Training and education activities are undertaken to ensure agencies are familiar with and understand the NT emergency management arrangements, as well as the relevant controlling and hazard management authorities for identified hazards.

The NTES Learning and Development Command is responsible for emergency management training across the NT. Online and face to face training is scheduled throughout the year. For further information contact the NTES Learning and Development Command via email at Training.EMTU@pfes.nt.gov.au.

6.4. Community education and awareness

Effective and ongoing community education and preparedness programs that emphasise to communities the importance of practical and tested emergency plans and safety strategies is essential. Empowering communities to act in a timely and safe manner will minimise the loss of life, personal injury and damage to property and contribute to the effectiveness of any warning system.

List of available activities and initiatives but are not limited to within the area:

- NTES hazard briefings
- NTES Paddy Program
- NTFRS Smart Sparx Program

6.5. Exercises

Local level exercises are a key measure for testing the effectiveness of the local emergency plan and should involve all relevant stakeholders. Exercises ensure that the plan is robust and understood, and that capabilities and resources are adequate. Exercises are conducted if arrangements with the plan have not been enacted since the last review, or substantial changes have occurred, including:

- legislative changes

⁶ More information can be found at: <https://pfes.nt.gov.au/emergency-service/publications>

- major changes have occurred in the areas of key personnel, positions or functions across prevention, preparedness, response and recovery
- new or emerging hazards/risks have been identified.

The NTES Planning and Preparedness Command have developed resources that outlines the process to develop the exercise concept in designing, planning, conducting, facilitating, participating or evaluating exercises. The Local Controller can request an exercise by emailing the request through to EmergencyManagementPlanning@pfes.nt.gov.au.

7. Response

Actions taken in anticipation of, during and immediately after an emergency to ensure that its effects are minimised and that people affected are given immediate relief and support.

7.1. Activation of the Plan

This plan has 5 stages of activation and are designed to ensure a graduated response to hazardous events, reducing the possibility of under or over reaction by the emergency management agency.

The stages are:

Stage 1	Alert	This stage is declared when the Local Controller receives warning of an event which, in their opinion, may necessitate an emergency management response
Stage 2	Standby	This stage is declared when the Local Controller considers an emergency operation is imminent. During this stage passive emergency measures are commenced.
Stage 3	Activation	This stage is declared when active emergency measures are required.
Stage 4	Stand-down response operations and transition to Recovery	Stage 4 occurs when the Local Controller and Local Recovery Coordinator agree to transition to recovery (if required) in accordance with the transitional arrangements of this Plan.
Stage 5	Recovery	This stage is called if ongoing recovery operations and coordination is required.

The stages identified provide for a sequential response. However, it may be necessary because of the degree of warning and speed of onset of an event, for the Local Controller to skip the actions required under stage 1 or 2.

7.2. Control and coordination

Arrangements for response are based on pre-agreed roles and responsibilities for stakeholders. When the scale and complexity of an event is such that resources of the community are depleted a number of arrangements are in place to seek assistance from the region, the Territory and/or the Australian Government. Pathway for assistance is through the Regional Controller.

7.3. Local Emergency Controller

In accordance with section 76 of the Act, the Territory Controller or their delegate (section 112 of the Act) can appoint a Local Emergency Controller (Local Controller). The Local Controller for the locality is the Officer In Charge of the Jabiru Police Station. The Local Controller is subject to the directions of the Regional Controller. The powers, functions and directions of the Local Controller can be found in sections 77, 78 and 79 of the Act.

7.4. Local Emergency Committee

In accordance with section 80 of the Act, the Territory Controller has established a Jabiru Local Emergency Committee (LEC). The Local Controller is Chair of the LEC and remaining membership consists of representatives from NTG and non-government entities within the locality. Division 11 of the Act specifies the establishment, functions, powers; membership and procedure requirements of a LEC.

7.5. Emergency Operations Centre/Local Coordination Centre

NT Emergency Management Arrangements	Controlling Authority Arrangements
Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) (Territory and Regional level)	Incident Control Centre (ICC)
Local Coordination Centre (LCC) (Local level)	Incident Control Point (ICP)

LCCs are established as required by Local Controllers to provide a central focus to the management, control and coordination of emergency operations in the Locality. When activated, the functions of the LCCs are:

- information collection and dissemination
- preparation and issue of official warnings and advice to the public
- coordination of the provision of resources required in the locality
- submitting requests for resources through the Regional Controller to the Territory EOC where applicable
- dissemination of information to the media and general public

The LCC for this Locality is the Jabiru Police Station. The Regional EOC is located in Darwin at the Peter McAulay Centre. Agencies and functional groups may establish their own coordination centres to provide the focal point for the overall control and coordination of their own agency resources. Liaison Officers from functional groups and support agencies will attend the EOC as required.

ICCs will be established as required by a controlling authority to provide an identified facility for the management of all activities necessary for the resolution of an incident.

An ICP is normally located near the incident in its early stages but may be relocated to an ICC where more permanent and convenient facilities and services are available.

7.6. WebEOC

WebEOC is a critical information management system used throughout the NT for emergency management activities. The system is owned and maintained by NTPF and NTFES. The online platform is used for the coordination of multi-agency response to, and recovery from, an emergency event. WebEOC also enables real-time information sharing across all agencies involved in emergency management activities.

7.7. Situation reports

It is essential for effective control and coordination of emergency management operations that the Local Controller is able to gather and collate relevant information relating to the emergency from regular, concise and accurate situation reports (SITREPs).

LEC members are to provide SITREPs at agreed times to enable the preparation of a consolidated report which will be distributed to all committee members and other relevant authorities. This may be achieved through WebEOC.

7.8 Stakeholder notifications

Upon activation of the Plan the following personnel are to be advised as a matter of urgency:

- all available members of the LEC
- Northern Regional Controller
- NTES Territory Duty Officer (TDO)

7.9 Official warnings and general public information

Official warnings and general public information will be broadcast to the Locality through the following means:

- radio broadcast
- television news broadcast
- Secure NT website and social media broadcasts and updates

Official warnings are issued by the Bureau of Meteorology (the Bureau), Geoscience Australia, Bushfires NT (BFNT), NTPF, NTFES and controlling authorities.

Emergency Alert is a national telephony-based emergency warning system that can deliver warning messages to landlines and mobile handsets based on the service address and mobile handsets based on the last known location of the device. Authority to utilise the Emergency Alert may be given by virtue of the pre-approval of a hazard specific emergency plan or under the Territory Emergency Alert.

The approval for the release of an emergency alert message can only be authorised by one of the following:

- Territory Controller
- Chief Officer, NTES
- Regional Controller
- Chief Fire Officer, NTFRS
- Deputy Chief Fire Officer, NTFRS
- Executive Director, BFNT
- Chief Fire Control Officer, BFNT

The Standard Emergency Warning Signal (SEWS) is an audio alert signal (wailing siren) which may be broadcast on public media to draw attention to the fact that an urgent safety message is about to be made. Generally, SEWS is only played before announcements concerning significant emergencies where emergency management arrangements should be activated as a result.

Control and hazard management authorities may have pre-planned use of SEWS for non-weather related events, through a pre-approved hazard-specific emergency plan.

The approval for the release of a SEWS message can only be authorised by one of the following:

- Territory Controller
- Chief Officer, NTES
- Manager Hazard Preparedness and Response NT (the Bureau) (for weather and flood-related events)

Warning and information messages for general public are authorised by the Regional or Incident Controller. The dissemination of such emergency warnings and information is to be by whatever means are appropriate and available at the time.

7.10 Australasian Inter-Service Incident Management System

The Australasian Inter-Service Incident Management System (AIIMS)⁷ is a robust incident management system that enables the seamless integration of activities and resources of a single agency or multiple agencies when applied to the resolution of any event.

7.11 Closure of schools

The decision to close schools due to an impending threat will be made by the Chief Minister on advice from the Territory Emergency Management Council (TEMC). When the nature of an event demands an immediate response, local authorities will take the appropriate steps to ensure the safety to the public. This action may include the temporary closure of a school to begin preparations, pending formal closure of the school by the Chief Minister for the remainder of the event.

The decision to reopen schools will be made by the Chief Minister on advice from the Chief Executive, DET.

7.12 Closure of government offices

The decision to close government offices due to an impending threat will be made by the Chief Minister on advice from the TEMC. When the nature of an event demands an immediate response, local authorities should take all appropriate steps to ensure public safety and the protection of property.

The decision to reopen government offices will be made by the Chief Minister on advice from the TEMC.

All NTG agencies are to have an emergency preparedness plan which sets out their processes for closing down their offices once approval has been given. This should have clearly articulated employee guidelines to ensure employees know when they are authorised to leave and are required to return to work.

7.13 Sheltering in community

The TEMC have identified the need to review opportunities to support 'sheltering in community' for weather-vulnerable communities under the NT Emergency Management Arrangements.

In the NT, 'sheltering in community' means residents remain in their community in a safe place before, during, and after a hazard. This may include staying at home or arranging their own safe accommodation. For those without options, formal emergency shelters or temporary accommodation may be provided by Incident Controllers until it's safe to return home.

This approach can be supported by additional community resources like personnel, goods, or equipment. While evacuation remains an option, sheltering in community is often safer and more effective when supported. The decision depends on community capacity and the specific event.

⁷ More information can be found at: <https://pfes.nt.gov.au/emergency-service/publications>

7.14 Emergency shelters or strong buildings

Emergency shelters and places of refuge are buildings or structures that provide people with a place of protection and shelter during a disaster or emergency event such as a cyclone, flood or fire.

The recognised emergency shelter within the Locality is:

Shelter(s)	People capacity
Jabiru Community Hall (closed for the 2025/26 Wet Season)	150

This shelter is predominantly used for flood events, as there are no shelters built to the wind terrain code in Jabiru, the shelters are not designed as cyclone shelters.

The DET in conjunction with the NTPF and the shelter owners are responsible for the management of emergency shelters during an emergency event.

The responsibilities of the emergency shelter manager are:

- the provision of personnel to staff and operate the emergency shelters at such times as they are activated
- the maintenance of effective liaison with other stakeholders with responsibilities relating to shelters, in particular the NTPF

Emergency shelters are opened under the direction of the Territory or Regional Controller in consultation with the Shelter Group (DET). Emergency shelters will not normally operate for more than 48 hours.

The timing of the opening of emergency shelters will be dependent upon the severity of the impending incident, the numbers to be sheltered, the time of day the incident is expected to impact and the period of time the emergency shelters are likely to be occupied. The announcement that emergency shelters are open in the Locality will be made by radio broadcast and social media, and will include emergency shelter rules such as no pets or alcohol being permitted in shelters. It is up the discretion of the local shelter manager to determine if food will be provided.

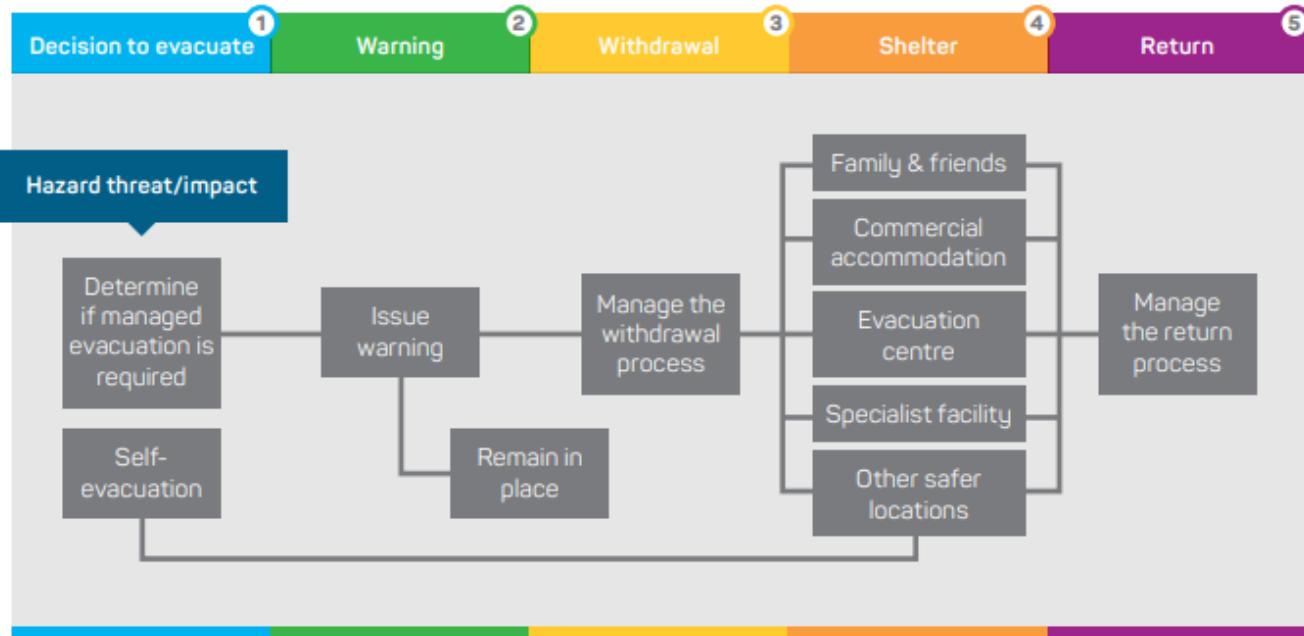
7.15 Evacuation

Evacuation is a risk management strategy that can be used to mitigate the effect of an emergency or disaster on a community. It involves the movement of people to a safer location and their return. The decision to evacuate a community, including establishing an evacuation centre, is not taken lightly as it represents significant resource and financial implications.

Evacuation of the Locality will be considered as a last resort. Where an evacuation is required the TEMC, in consultation with the Regional Controller, Local Controller and the LEC, will arrange emergency accommodation and transport, as necessary, through the relevant functional group/s. Evacuation is a complex process that has 5 distinct steps:

1. decision
2. warning
3. withdrawal
4. shelter
5. return

Each step is linked and must be carefully planned and carried out in order for the entire process to be successful. Given an evacuation centre will only be opened as a part an evacuation, it is vital to have an understanding of the 5-step process.



Source: Australian Institute of Disaster Resilience, *Evacuation Planning Handbook*, 2017.

7.16 Identified evacuation centres

An evacuation centre is designed to accommodate people for short to medium periods of approximately 4 to 6 weeks, although this figure may vary.

An evacuation centre will provide some or all of the following services:

- meals
- beds
- linen
- personal support
- medical services (or access to them)
- assistance accessing finances and recreational activities

An evacuation centre implies the provision of these services in contrast to an emergency shelter, in which people are expected to be self-sufficient.

For further information on evacuation centres / shelters management, refer to the NT Evacuation Centre Field Guide available on WebEOC.

7.17 Impact assessment

Immediately after an emergency event, there is a need to identify and assess impacts to inform short and long-term recovery priorities. Comprehensive assessment of all impacts is a vital component of emergency response activities. Guidelines for the conduct of rapid assessments in the NT, including the establishment of dedicated Rapid Assessment Teams (RATs) to collect data in the field, have been developed.

The Survey, Rescue and Impact Assessment Group, led by the NTPF, is responsible for coordinating rapid impact assessments. At the local level, local controllers or an Incident Controller if appointed, should contact the Survey, Rescue and Impact Assessment Group lead to discuss impact assessments if deemed appropriate.

8. Recovery

The coordinated process and measures for supporting emergency-affected communities in the reconstruction of physical infrastructure and restoration of social, economic and natural environments.

8.1. Local Recovery Coordinator and coordination committee

When a region and/or Locality has been affected by an event, the Regional Recovery Coordinator may appoint a Local Recovery Coordinator in accordance with section 87 of the Act. The responsible agency for Recovery is the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet (CM&C). The Local Recovery Coordinator will establish a Local Recovery Coordination Committee (LRCC) drawing from membership of the LEC and other relevant members of the community as needed. The Local Recovery Coordinator reports directly to the Regional Recovery Coordinator.

Local Recovery Coordinator and Committee functions, powers and directions are established in Division 12 and 13 of the Act respectively.

8.2. Transitional arrangements

The transition from response to recovery coordination reflects the shift from the protection of life and supporting the immediate needs of the community to establishing longer term, more sustainable support structures.

The transition to recovery coordination occurs after the completion of the transition checklist and at a time agreed by the Territory Controller and Territory Recovery Coordinator in accordance with the Territory Emergency Plan.

Transition will occur when the Territory Recovery Coordinator is satisfied that the following has occurred:

- the Territory Controller has briefed the TEMC and the Territory Recovery Coordinator
- the Regional Controller has briefed the Regional Recovery Coordinator
- where there is significant changeover of personnel, the EOC planning operations and logistics sections have briefed incoming recovery planning, operations and logistics staff

The Regional Recovery Coordinator will ensure all functional group leaders, agencies, support groups and other relevant stakeholders are notified prior to the transition to recovery. This notification is to include changes to relevant contact details and other pertinent information.

An example of response and recovery activities can be found at **Annex D**.

9. Debrief

Debrief processes embed continuous improvement into the delivery of emergency management activities. Consistent approaches to lessons learned encourage adaptability, and flexibility across all levels of government. Sharing of knowledge and experiences throughout emergency events assists with ongoing continuous improvement of people and organisations involved.

The NTG implements a lessons learned approach recognising the positive impact on organisational culture commensurate with increasing opportunities to achieve emergency management goals. Whilst lessons learned often begins in one agency through an internal debrief process, those lessons learned are transferable across multi-agencies.

During any operational response, personnel involved are encouraged to record activities where there are lessons to be learned. Activities can include decision making and consequential responses. Where decisions are made by an Incident Controller, Incident Management Team member or a functional group member, those decisions should be recorded in a Decision Log (WebEOC). Decision Logs can be referred to as part of the debrief process.

10. Related references

The following references apply:

- *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 (Cth)*
- *Building Act 1993*
- *Building Regulations 1993*
- *Emergency Management Act 2013*
- National Disaster Risk Assessment Guidelines
- National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework
- Northern Regional Emergency Plan
- *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989*
- Rapid Assessment Team Guidelines
- Territory Emergency Plan
- Transition to Recovery Checklist

11. Annexures

Annex A Functional groups - roles and responsibilities

Annex B Functions table

Annex C Prevention, mitigation strategies and action plans for identified hazards

Annex D Summary of response and recovery activities

11.1. Annex A: Functional groups - roles and responsibilities

Functional group	Local Contact
Animal Welfare	WARC/NT Parks & Wildlife
Critical Goods and Services	Jabiru IGA/Department of Trade, Business and Asian Relations (DTBAR)/Puma Service Station
Digital and Telecommunications	Department of Corporate & Digital Development (DCDD)
Emergency Shelter	DET/Jabiru Area School
Engineering	WARC/NT Parks & Wildlife
Industry	DTBAR
Medical	Jabiru Health Centre/Red Lily
Public Health	Jabiru Health Centre/Red Lily
Public Information	CM&C
Public Utilities	Power and Water Corporation/WARC
Survey, Rescue and Impact Assessment	NTPF/NTFES
Transport	Department of Logistics and Infrastructure (DLI)
Welfare	DCF

Full details of functional group roles and responsibilities are detailed in the Territory Emergency Plan.

11.2. Annex B: Functions table

Emergency response and recovery functions with identified agencies/organisation/provider

During an event some of these functions may be needed at a local level.

Functions	Agency/organisation/provider responsible
Animal/livestock management	WARC/NT Parks & Wildlife/Kakadu Park and Wildlife
Anti-looting protection	NTPF
Banking services	Westpac ATM/Puma/IGA/Golf Club/Crocodile Hotel
Broadcasting: What radio stations provide announcements?	ABC Local Radio
Clearing of essential traffic routes	WARC
Clearing storm water drains	WARC
Clothing and household items	Jabiru IGA
Community clean up	WARC
Control, coordination and management	Designated control authority
Coordination to evacuate public	NTPF
Critical Goods and Services (protect/resupply) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • food • bottle gas • camping equipment • building supplies 	Puma Service Station/Jabiru IGA
Damaged public buildings: Coordination and inspections	DLI
Disaster Victim identification capability	NTPF
Emergency Alerts	NTPF/NTFES/BFNT
Emergency food distribution	Red Lily/DCF
EOC, including WebEOC	NTPF/NTFES
Emergency shelter staff, operations and control	DET
Evacuation centre - staffing, operations and control	DCF

Functions	Agency/organisation/provider responsible
Financial Relief/Assistance Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements	CM&C/DCF (Category A measures to individuals)/DTBAR (Category B measures)
Identification of suitable buildings for shelters	DLI
Interpreter services	Aboriginal Interpreter Service
Management of expenditure in emergencies	Controlling authority and any activated functional groups at the direction of the controlling authority
Medical services	Jabiru health/Red Lily
Network communications (IT): Responders / Public Maintenance and restoration of emergency communication	Telstra
Power: protection and restoration:	Power and Water Corporation
Public messaging during response and recovery	Hazard management authority/CM&C
Public/Environmental Health (EH) management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all EH functions including water & food safety • disease control 	DOH/Red Lily
Rapid Impact Assessment	NTPF/NTFES
Recovery coordination	CM&C
Repatriation	CM&C
Restoration of public buildings	DHLGCD/DLI
Restoration of roads and bridges (council/territory) excluding railways	WARC/DLI
Road management and traffic control including public Information on road closures	WARC/DLI/NTPF
Sewerage: Protection and restoration	WARC/DLI
Survey	NTPF/NTFES
Traffic control	NTPF

Functions	Agency/organisation/provider responsible
Transport : Commercial and Public airport/ planes, automobiles, buses	Gunbalanya Air Charter/Barefoot bus/DLI/Kakadu Air/ NAH Helicopters/Nautilus Aviation
Vulnerable groups (medical)	Jabiru Health Centre/Red Lily
Waste management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="158 433 684 467">• collection <li data-bbox="158 482 684 516">• disposal of stock 	WARC
Water (including drinking water): Protection and restoration	WARC

11.3. Annex C: Prevention, mitigation strategies and action plans for identified hazards

11.3.1. Bushfire (within Fire Protection and Management Zones)

Hazard	Controlling authority	Hazard management authority
 Bushfire (within Fire Protection and Management Zones)	NT Fire and Emergency Services (Bushfires NT)	NT Fire and Emergency Services (Bushfires NT)

A fire hazard is an event, accidentally or deliberately caused, which requires a response from the landholder or one or more of the statutory fire response agencies. A bushfire is an unplanned fire, it is a generic term that includes grass fires, forest fires and scrub fires. Bushfires are a natural, essential and complex part of the NT environment. The term bushfire is interchangeable with the term wildfire.

Prevention is the activities that can be undertaken by a range of stakeholders that will assist in the mitigation against a bushfire. In the NT, managing bushfire and vegetation on private properties is the responsibility of the landowner.

Landholder responsibility to control fire

The landholder or occupier of land must take all reasonable steps to protect property on the land from fire and inhibit the fire from spreading.

If a landholder or occupier is unable to control a fire and prevent it from spreading to other land, they must:

- notify Bushfires NT fire control officer or fire warden and all neighbouring property holders
- call 000 in an emergency.

Under section 90(3) of the *Bushfires Management Act* the landholder or occupier commits an offence if the fire has the potential to spread to other land and they fail to take reasonable steps to control the fire and to notify all parties.

Communication, co-operation and shared responsibility within the community, matched by a capacity to undertake self-protective measures, forms the basis of successful fire management throughout the NT.

Outlined below is a list of key prevention activities within the Locality:

- risk assessment through the LEC and other relevant stakeholders
- fire danger period declaration, which spans over large areas when climatic and seasonal conditions present increased fire risk for a prolonged period of time. A fire danger period usually coincides with the accepted 'fire season' in an area. A permit to burn is required before using fire during a fire danger period in all zones
- a fire ban that can be declared for up to 24 hours. A combination of factors are considered when declaring a fire ban period including forecast fire danger, ignition likelihood, hazards and resourcing. All permits to burn are revoked within the declared fire ban area
- a fire management area can be declared in an area where BFNT have identified heightened fire risk. A fire management plan can be prescribed for a fire management area, and the plan can require landowners to take action to prepare for, or prevent, the spread of fire
- additional fire regulations apply within NTFRS ERA and BFNT Fire Protection Zone (FPZ) and Management Zones (FMZ). This includes:

- permits to burn are required throughout the entire year inside an ERA and FPZ
- within ERAs and FPZ a 4 m wide firebreak along the perimeter boundary of all properties and with additional firebreaks around permanent structures and stationary engines are required
- compliance inspections
 - both NTFRS and BFNT undertake compliance inspections on firebreak and fuel load management within the ERA and FPZ. Fire Breaks outside these areas are encouraged but not enforceable
- fuel management activities
 - as it is across the NT, it is the responsibility of the land owner / land holder to manage and mitigate the risk on the property. This is a responsibility of both the government and private entities
 - within the Locality the following list are some of the stakeholders responsible for managing and mitigating fuel load:
 - DLPE
 - Regional Community Councils
 - Aboriginal Land Councils
 - Parks and Wildlife
 - NTFRS
 - BFNT
 - Contracted private entities.

Preparedness is the range of activities that can prepare for an incident. These are commonly training, resource management and allocations and community education.

At a Territory Emergency Plan level the BFNT maintain the Bushfire Hazard plan, which goes into further depth on strategic planning. At the local level all relevant facilities should undertake planning to determine what actions need to occur in the event of local bushfires.

The BFNT, through normal business, recruits, trains and resources their volunteers and staff for fire operations.

The BFNT undertake community engagement / awareness programs within the Locality, these programs primarily focuses on:

- private home and block preparations
- fire break inspections
- bushfire survival plans
- gamba and buffel grass management and inspections

The Australian Fire Danger Rating System⁸ (AFDRS) is a nationally aligned approach to fire weather forecast. Both the NTFRS and BFNT, through a Territory wide observer network, gather a specific range of

⁸ More information can be found at: <https://afdrs.com.au/>

observation data at selected locations to provide data for the daily Fire Danger Rating. The ratings are described in the below image.

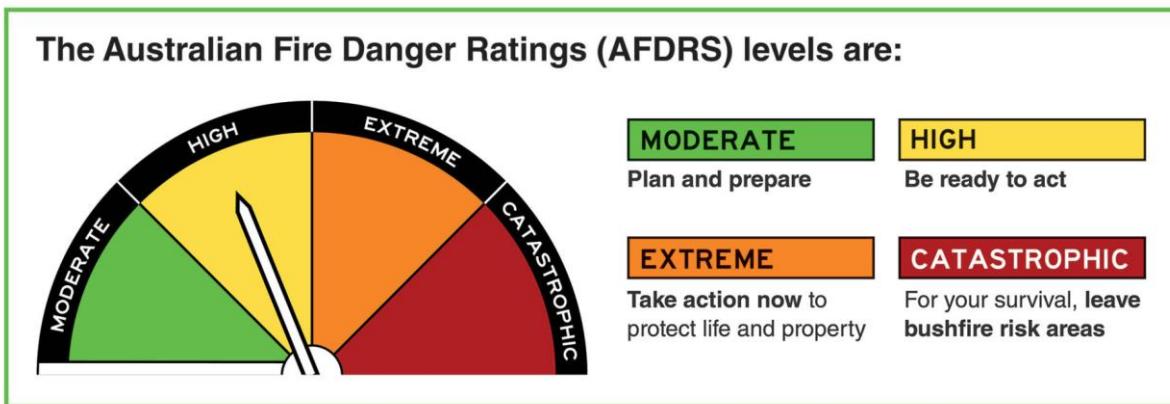


Figure 2: AFDRS Ratings

The response to bushfires is a business as usual activity for both the NTFRS and BFNT.

Both agencies are the controlling authority and hazard management authority for fires within each of their jurisdictions. Practically each agency is responsible for managing the technical aspects of responding to a bushfire and commanding its resources through their Incident Controller.

If a fire is occurring within an ERA, the NTFRS is the control and hazard management authority, whereas when the fire is in the FPZ, BFNT is the controlling and hazard management authority.

The BFNT has 3 classifications of incidents and describes them in generic terms, as shown in the table below:

Incident Classification	Description
Level 1	Level 1 fire incidents are characterised by being able to be controlled through local or initial response resources within a few hours of notification. Being relatively minor, all functions of incident management are generally undertaken by the first arriving crew/s.
Level 2	<p>Level 2 fire incidents are more complex either in size, resources, risk or community impact. Level 2 incidents usually require delegation of several incident management functions and may require interagency response. They may be characterised by the need for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • deployment of resources beyond the initial response, • sectorisation of the incident, • the establishment of function sections due to the levels of complexity, or • a combination of the above.
Level 3	Level 3 fire incidents are protracted, large and resource intensive. They may affect community assets and/or public infrastructure, and attract significant community, media and political interest. These incidents will usually involve delegation of all the Incident Management functions.

Australian Warning System

The Australian Warning System is a national approach to information and warnings during emergencies like bushfire. The System uses a nationally consistent set of icons, like those below. All warnings and advice will be issued by the Incident Controller from the relevant controlling authority for fire (NTFRS or BFNT).

Each warning level has a set of action statements to give the community clear advice about what to do. Calls to Action can be used flexibly across all 3 warning levels depending on the hazard.

There are 3 warning levels:

Warning level	Description
 Advice (Yellow)	An incident has started. There is no immediate danger. Stay up to date in case the situation changes
 Watch and Act (Orange)	There is a heightened level of threat. Conditions are changing and you need to start taking action now to protect you and your family
 Emergency Warning (Red)	An Emergency Warning is the highest level of warning. You may be in danger and need to take action immediately. Any delay now puts your life at risk

In instances where the Local Controller is required to perform a task or function, the controlling authority will contact the Local Controller.

Tasks approved by the controlling authority's Incident Controller may include, but not limited to:

- liaison with key community stakeholders
- closure of roads or places
- fire cause or protection of potential area of origin
- post fire impact assessments
- establishment of reception areas / evacuation centres should people evacuate.

Actions to be taken – Bushfire – guide only

Organisation/ Provider	Stage 1: Alert	Stage 2: Standby	Stage 3: Activation	Stage 4: Stand down	Transition to recovery
All Members	Attend briefings Inform key personnel Provide SITREPs	Attend briefings Inform key personnel Provide SITREPs	Attend briefings Inform key personnel Provide SITREPs	Attend briefings Inform key personnel Provide SITREPs	Attend briefings Inform key personnel Provide SITREPs
Local Controller			<p>On receipt of advice, and as overall controller of the incident:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify appropriate service • Ascertain state of preparedness/response time • Determine the need to disseminate warning/information to the public • Ensure communications are established and maintained • Commence and maintain SITREP schedule <p>Ascertain need to set up forward command post and brief personnel, identified for command post staffing</p> <p>Ensure police station communications are manned and running sheets (operations log) commenced</p>	<p>On completion of operation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all personnel (victims/responders) are accounted for • Ensure all personnel are advised of debrief arrangements • Arrange for critical incident stress debriefing, action as appropriate • Compile and forward Post Operations Report 	Attend debrief

Organisation/ Provider	Stage 1: Alert	Stage 2: Standby	Stage 3: Activation	Stage 4: Stand down	Transition to recovery
			<p>Proceed to scene and carry out the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish forward command post • Co-ordinate requests for assistance from other agencies • Act as on-site media officer • Prepare and forward regular SITREPs 		
NT Police 2IC			<p>Establish contact with the Local Controller for details and confirmation of requirements, then:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact appropriate brigade captain and arrange to meet at scene • Ensure the following items are on the vehicle: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Road closed signs ○ Safety warning devices (including spare batteries) ○ First aid kit • Advise Local Controller of departure and estimated time of arrival • On arrival at scene, accompany Brigade Captain and conduct reconnaissance of area 	<p>Upon completion of operations (as authorised by investigating authority):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-ordinate clean-up of scene • Account for all equipment used and supervise the cleaning, servicing, repair and refurbishment • Assist the Local Controller in the compilation of the Post Operations Report • Assist the Local Controller with other tasks, as directed 	Attend debrief

Organisation/ Provider	Stage 1: Alert	Stage 2: Standby	Stage 3: Activation	Stage 4: Stand down	Transition to recovery
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If necessary, initiate evacuation procedures and arrange for security of property • Provide SITREP to Local Controller <p>As interim onsite Commander, carry out the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If possible, establish a mobile command post, upwind of incident and outside primary incident zone • Implement traffic/crowd control measures • If necessary, appoint staging section personnel to control and marshal vehicular traffic in/out of the area • If required, advise the Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) Commander and secure the site for the Coroner's investigation • If required, ensure statutory investigation procedures are carried out • Unless directed otherwise, maintain 		

Organisation/ Provider	Stage 1: Alert	Stage 2: Standby	Stage 3: Activation	Stage 4: Stand down	Transition to recovery
			<p>regular SITREPs to Local Controller</p>		
NTFRS			<p>On receipt of advice of the threat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement callout procedures • Brief personnel and place on standby • Ascertain state of preparedness • Establish contact with Local Controller • Dispatch fire unit to area, assess situation and advise Local Controller • If necessary, advise adjacent volunteer brigades of situation with request for assistance or place on standby <p>Dispatch units to scene, reassess situation and take appropriate action to contact and extinguish, if possible</p> <p>Once under control, patrol area until satisfied there is no longer a threat</p>	<p>Upon completion of operation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Account for all personnel • Account for all equipment used and supervise the cleaning, servicing, repair and refurbishment • Conduct operational debrief with personnel • If necessary, liaise with Local Controller regarding Critical Incident Stress Debriefing requirements • Prepare report or brief Local Controller, as appropriate 	Attend debrief
Red Lily			Establish contact with the Local Controller for details	Upon completion of operation:	Attend debrief

Organisation/ Provider	Stage 1: Alert	Stage 2: Standby	Stage 3: Activation	Stage 4: Stand down	Transition to recovery
			<p>and confirmation of requirements</p> <p>if necessary, implement call out procedures</p> <p>Brief staff and if necessary, instruct to remain on standby</p> <p>Prepare vehicles and health centre in the event of casualties</p> <p>Notify NT Health</p> <p>Advise Local Controller of state of preparedness and maintain contact</p> <p>Maintain normal health services and if activated, provide additional health and medical assistance, as required</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Account for all Red Lily personnel • Refurbish equipment as necessary and coordinate the re-establishment of normal health centre operations • If necessary, liaise with the Local Controller regarding requirements for Critical Incident Stress debrief support • Conduct operational debrief with Red Lily staff • Liaise with Local Controller regarding any ongoing public health issues because of the incident • Provide relevant information to the Local Controller for the SITREP • Stand down personnel 	
Support organisations	Provide support as requested by the Local Controller				

11.3.2. Fire (within Gazetted Area)

Hazard	Controlling authority	Hazard management authority
 Fire (within Gazetted Area)	NT Fire and Emergency Services (NT Fire and Rescue Service)	NT Fire and Emergency Services (NT Fire and Rescue Service)

A fire hazard is an event, accidentally or deliberately caused, which requires a response from one or more of the statutory fire response agencies.

In the NT, managing bushfire and vegetation on private properties is the responsibility of the landowner.

A fire hazard can include, but not limited to:

Term	Definition
Structure fire	A fire burning part, or all of any building, shelter, or other construction.
Bushfire	An unplanned fire. It is a generic term that includes grass fires, forest fires and scrub fires. Bushfires are a natural, essential and complex part of the NT environment. The term bushfire is interchangeable with the term wildfire.
Vehicle fire	An undesired fire involving a motor vehicle.

Prevention is the activities that can be undertaken by a range of stakeholders that will assist in the prevention of a fire. Outlined below is a list of key prevention activities within the Locality.

- risk assessment through the LEC and other relevant stakeholders
- fire danger period declaration, which spans over large areas when climatic and seasonal conditions presents increased fire risk for a prolonged period of time. A fire danger period usually coincides with the accepted 'fire season' in an area. A permit to burn is required at all times while using fire during a fire danger period in all zones
- a fire ban can be declared for up to 24 hours. A combination of factors are considered when declaring a fire ban period including forecast fire danger, ignition likelihood, hazards and resourcing. All permits to burn are revoked within the declared fire ban area
- additional fire regulations apply within NTFRS ERA, this includes:
 - permits to burn are required throughout the entire year inside an ERA
 - within ERAs a 4 m wide firebreak along the perimeter boundary of all properties and with additional firebreaks around permanent structures and stationary engines is required
- compliance inspections
 - NTFRS may undertake compliance inspections on firebreak and fuel load management
- fuel management activities
 - as it is across the NT, it is the responsibility of the land owner / land holder to manage and mitigate the risk on the property. This is a responsibility of both the government and private entities
 - within the Locality the following list are some of the stakeholders responsible for managing and mitigating fuel load:
 - DLPE
 - Local council

- Parks and Wildlife
- NTFRS
- BFNT
- Contracted private entities.

Preparedness is the range of activities that can prepare for an incident. These are commonly training, resource management and allocations and community education.

The NTFRS, through normal business, recruits, trains and resources their volunteers and staff for fire operations.

The NTFRS also undertake community engagement programs within the Locality, these programs primarily focus on:

- private home and block preparations
- fire survival plans
- youth engagement

The Australian Fire Danger Rating System⁹ (AFDRS) is a nationally aligned approach to fire weather forecast. Both the NTFRS and BFNT, through an observer network, gather a range of observations across the NT to provide data to the daily Fire Danger Rating. The ratings are described in the below image.

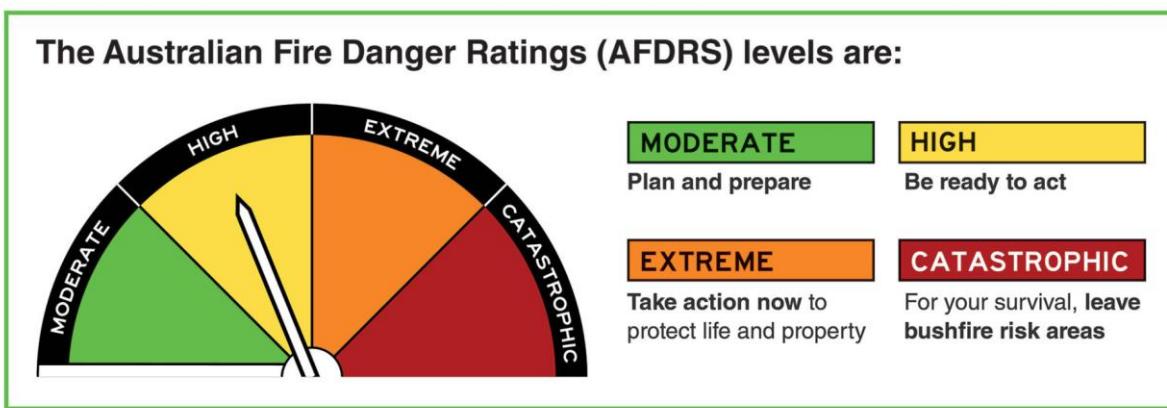


Figure 2: AFDRS Ratings

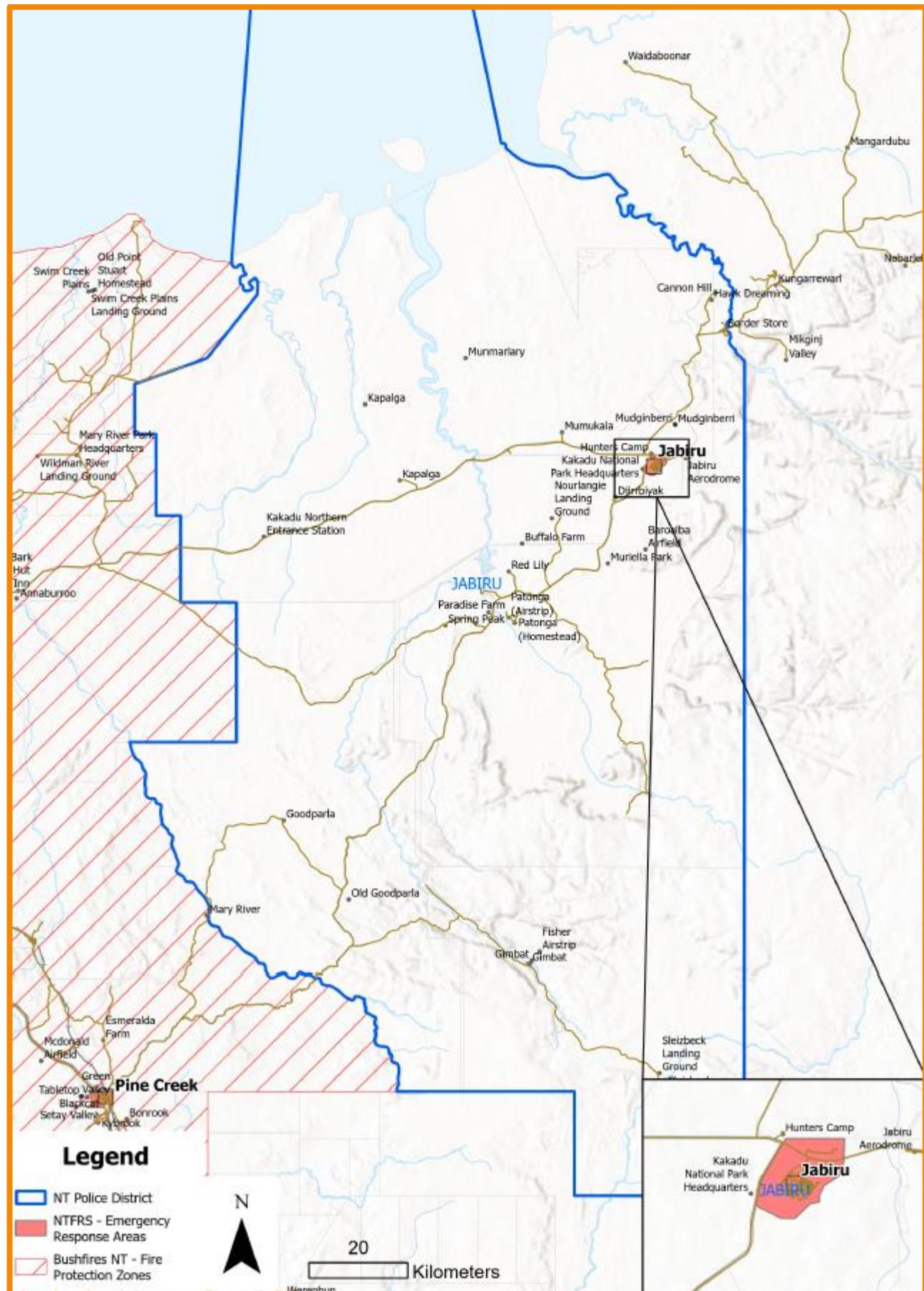
The response to bushfires is a business as usual activity for both the NTFRS and BFNT. Both agencies are the hazard management authority and controlling authority for fires within each of their jurisdictions.

Practically each agency is responsible for managing the technical aspects of responding to a bushfire and commanding its resources through their Incident Controller.

If a fire is occurring within an ERA, the NTFRS is the control and hazard management authority, whereas when the fire is in the FPMZ, BFNT is the controlling and hazard management authority. This is graphically represented on page 38 Fire Jurisdictional boundary – Jabiru.

⁹ More information can be found at: <https://afdrs.com.au/>

Fire ERA map – Jabiru



NTFRS and BFNT has 3 classifications of incidents and describes them in generic terms, as shown in the table below:

Incident classification	Description
Level 1	Level 1 incidents are generally characterised by being able to be resolved through the use of local or initial response resources only.
Level 2	<p>Level 2 incidents may be more complex either in size, resources or risk. They are characterised by the need for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • deployment of resources beyond initial response, • sectorisation of the incident, • the establishment of function sections due to the levels of complexity, • a combination of the above.
Level 3	Level 3 incidents are characterised by degrees of complexity that may require the establishment of divisions for effective management of the situation.

Australian Warning System

The Australian Warning System is a national approach to information and warnings during emergencies like bushfire. The System uses a nationally consistent set of icons, like those below. All warnings and advice will be issued by the Incident Controller from the relevant controlling authority for fire.

Each warning level has a set of action statements to give the community clearer advice about what to do. Calls to Action can be used flexibly across all 3 warning levels depending on the hazard.

There are 3 warning levels:

Warning level	Description
 Advice (Yellow)	An incident has started. There is no immediate danger. Stay up to date in case the situation changes
 Watch and Act (Orange)	There is a heightened level of threat. Conditions are changing and you need to start taking action now to protect you and your family
 Emergency Warning (Red)	An Emergency Warning is the highest level of warning. You may be in danger and need to take action immediately. Any delay now puts your life at risk.

In instances where the Local Controller is required to perform a task or function, the controlling authority will contact the Local Controller. Tasks approved by the controlling authority's Incident Controller may include, but not limited to:

- liaison with key community stakeholders
- closure of roads or places
- fire cause or protection of potential area of origin
- post fire impact assessments.

Actions to be taken – Fire – guide only

Organisation/ Provider	Stage 1: Alert	Stage 2: Standby	Stage 3: Activation	Stage 4: Stand down	Transition to recovery
All Members	<p>Attend briefings</p> <p>Inform key personnel</p> <p>Provide SITREPs</p>	<p>Attend briefings</p> <p>Inform key personnel</p> <p>Provide SITREPs</p>	<p>Attend briefings</p> <p>Inform key personnel</p> <p>Provide SITREPs</p>	<p>Attend briefings</p> <p>Inform key personnel</p> <p>Provide SITREPs</p>	<p>Attend briefings</p> <p>Inform key personnel</p> <p>Provide SITREPs</p>
Local Controller			<p>On receipt of advice, and as overall controller of the incident:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notify appropriate service Ascertain state of preparedness/response time Determine the need to disseminate warning/information to the public Ensure communications are established and maintained Commence and maintain SITREP schedule <p>Ascertain need to set up forward command post and brief personnel, identified for command post staffing</p> <p>Ensure police station communications are manned and running sheets (operations log) commenced</p>	<p>On completion of operation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure all personnel (victims/responders) are accounted for Ensure all personnel are advised of debrief arrangements Arrange for critical incident stress debriefing, action as appropriate Compile and forward Post Operations Report 	Attend debrief

Organisation/ Provider	Stage 1: Alert	Stage 2: Standby	Stage 3: Activation	Stage 4: Stand down	Transition to recovery
			<p>Proceed to scene and carry out the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish forward command post • Co-ordinate requests for assistance from other agencies • Act as on-site media officer • Prepare and forward regular SITREPs 		
NT Police 2IC			<p>Establish contact with the Local Controller for details and confirmation of requirements, then:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact appropriate brigade captain and arrange to meet at scene • Ensure the following items are on the vehicle: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Road closed signs ○ Safety warning devices (including spare batteries) ○ First aid kit • Advise Local Controller of departure and estimated time of arrival • On arrival at scene, accompany Brigade Captain and conduct reconnaissance of area 	<p>Upon completion of operations (as authorised by investigating authority):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-ordinate clean-up of scene • Account for all equipment used and supervise the cleaning, servicing, repair and refurbishment • Assist the Local Controller in the compilation of the Post Operations Report • Assist the Local Controller with other tasks, as directed 	Attend debrief

Organisation/ Provider	Stage 1: Alert	Stage 2: Standby	Stage 3: Activation	Stage 4: Stand down	Transition to recovery
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If necessary, initiate evacuation procedures and arrange for security of property • Provide SITREP to Local Controller <p>As interim onsite Commander, carry out the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If possible, establish a mobile command post, upwind of incident and outside primary incident zone • Implement traffic/crowd control measures • If necessary, appoint staging section personnel to control and marshal vehicular traffic in/out of the area • If required, advise the Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) Commander and secure the site for the Coroner's investigation • If required, ensure statutory investigation procedures are carried out • Unless directed otherwise, maintain 		

Organisation/ Provider	Stage 1: Alert	Stage 2: Standby	Stage 3: Activation	Stage 4: Stand down	Transition to recovery
			<p>regular SITREPs to Local Controller</p>		
NTFRS			<p>On receipt of advice of the threat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement callout procedures • Brief personnel and place on standby • Ascertain state of preparedness • Establish contact with Local Controller • Dispatch fire unit to area, assess situation and advise Local Controller • If necessary, advise adjacent volunteer brigades of situation with request for assistance or place on standby <p>Dispatch units to scene, reassess situation and take appropriate action to contact and extinguish, if possible</p> <p>Once under control, patrol area until satisfied there is no longer a threat</p>	<p>Upon completion of operation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Account for all personnel • Account for all equipment used and supervise the cleaning, servicing, repair and refurbishment • Conduct operational debrief with personnel • If necessary, liaise with Local Controller regarding Critical Incident Stress Debriefing requirements • Prepare report or brief Local Controller, as appropriate 	Attend debrief
Red Lily			Establish contact with the Local Controller for details	Upon completion of operation:	Attend debrief

Organisation/ Provider	Stage 1: Alert	Stage 2: Standby	Stage 3: Activation	Stage 4: Stand down	Transition to recovery
			<p>and confirmation of requirements</p> <p>if necessary, implement call out procedures</p> <p>Brief staff and if necessary, instruct to remain on standby</p> <p>Prepare vehicles and health centre in the event of casualties</p> <p>Notify NT Health</p> <p>Advise Local Controller of state of preparedness and maintain contact</p> <p>Maintain normal health services and if activated, provide additional health and medical assistance, as required</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Account for all Red Lily personnel • Refurbish equipment as necessary and coordinate the re-establishment of normal health centre operations • If necessary, liaise with the Local Controller regarding requirements for Critical Incident Stress debrief support • Conduct operational debrief with Red Lily staff • Liaise with Local Controller regarding any ongoing public health issues because of the incident • Provide relevant information to the Local Controller for the SITREP • Stand down personnel 	
Support organisations	Provide support as requested by the Local Controller				

11.3.3. Flood

Hazard	Controlling Authority	Hazard Management Authority
 Flood	NT Police Force	NT Fire and Emergency Services (NT Emergency Service)

Floods in Australia occur in response to intense rainfall events, often associated with thunderstorms. These can occur at any time of year but are more frequent during the top ends tropical monsoon season, October to April. Communities in the Jabiru Locality may be subject to inundation or isolation caused by seasonal severe storm activity.

Isolation causes communities/individuals to be cut off from the rest of the area. This could mean some people in an area are affected by a flood while others are not. Flood events can cause long-term impacts on communities, such as disruptions to supplies of food, clean water, wastewater treatment, electricity, transport, communication, education and health care. Where isolation is likely to occur for an extended time, preseason planning by the LEC is critical to ensure there will be limited disruptions to critical goods and services.

The Bureau will issue severe thunderstorm and flood warnings for the Locality via the Local Controller with a prediction of what to expect and advice to send out to their LEC and communities. Whilst the Bureau attempts to predict flood producing storms and provide warnings, local observations and local knowledge must be utilised.

Majority of the roads in the Jabiru Locality are sealed with the potential for rains to cause disruption to transportation. After heavy rains, the roads become saturated leading to the sealed roads becoming slippery with water pooling on them, and rivers or water courses cutting the roads all together making the roads impassable. These issues can cause isolation to the communities and outstations for periods of a few days until the water drains away, roads dry out and/or road maintenance can occur.

The rivers within the Jabiru Locality do not have flood classifications on them, the indicative impact of flood levels are provided in the table below:

Flood impact	Consequence
Disruptive flooding	Causes inconvenience. Low-lying areas next to water courses are inundated. Minor roads may be closed and low-level bridges submerged. In urban areas inundation may affect some backyards and buildings below the floor level as well as bicycle and pedestrian paths. In rural areas removal of stock and equipment may be required
Community impact flooding	In addition to the above, the area of inundation is more substantial. Main traffic routes may be affected. Some buildings may be affected above the floor level. Evacuation of flood affected areas may be required. In rural areas removal of stock is required
Critical/emergency flooding	In addition to the above, extensive rural areas and/or urban areas are inundated. Many buildings may be affected above the floor level. Properties and towns are likely to be isolated and major rail and traffic routes closed. Evacuation of flood affected areas may be required. Utility services may be impacted

As the Hazard Management Authority the NTES have established, equipped and trained volunteer units which are capable of responding to the impact of floods. Initial control and coordination will be through the NTES TDO.

The NTES maintain the Territory EOC in a state of readiness. If the EOC is required to be activated by the Regional Controller, the NTES will support this activation and facilitate, where possible, the staffing requests for IMT personnel.

Prevention and preparative controls include, but are not limited to:

- radio, television and social media
- community engagement strategies
- LEC participate in education, training, exercises and continued professional development

Public safety message process:

- the Bureau issues a flood advice to NTES TDO
- NTES TDO issues Australian Warning System to the NTPF and PFES Media Unit
- NTES TDO notifies Local Controller and NTES Manager Northern Command
- Local Controller notifies LEC
- NTES Manager Northern Command consults with the Bureau and Incident Controller to determine recommended messaging
- NTPF and PFES Media Unit or Public Information Group receives approved messaging to publish

Warnings and advice approval flow

The Australian Warning System is a national approach to information and warnings during emergencies like storm, flood and cyclone. The system uses a nationally consistent set of icons that are found below.

There are 3 warning levels:

Warning level	Description
	Advice (Yellow) An incident has started. There is no immediate danger. Stay up to date in case the situation changes
	Watch and Act (Orange) There is a heightened level of threat. Conditions are changing and you need to start taking action now to protect you and your family
	Emergency Warning (Red) An Emergency Warning is the highest level of warning. You may be in danger and need to take action immediately. Any delay now puts your life at risk.

Each warning level has a set of action statements to give the community clearer advice about what to do. Calls to Action can be used flexibly across all 3 warning levels depending on the hazard.

On advice from the Bureau' weather warnings, the NTES determine the Australian Warning System level.

Actions to be taken – Flood¹⁰

Organisation/ Provider	Flood impact	Isolation
All Members	Attend LEC meetings Relay information to other key stakeholders	Assist where necessary and ensure all procedures for each location/area to be affected is well prepared
Local Controller	Update LEC members of the impending situation	SITREP is to be circulated to committee members and key stakeholders

¹⁰ Action stages as per Flood products issued by the Bureau of Meteorology

11.3.4. Heatwave

Hazard	Controlling Authority	Hazard Management Authority
 Heatwave	Department of Health	Department of Health

The NT has naturally warm to hot weather. However, maximum and minimum temperatures occasionally exceed historical records creating heatwave conditions. Heatwave (extreme heat) conditions occur across the Territory between the months of October and March. Extreme heat is predicted to become more frequent, more intense, of longer duration, and occurring earlier in the warm season.

A heatwave occurs when maximum and minimum temperatures are unusually hot (unusual for that location) projected over a 3 day period. Heatwaves can occur with or without high humidity. They have potential to cover a large area, exposing individuals and communities to hazardous heat. Forecast minimum and maximum temperatures are compared to the historical data of a location as well as temperatures over the last 30 days to establish a heatwave occurrence.

Extreme heat can be very taxing on the body. The human body can be over-heated when it is surrounded by a temperature close to or exceeding body temperature of 37°C in the presence of dehydration. If the body's temperature is unable to be reduced adequately by evaporation of perspiration or moving to cooler surroundings, the resulting illness may range from mild to severe/catastrophic.

A heatwave forecast is a warning that the hot temperatures will be a shock to the body, compared to recent temperatures. Even the most acclimatised NT residents can be affected by heat stress. The Bureau's heatwave forecast covers all localities in the NT.

NT Health publishes heat health alerts where a severe or extreme heatwave is forecast to affect:

- a major centre (Greater Darwin Region, Alice Springs, Katherine, Tennant Creek, Nhulunbuy OR
- 3 or more populated centres in a Bureau weather district

AND the forecast is:

- 3 or more days of severe heatwave OR
- 2 or more days of extreme heatwave

The level of a severe or extreme heatwave event will determine the magnitude of response required to effectively manage the situation. The following describes heatwave incident response hierarchy and are based on AIIMS incident classification.

Level	Description
Level 1	The Severe or Extreme Heatwave has minimal or no impact on normal operations. The Severe or Extreme Heatwave continues for one - 3 days. Hospitals and health services may observe an increase in activity commensurate with the incident. Response by NT Health through heat health alerts.
Level 2	The Extreme Heatwave continues for approximately 3 - 6 days. The Extreme Heatwave has major impact on normal operations. The weather event is resulting in compounding impacts on essential services and infrastructure, and there are anticipated impacts on human health and infrastructure. Hospital and health service activity increases. Response by NT Health through heat health alerts and emergency medical attention.
Level 3	An Extreme Heatwave is protracted, exceeding 6 days. Maximum temperatures for the localities are exceeded for what is normally expected and multiple days with significantly increased night-time temperatures. Public infrastructure is affected. Power supply outages, compounding the heatwave and resulting in the public unable to seek respite from the heat.

Prevention and preparative controls include, but are not limited to:

- preseason situational awareness with the Bureau
- developing heat health communication and community engagement strategies
- engagement with government and private agencies, functional groups and community organisations
- preparing fact sheets, and translating into indigenous and multicultural languages
- monitoring the Bureau heatwave forecast and decision support product
- public messaging (using radio, website posts, and social media posts) when a heatwave is forecasted, imminent or in progress

Public safety message process:

- NT Health receives heatwave warning from the Bureau
- the heatwave decision support product is reviewed and localities of forecast severe or extreme heatwave noted
- NT Health Strategic Media, Marketing and Communications Team publish heat health alerts on NT Health Alerts webpage and other channels
- NT Health publishes media release through NTG Media Releases
- NT Health engages with media to broadcast heat health messages

Warnings and advice approval flow:

The Australian Warning System is a national approach to information and warnings during emergencies like bushfire. The system uses a nationally consistent set of icons, like those below.

There are 3 warning levels:

Warning level	Description
	Advice (Yellow)
	Watch and Act (Orange)
	Emergency Warning (Red)

Each warning level has a set of action statements to give the community clearer advice about what to do. Calls to Action can be used flexibly across all 3 warning levels depending on the hazard.

11.3.5. Road crash

Hazard-specific capabilities	Controlling authority	Hazard management authority
 Road Crash	NT Police Force	NT Fire and Emergency Services (NT Fire and Rescue Service)

A road crash occurs when a vehicle collides with another vehicle, pedestrian, animal, road debris, or other stationary obstruction, such as a tree, pole or building. Road crashes often result in injury, disability, death, and or property damage as well as financial costs to both society and the individuals involved. Emergency services are frequently called on to extricate seriously injured casualties from their vehicles following road crashes. This is achieved by employing space creation techniques to create openings in the vehicle. These openings make it possible to administer first aid to the casualty and to remove them from the vehicle.

A number of factors contribute to the risk of collisions, including vehicle design, speed of operation, road design, weather, road environment, driving skills, fatigue, impairment due to alcohol or drugs, and behaviour, notably aggressive driving, distracted driving, speeding and street racing.

Responses to road crash incidents will be coordinated from the JESCC. NTFRS will respond as per pre-determined response arrangements contained within the SerPro system for incidents occurring within an NTFRS ERA. For incidents occurring outside of an ERA, response will be approved by the rostered NTFRS TDO.

Prevention and preparative controls include, but are not limited to:

- radio, television and social media posts
- targeted road safety campaigns
- community engagement strategies
- training in PUASAR024 - undertake road crash rescue delivered by NTES and NTFRS to NTPF and NTFES members

Public safety message process:

- NTPF Territory Duty Superintendent to approve public messaging and forward to NTPF and NTFES Media Unit for dissemination

Actions to be taken – Road crash – guide only

Organisation/ Provider	Stage 1: Alert	Stage 2: Standby	Stage 3: Activation	Stage 4: Stand down	Transition to recovery
All Members	Attend briefings Inform key personnel Provide SITREPs	Attend briefings Inform key personnel Provide SITREPs	Attend briefings Inform key personnel Provide SITREPs	Attend briefings Inform key personnel Provide SITREPs	Attend briefings Inform key personnel Provide SITREPs
Local Controller	Ascertain full details of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exact location Vehicles involved Number of persons involved Likely number of casualties Resources currently on-site or required 		Carry out initial reconnaissance of the area Ensure other agencies have been advised of the incident	Ensure all personnel, both victims and responders are accounted for Ensure all personnel are advised of debrief arrangements	Attend debrief
NT Police 2IC	Ascertain full details of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exact location Vehicles involved Number of persons involved Likely number of casualties Resources currently on-site or required		Carry out initial reconnaissance of the area affected by the incident and initial safety, first aid and rescue procedures	Account for all personnel and equipment used Assist the Local Controller with other tasks, as directed	
NTFRS	Ascertain full details of:		Carry out initial reconnaissance of the area affected by the incident	Confirm that site has been declared safe	Attend debrief

Organisation/ Provider	Stage 1: Alert	Stage 2: Standby	Stage 3: Activation	Stage 4: Stand down	Transition to recovery
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exact location Vehicles involved Number of persons involved Likely number of casualties <p>Resources currently on-site or required</p>		<p>and initial safety, first aid and rescue procedures</p> <p>Appoint an Incident Controller to liaise with the Local Controller</p> <p>Establish communications with the incident site</p> <p>Obtain SITREP from Incident Commander</p> <p>Provide advise and support to NTFRS</p> <p>Maintain communications with NTFRS personnel</p>	<p>Support the Local Controller with requests for personnel, equipment and resources, as available to assist with the recovery of incident</p> <p>Coordinate recovery of NTFRS personnel, equipment and resources</p> <p>Ensure all personnel are accounted for</p>	
Red Lily		Brief staff and instruct to remain on standby	<p>Implement callout procedures</p> <p>Equip and dispatch vehicle to accident scene</p> <p>Prepare health centre to receive potential victims</p> <p>Administer emergency treatment and activate CareFlight, if required</p>	<p>Account for all personnel</p> <p>Refurbish equipment, as necessary</p>	Attend debrief
Support organisations	Provide support as requested by the Local Controller				

11.3.6. Tropical cyclone

Hazard	Controlling authority	Hazard management authority
 Tropical cyclone	NT Police Force	NT Fire and Emergency Services (NT Emergency Service)

A tropical cyclone¹¹ hazard includes a cyclone threat to the township, housing and infrastructure of the Locality including the surrounding areas. During the cyclone season, November to April, the Bureau keeps a 24-hour watch on developing tropical weather systems. The Bureau will issue a tropical cyclone advice whenever a tropical cyclone is likely to cause winds in excess of 62 km/h (gale force) over Australian communities within the next 48 hours.

A number of cyclones have directly or indirectly impacted NT in recent years. The following is a summary of significant tropical cyclones to have impacted the area:

- Severe Tropical Cyclone Megan – March 2024
Category 3 system at landfall. Brought destructive winds and major flooding to Borroloola and surrounding areas.
- Severe Tropical Cyclone Trevor – March 2019
Category 4 system at landfall. Triggered widespread evacuations across the Gulf of Carpentaria and caused significant wind damage and flooding.
- Severe Tropical Cyclone Marcus – March 2018
Category 5 at peak intensity, Category 2 when crossing near Darwin. Caused widespread damage with destructive winds and heavy rainfall across the Northern Territory, especially Darwin and surrounding regions.
- Severe Tropical Cyclone Lam – February 2015
Category 4 system at landfall. Brought destructive winds and flooding to Arnhem Land communities, damaging homes and infrastructure.
- Severe Tropical Cyclone Monica – April 2006
Category 5 system at peak intensity. One of the most intense cyclones recorded in the Southern Hemisphere; caused extensive environmental damage.
- Severe Tropical Cyclone Ingrid – March 2005
Category 4 system at landfall. Impacted Arnhem Land and the Tiwi Islands with strong winds and heavy rainfall.
- Severe Tropical Cyclone Tracy – December 1974
Category 4 system at landfall. Devastated Darwin, destroying most of the city and causing 71 fatalities.

Tropical Cyclones are classified into categories based on their sustained wind speed. These categories help communicate the potential severity of a cyclone's impact, including wind damage, storm surge, and flooding. Understanding these categories is essential for assessing risk and implementing appropriate emergency response measures.

The table on the following page outlines the classification system used for tropical cyclones.

¹¹ More information can be found at: <http://www.bom.gov.au/cyclone/tropical-cyclone-knowledge-centre/understanding/tc-info/>

Table – Tropical cyclone categories

Category	Max mean wind (km/h)	Typical strongest gust (km/h)	Transport effects
1	63 - 88	< 125	Negligible house damage. Damage to some crops, trees and caravans. Craft may drag moorings
2	89 - 117	125 - 164	Minor house damage. Significant damage to signs, trees and caravans. Heavy damage to some crops. Risk of power failure. Small craft may break moorings
3	118 - 159	165 - 224	Some roof and structural damage. Some caravans destroyed. Power failures likely
4	160 - 199	225 - 279	Significant roofing loss and structural damage. Many caravans destroyed and blown away. Dangerous airborne debris. Widespread power failures
5	>200	> 279	Extremely dangerous with widespread destruction

Note: Corresponding approximate wind gusts and central pressure are also provided as a guide. Stronger gusts may be observed over hilltops, in gullies and around structures. The primary risk from tropical cyclones in Adelaide River, is the resulting rain and potential flooding.

As the hazard management authority the NTES have established, equipped and trained volunteer units within the NT, to support response and recovery operations to tropical cyclones.

The NTES maintain the Territory EOC in a state of readiness. If the EOC is required to be activated by the Regional Controller, the NTES will support this activation and facilitate, where possible, the staffing requests for IMT personnel.

Prevention and preparative controls include, but are not limited to:

- implementation of cyclone preparation initiatives and council clean ups
- radio, television and social media posts.

Public safety message process (initial notification):

- the Bureau issue a cyclone advice to NTES TDO
- NTES TDO issues Australian Warning System to the NTPF and NTFES Media Unit
- NTES TDO notifies Local Controller and NTES Manager Northern Command
- Local Controller Notifies LEC
- NTES Manager Northern Command consults with the Bureau, Regional Controller, NTES Chief Officer and Incident Controller to determine recommended messaging
- NTPF and NTFES Media Unit or Public Information Group receives approved messaging to publish
- responsibility for development and promulgation of warnings and information post the establishment of an IMT will rest with the Public Information Officer and the Incident Controller

The response to a cyclone event is staged and dependant on timings of the Watch and Warnings issued by the Bureau and the projected impact on the communities. The following table provides a guide to typical actions for members of the LEC upon receipt of notifications from the Bureau. The table also notes the need for LEC members to contribute to the recovery process post the impact of the cyclone.

Warnings and advice approval flow

The Australian Warning System is a national approach to information and warnings during emergencies like storm, flood and cyclone. The system uses a nationally consistent set of icons that are found below.

There are 3 warning levels:

Warning level	Description
 Advice (Yellow)	An incident has started. There is no immediate danger. Stay up to date in case the situation changes
 Watch and Act (Orange)	There is a heightened level of threat. Conditions are changing and you need to start taking action now to protect you and your family
 Emergency Warning (Red)	An Emergency Warning is the highest level of warning. You may be in danger and need to take action immediately. Any delay now puts your life at risk.

Each warning level has a set of action statements to give the community clearer advice about what to do. Calls to Action can be used flexibly across all 3 warning levels depending on the hazard.

On advice from the Bureau's weather warnings, the NTES determine the Australian Warning System level. The NTES TDO is responsible for issuing Australian Warning System warnings and advice prior to an Incident Controller is appointed.

Actions to be taken – Tropical cyclone – guide only¹²

Organisation/ Provider	Watch	Warning (onset of Gale Force Winds)			Reduced risk	Transition to recovery
	48 hours	24 + hours	6 + hours	3 + hours		
All members	Attend briefings Inform key stakeholders Provide SITREPs Assist the Local Controller as required Ensure final preparations are undertaken prior to the next stage	Attend briefings Inform key personnel Assist the Local Controller as required	Attend briefings Assist the Local Controller as required Inform key personnel	Assist the Local Controller as required Take and remain in shelter	Remain in shelter until directed by Local Controller Assist the Local Controller as required	Attend briefings Inform key personnel Assist the Local Controller as required
Local Controller	Convene meeting of the LEC Ensure LEC members and community have activated their Cyclone Plan Co-ordinate the dissemination of the cyclone watch information to the relevant local community	Convene meeting of the LEC Ensure that the dissemination of the cyclone warning information to the public is maintained Advise Regional Controller of state of preparedness and ascertain SITREPs requirement	Update LEC and allocate tasks as required Ensure that the dissemination of the cyclone warning information to the public is maintained At the appropriate time, advise persons at risk to move to a shelter	Take and remain in shelter	When it is declared safe to move outside, ascertain the extent of injury to persons and damage to property Give directions to survey teams advising community of reduced risk Provide SITREPs to Regional Controller and Incident Controller	Provide SITREPs to Regional Controller and Incident Controller Prepare for transition to recovery Begin compilation of information for Post Operation Report

¹² Action stages as per Tropical Cyclone advice and warnings issued by the Bureau of Meteorology

Organisation/ Provider	Watch	Warning (onset of Gale Force Winds)			Reduced risk	Transition to recovery
	48 hours	24 + hours	6 + hours	3 + hours		
	<p>Communications established and maintained with Regional Controller, and NTES TDO and advise state of preparedness</p> <p>Participate in REC meetings as required</p>	Activate EOC if required			Prepare for transition to recovery	
NTPF	<p>Brief police members</p> <p>Disseminate warnings and information as required</p> <p>Maintain normal police duties</p> <p>Assist Local Controller as required</p> <p>Ensure all operational vehicles are fully fuelled</p>	<p>Brief police members</p> <p>Assist with the preparation of the EOC</p> <p>Disseminate cyclone warning information as directed by the Local Controller and advise him of information received</p> <p>Limit transport and ensure all emergency vehicles are fully operational</p> <p>Co-ordinate the movement of personnel to shelter</p>	<p>Brief police members</p> <p>Disseminate cyclone information as directed by the Local Controller and advise him of information received</p>	<p>Take and remain in shelter</p>	<p>When advised by Local Controller move outside ascertain the extent of injury to persons and damage to property and report with damage assessments</p> <p>Assist Local Controller with prioritising response operations</p>	<p>Assist in the preparation of the final SITREPs</p> <p>Ensure that all NTPF equipment used in the operation is accounted for, maintained and restored</p> <p>Inform key personnel</p>

Organisation/ Provider	Watch	Warning (onset of Gale Force Winds)			Reduced risk	Transition to recovery
	48 hours	24 + hours	6 + hours	3 + hours		
			Commence final patrol of area Ensure all personnel take shelter			
NTFRS	Brief unit members Check and prepare equipment Carry out other duties as directed by the Local Controller	Brief unit members Secure equipment Establish communications with Local Controller	Brief unit members and allocated tasks as required by the Local Controller Maintain communications At the appropriate time advise persons at risk to take shelter	Take and remain in shelter	Brief unit members Carry out tasks as required by the Local Controller	Stand down unit members Prepare to transition back to normal duties
PAWC ESO	Attend emergency management meeting and perform actions as needed	Monitor	Monitor	Take and remain in shelter	At the direction of the Local Controller, commence survey Advise Local Controller of damage and what essential services are still in operation	Assist the Local Recovery Coordinator as required
Red Lily	Brief clinic staff Test satellite phones	Medical staff to have access to health vehicles	Do final checks Ensure all personnel take shelter	Take and remain in shelter	At the direction of the Local Controller check the health clinic for damage	Attend debrief Prepare to transition back to normal work requirements at the

Organisation/ Provider	Watch	Warning (onset of Gale Force Winds)			Reduced risk	Transition to recovery
	48 hours	24 + hours	6 + hours	3 + hours		
	Prepare emergency kit Fill jerry cans with water and ensure vehicles are fuelled Maintain normal duties	Check and take vulnerable population list Staff to secure personal residence Maintain normal duties			Prepare to reopen clinic When the airstrip is clear, organise medical evacuations, if required	conclusion of the recovery operation
Jabiru Primary School	Refuel education vehicles Fill water containers Maintain normal duties	Brief education personnel When advised, close school and advise community to secure buildings Staff to secure personal residence	Brief education personnel Do final checks Prepare to open shelter Ensure personnel take shelter	Take and remain in shelter	At the direction of the Local Controller, check the school for damage Brief the Local Controller when all personnel are accounted for Restore facilities and resume normal education duties as practicable	Attend debrief Prepare to transition back to normal work requirements at the conclusion of recovery operations
WARC	Brief council personnel Participate in pre-cyclone clean up Coordinate the dissemination of the cyclone watch	Brief council personnel Staff to secure personal residence Prepare to close office Limit transport and ensure all	Brief council personnel Do final checks Disseminate warnings and information to the public, as directed	Take and remain in shelter	Advise Local Controller of damage and what essential services are still in operation and assistance, if required	Brief council personnel Prepare to transition back into normal work duties at the conclusion of the recovery operation

Organisation/ Provider	Watch	Warning (onset of Gale Force Winds)			Reduced risk	Transition to recovery
	48 hours	24 + hours	6 + hours	3 + hours		
	information to the public Maintain normal services	operational vehicles are fully fuelled Advise the Local Controller on essential service matters	by the Local Controller Ensure all personnel take shelter Advise the Local Controller on essential service matters			
Jabiru Store (IGA)	Get emergency supplies ready Clear yard/store of any dangerous items Assist with community clean up	Staff to secure personal residence Prepare to close store	Do final checks Ensure personnel take shelter	Take and remain in shelter	At the direction of the Local Controller, attend and assess damage to store and supplies	Assist the Local Recovery Coordinator as required
Support organisations	Provide support as requested by the Local Controller					

11.4. Annex D: Summary of response and recovery activities

The following table outlines a summary of possible response and recovery activities to be considered following an event.

This table is presented as a guide only, assisting emergency managers with operational decision making, planning and resource allocation. It also highlights the importance of response and recovery coordination working collaboratively.

Activities have been broken down and are listed under either response or recovery for simplicity and ease of use. In practice not all response activities will be completed during the response phase. Likewise not all recovery activities will commence after the transition to recovery.

The post event period of any event is highly dynamic and produces many challenges, both foreseen and unpredicted. Response and recovery coordination must be flexible and able to adapt to the situation as it evolves.

In most cases the points noted in this table and in the ensuing document are outlined in greater detail in functional group or agency plans.



Activity	Response activities	Recovery activities
1. Situational awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road clearance teams General public Media reports Survey and rescue teams Impact assessment teams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributes to recovery planning through impact assessment data Comprehensive impact assessments Needs assessment
2. Public Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Information Group activation Spokes persons identified SecureNT activated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continues in recovery
3. Survey and Rescue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey teams deploy to designated areas Critical sites surveyed Deploy rescue teams – NTFRS and NTPF Specialist Response Division provide primary Urban Search and Rescue capability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey and impact assessment data used to contribute to the Recovery Action Plan
4. Road clearance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road patrol teams deploy and check assigned routes Road clearance to priority sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restoration of road networks and bridges Return to business as usual

Activity	Response activities	Recovery activities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess Stuart Hwy to Katherine (supply route) 	
5. Emergency accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency accommodation and shelter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> evacuation centres Provision of resources that will enable people to remain in their homes Emergency clothing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evacuation centres may continue into recovery Temporary accommodation options Repatriation planning
6. Medical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hospital <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify any issues with accessing facilities Initial Impact assessment Access to critical supplies e.g. medicines, consumables, power or fuel and water ongoing acute clinical care and critical services requirements increase morgue capacity Health Centres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> identify any issues with accessing facilities Access to critical supplies e.g. medicines, consumables, power or fuel and water GP clinics and pharmacies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> identify operational GP services identify operational pharmacies Support Medically vulnerable people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing provision of health services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> which may include business continuity plans engagement with stakeholders Repatriation of medically vulnerable people in community GP clinics and pharmacies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ongoing liaison by the Medical Group Medical retrieval services – resume business as usual

Activity	Response activities	Recovery activities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical retrieval services (air and road) support for vulnerable people at shelters CareFlight/Royal Flying Doctor Service 	
7. Essential goods and services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish emergency feeding and food distribution points Assessing the damage to suppliers and retailers of critical resources Assess the impact on barge operations and any effect on the ability to supply remote communities Implement interim banking arrangements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the re-opening of the private business sector Monitor levels and availability of essential goods Manage logistics arrangements supplying resources to outlying communities Public Health inspections (food outlets) Banking sector business continuity arrangements
	<u>Fuel</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fuel suppliers and point of sale Manage fuel supplies to emergency power generation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor fuel levels Infrastructure repairs Emergency fuel supplies for recovery Liaise with fuel suppliers, distributors and wholesalers to re-establish long term supply
	<u>Banking</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess damage to banks and ATMs Implement temporary arrangements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency cash outlets Implement long term arrangements
	<u>Evacuation</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evacuations within community Evacuation out of community Registration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support services for evacuees Recovery information for evacuees Repatriation
9. Public Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicable disease control response Drinking water safety standards Sewage and waste disposal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing in recovery

Activity	Response activities	Recovery activities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safe food distribution and advice Vector and vermin control Food and commercial premises 	
10. Utilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Power supply Power generation Water supply Sewerage Emergency sanitation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restore power network Restore water and sewerage infrastructure Issue alerts until safe to use
11. Impact assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training assessment teams Initial impact assessments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensive impact assessments Ongoing needs assessments
12. Transport infrastructure (supply lines)	<u>Air (Airport/Airstrip)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear the runway to allow air movements Establish a logistics hub at the airport Terminal damage and operational capability assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor repairs and business continuity activities
	<u>Road</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highway and critical access roads damage assessment Repair work to commence immediately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning and prioritising repair work of all affected key Territory Highways (Stuart, Barkly, Victoria and Arnhem)
	<u>Rail</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rail damage assessment Outage estimation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing liaison with operator to support restoration to business as usual
	<u>Port, Harbour and Barge</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess damage to port infrastructure and harbour facilities Assess the damage to barge facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repairing infrastructure Establish alternate arrangements for the supply of remote communities
13. Waste management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste management requirements and develop waste management plan if required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continues in recovery

Activity	Response activities	Recovery activities
14. Repairs and reconstruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - impact assessments - temporary repairs • Government buildings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - damage assessment • Public housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - impact assessments • Private industry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - damage assessments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - information and support to facilitate repairs • Government buildings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - repairs and reconstruction • Public housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - long term repair plans • Private industry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - repair and reconstruction • Temporary accommodation for a visiting construction workforce
15. Transport services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staged re-establishment of public transport services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continues in recovery
16. Telecommunications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telstra and Optus will assess the damage to their infrastructure • Put in place temporary measures to enable landline and mobile services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repair damage networks and infrastructure (for private entities there is support for operators only)
17. Public safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police will maintain normal policing services to the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gradual return to business as usual
18. Animal welfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary emergency arrangements for pets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reunite pets with their owners and cease emergency support arrangements
19. Community consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information provision regarding the overall situation, response efforts, what services are available and how to access them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community consultation process regarding long term recovery and community development

12. Acronyms

Acronyms	Definitions
AAPA	Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority
ABC	Australian Broadcasting Corporation
AIIMS	Australasian Inter-Service Incident Management System
BFNT	Bushfires NT
CASA	Civil Aviation Safety Authority
CM&C	Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet
DCF	Department of Children and Families
DET	Department of Education and Training
DLI	Department of Logistics and Infrastructure
DLPE	Department of Lands, Planning and Environment
DOH	Department of Health
DTBAR	Department of Trade, Business and Asian Relations
EOC	Emergency Operations Centre
ERA	Energy Resources Australia
ICC	Incident Control Centre
ICP	Incident Control Point
JESCC	Joint Emergency Services Communications Centre
KM	Kilometres
LCC	Local Coordination Centre
LEC	Local Emergency Committee
LRCC	Local Recovery Coordination Committee
M	Metres
NERAG	National Disaster Risk Assessment Guidelines
NT	Northern Territory

Acronyms	Definitions
NTES	Northern Territory Emergency Service
NTFES	Northern Territory Fire and Emergency Services
NTFRS	Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service
NTG	Northern Territory Government
NTPF	Northern Territory Police Force
RAT	Rapid Assessment Team
RCC	Rescue Coordination Centre
SEWS	Standard Emergency Warning Signal
SITREP	Situation Report
STAND	Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters
TDO	Territory Duty Officer
TEMC	Territory Emergency Management Council
WARC	West Arnhem Regional Council
WebEOC	Web-Based Emergency Operations Centre