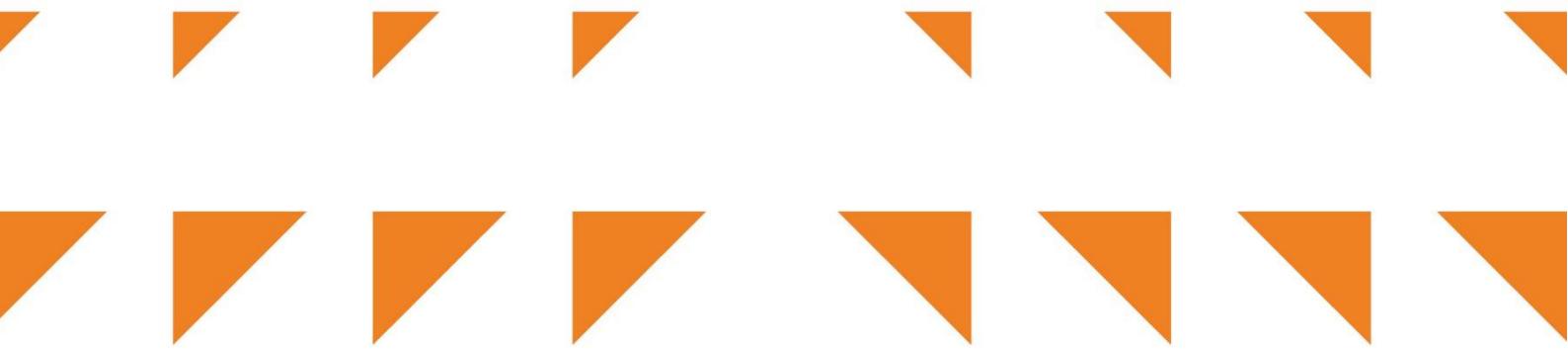




Minyerri

Local Emergency Plan



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1. Document control

1.1. Governance

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1.2. Version history

Date	Version	Author	Summary of changes
16/11/2014	1	John McRoberts	First version
27/10/2015	2	Reece Kershaw	Reviewed and updated
30/12/2016	3	Kate Vanderlaan	Reviewed and updated
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28/11/2018	5	Travis Wurst	Reviewed and endorsed by the Regional Controller, as the Territory Controller's delegate
20/01/2020	6	Michael Hebb	Reviewed and endorsed by the Regional Controller, as the Territory Controller's delegate
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13/06/2024	10	Matthew Hollamby	Reviewed and endorsed by the Regional Controller, as the Territory Controller's delegate
11/03/2025	11	Peter Malley	Reviewed and endorsed by the Regional Controller, as the Territory Controller's delegate
06/01/2026	12	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.

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 Minyerri 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 covers approximately 37,370 square kilometres (km) and is located approximately 270 km south-east of Katherine and forms part of the Northern Region, as defined by the Territory Emergency Plan.

Minyerri is located across 2 land tenures, the Alawa Aboriginal Land Trust for the northern portion of the community and a community living area for the southern portion.

Bushtel ID	Locality	Aliases	Approx. population
624	Minyerri	Hodgson Downs, Miniyerre, Minyere, Minyeri & Minyerre	763
Bushtel ID	Homelands	Aliases	Approx. population
685	Flicks Hole	Flicks Waterhole and Wunoorill Assoc	not recorded
1017	Kewulyi	Roper Valley Homestead	14

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.

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: [BushTel - Remote Communities of the NT](#)



4.1. Climate and weather

The Locality is situated in the Big Rivers and experiences weather conditions typical to those of the region. There is a distinct Wet Season (October to April) and Dry Season (May to September).

4.2. Geography

The Locality ranges from relatively flat black soil plains to hilly outcrops rising to 190 metres (m). The Locality is drained by a number of rivers and creeks, the main being:

- Dalgese Creek – South of Minyerri
- Hodgson River - will have an effect on Hodgson River Road
- Roper River – will affect the Roper Highway at various locations

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

There are no sites of conservation in the Locality, for further information about conservation sites, contact the Department of Lands, Planning and Environment (DLPE).

4.5. NT and local government

This Locality sits within the Big Rivers region, with the following NT Government (NTG) agencies that have a presence in the Locality:

- NTPF (serviced from Ngukurr)
- Department of Education and Training (DET)
 - Minyerri School
- Department of Health (DOH)
 - Minyerri Sunrise Health Clinic

Alawa Aboriginal Corporation deliver all local government services in Minyerri, with Roper Gulf Regional Council (RGRC) providing limited services to Kewuylı outstation.

4.6. Building codes

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

4.7. Land Use

The Northern Land Council (NLC) represent the Traditional Owners of the Alawa and Alawa 1 Aboriginal Land Trust.

The Locality has the following land usage:

- air strip
- cemetery
- pastoral
- residential
- sewerage ponds
- waste management

The following pastoral estates are in the Locality:

- Nutwood Downs
- Hodgson River
- Flying Fox
- Lonesome Dove
- Big River
- Mount McMinn
- Namul-Namul

4.8. Homelands

Homelands (outstations) 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, which are excised from a pastoral lease and invested in a recipient as freehold, 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 NTG leasing or part of the NT's remote public housing system.

The homeland service provider for this Locality is RGRC, which is funded to service 5 dwellings at Kewulyi. Homeland service providers are engaged to 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.

4.9. Power generation and distribution

Power to Minyerri is serviced by stand alone, diesel power stations. This is contracted out from the Power and Water Corporation (PAWC) to AA Essentials. A solar farm has been established to supplement power generation.

4.10. Water services

Minyerri operates reticulated water and sewer systems, with the water is sourced from bores. AA Essentials is the PAWC agent in Minyerri and employs an Essential Services Officer (ESO).

4.11. Health infrastructure

The Minyerri Clinic which is operated by Sunrise Health Service, has the capacity to provide emergency medical aid in addition to routine health treatment. Serious medical cases are required to be medically evacuated to Katherine or Darwin.

4.12. Medically vulnerable clients

A list of all vulnerable medical clients is held with the manager of the Sunrise Health Clinic within the Locality. Aged residents are assisted by Alawa Aged Care.

4.13. Emergency service infrastructure

The Locality has the following emergency service infrastructure:

- Minyerri Police Station (serviced from Ngukurr)
- Minyerri Health Clinic

4.14. Roads

Roads within the Locality are all subject to inundation at various creek/river crossings and low-lying areas during the Wet Season.

The Roper Highway joins the Stuart Highway 7 km south of Mataranka. The road is a single lane and sealed for approximately 110 km to the Hodgson River Road turnoff, which is majority unsealed for the remaining 42 km to Minyerri.

4.15. 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
Minyerri	15°13' 15.53"S 134°4'38.06"E	Non-Certified	Sealed 1000 m x 18 m	Alawa Aboriginal Corporation

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 services⁴.

4.16. Telecommunication

Telecommunications are available across Minyerri via a combination of landline, mobile and satellite communications delivery. Across the remainder of the Locality, satellite communications are the only applicable service.

4.1. 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 are no STAND sites within this Locality.

4.17. Local radio stations

Whilst there are no live radio broadcasts in this Locality, communication for radio and television into homes and businesses is available via The VAST Satellite Service on a platform that First Nations Radio National broadcasts – Channel 913.

Minyerri School has a PA system that can be used to broadcast messages out to the community.

⁴ More information can be found at: <https://www.casa.gov.au/operations-safety-and-travel/aerodromes>

5. Prevention

5.1. Emergency risk assessments

The Minyerri 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:

- air crash
- bushfire (within Fire Protection and Management Zones)
- flooding
- hazardous material
- heatwave
- human disease
- major power outage

Hazard	Overall consequence	Overall likelihood	Risk rating
Air crash	Moderate	Very Rare	Low
Bushfire (within Fire Protection and Management Zones)	Minor	Unlikely	Low
Flooding	Minor	Likely	Medium
Hazardous material	Moderate	Very Rare	Low
Heatwave	Insignificant	Likely	Low
Human disease	Moderate	Very Rare	Low
Major power outage	Insignificant	Likely	Low

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 plans⁵ 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:

- NT Fire and Rescue Service (NTFRS) Smart Sparx Program
- NTES hazard briefings
- NTES Paddy Program
- Australian Red Cross Pillowcase Program
- St John Ambulance First Aid in Schools 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

⁵ More information can be found at: <https://pfes.nt.gov.au/emergency-service/publications>

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
- 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) has appointed a Local Emergency Controller (Local Controller). The Local Controller for the locality is the Officer In Charge of the Minyerri 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 Minyerri Local Emergency Committee (LEC). The Local Controller Ngukurr is Chair of the LEC and remaining membership consists of representatives from NT Government 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 the Local Controller 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 Minyerri 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.

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:

- television news broadcast
- SecureNT website and social media broadcasts and updates

Official warnings are issued by the Bureau of Meteorology (the Bureau), Geoscience Australia, NTPF and 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 Plan.

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)⁶ 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 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.

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

7.14. Emergency shelters and strong buildings

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

There are no recognised emergency shelters within the Locality.

The Alawa Corporation Office and school are the most structurally sound buildings in the community, without actually being certified as shelters. The DET in conjunction with NTPF 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 cyclone 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 PA (Public Address) system via Minyerri School and social media, and will include emergency shelter rules such as no pets or alcohol being permitted in shelters. It is up to the discretion of the local shelter manager if food will be provided.

7.15. Evacuation

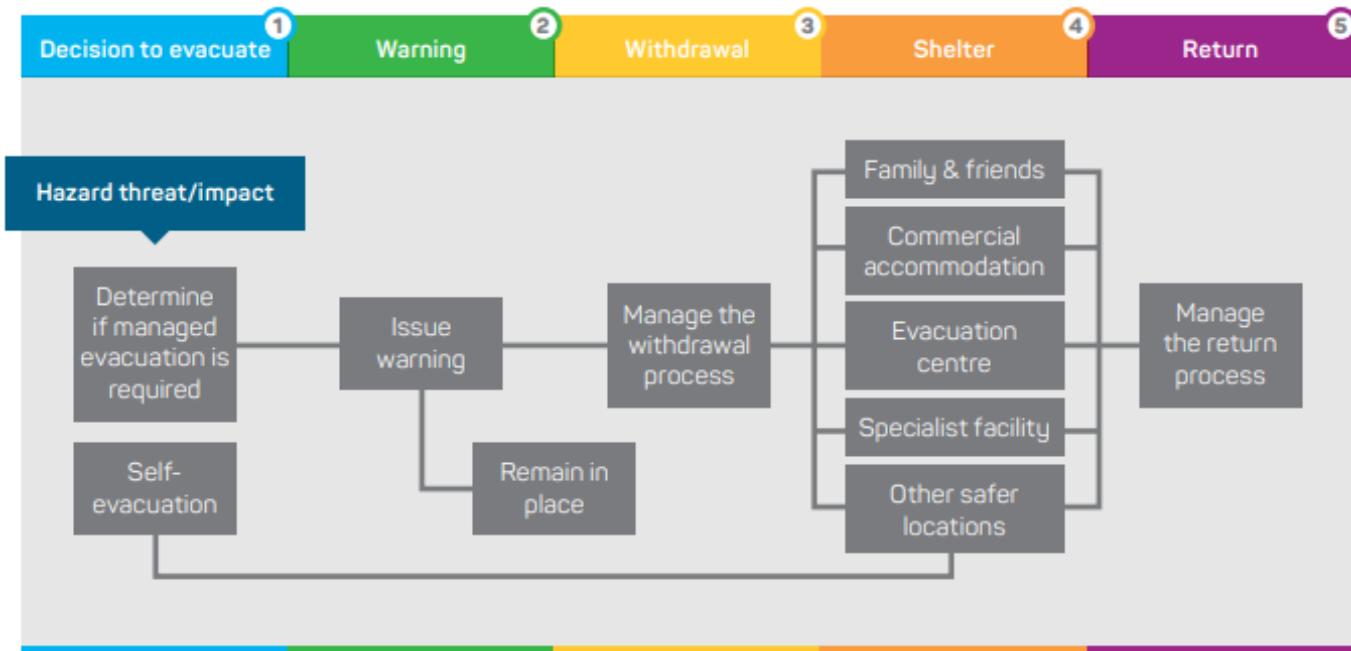
Evacuation is a risk management strategy that can be used to mitigate the effect of an emergency or disaster on a community. It involves the movement of people to a safer location and their return. The decision to evacuate a community, including establishing an evacuation centre, is not taken lightly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

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

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 management, refer to the NT Evacuation 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 the social, economic and natural environments.

In the NT, the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet (CM&C) lead recovery coordination.

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 CM&C.

The Local Recovery Coordinator will be an employee of the Big Rivers Region's CM&C office and 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 multiple 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 (IMT) member or a functional group member, those decisions should be recorded in a Decision Log (within 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	RGRC
Critical Goods and Services	Warliburru Store (The Bottom Shop)
Digital and Telecommunications	Department of Corporate and Digital Development (DCDD)
Emergency Shelter	Minyerri School
Engineering	Department of Logistics and Infrastructure (DLI)
Industry	Department of Trade, Business and Asian Relations (DTBAR)
Medical	Sunrise Health Service
Public Health	Sunrise Health Service
Public Information	CM&C
Public Utilities	ESO - Alawa Aboriginal Corporation
Transport	DLI
Survey, Rescue and Impact Assessment	NTPF
Welfare	Department of Children and Families (DCF)

Full details on 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	Alawa Aboriginal Corporation (AAC)/NTPF/DAF/pastoralists
Anti-looting protection	NTPF
Banking services	Traditional Credit Union (TCU)
Broadcasting: What radio stations provide announcements?	No live broadcast)/PA announcements via Minyerri School
Clearing of essential traffic routes	DLI
Clearing storm water drains	Akron/DLI
Clothing and household items	Hodgson Downs Store/Warliburru Store
Community clean up	Alawa Aboriginal Corporation/individual property owners
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 	Warliburru Store (The Bottom Shop)/Alawa Aboriginal Corporation
Damaged public buildings: Coordination and inspections	DLI/Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development (DHLGCD)
Disaster victim identification capability	NTPF
Emergency Alert	NTPF/NTFES
Emergency food distribution	Alawa Aboriginal Corporation/Warliburru Store (The Bottom Shop)
WebEOC	NTPF/NTFES
Emergency shelter. Staff, operations and control	Alawa Aboriginal Corporation/DET/Shelter owners
Evacuation centre - Staffing, operations and control	DCF
Financial relief/assistance	CM&C/DCF (Category A measures to individuals)/DTBAR (Category B measures)
Identification of suitable buildings for shelters	DLI/DET
Interpreter services	Aboriginal Interpreter Service
Management of expenditure in emergencies	Controlling authority and any activated functional groups at the direction of the controlling authority

Functions	Agency /organisation/provider responsible
Medical services	Sunrise Health Service
Network communications (IT): Responders /public maintenance and restoration of emergency communication	Telstra Network on satellite/DCDD
Power: Protection and restoration:	PAWC
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 and food safety • disease control 	Sunrise Health Service/DOH
Rapid impact assessment	NTPF
Recovery coordination	CM&C
Repatriation	As per local arrangements
Restoration of public buildings	DLI/DHLGCD
Restoration of roads and bridges (council/territory) excluding railways	DLI
Road management and traffic control including public information on road closures	DLI
Sewerage: Protection and restoration	PAWC
Survey	NTPF
Traffic control	NTPF/DLI
Transport: Commercial and public airport/ planes, automobiles, buses	DLI/Alawa Aboriginal Corporation
Vulnerable groups (medical)	Sunrise Health Service/Alawa Aboriginal Corporation
Waste management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • collection • disposal of stock 	Alawa Aboriginal Corporation
Water (including drinking water): Protection and restoration	PAWC

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

11.3.1. Flooding

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

The Locality may be subject to isolation caused by seasonal monsoonal/severe storm activity. When such isolation occurs, access by road will be restricted. 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.

A flood hazard includes a flood threat to the community, housing and infrastructure of the Locality including the surrounding areas. The Bureau will issue a Flood Watch advice with up to 4 days lead time in situations where forecast rainfall and catchment conditions may lead to flooding.

Floodplain maps have been developed for populated areas which lie along river reaches that have the potential to flood. Floodplain maps show the depth and extent of inundation caused when rivers rise above their banks⁷.

Minyerri community is prone to isolation with extreme falls in the catchments of the Roper River.

Impact categories	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.

Should flooding occur, it may not be possible to access the community by road. It is difficult to assess when and to what extent flooding will affect the Minyerri community throughout any given Wet Season.

Although some warning may be possible due to computation of data collected from the Bureau, a flood event may occur with little warning.

As the Hazard Management Authority the NTES have established, equipped and trained volunteer units within the NT, to support response and recovery operations to flood events.

⁷ More information can be found at: <https://nt.gov.au/environment/water/water-in-the-nt/flooding-and-storm-surge/floodplain>

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

- ensure food stocks are maintained at Community Store
- ensure fuel supplies are adequate for such an event
- ensure powerhouse fuel supplies are adequate

Public safety message process:

- the Bureau issues a flood advice to NTES TDO
- NTES TDO issues Australian Warning System to the NTFES Media Unit
- NTES TDO notifies Local Controller and NTES Manager Northern
- Local Controller notifies LEC
- NTES Manager Northern consults with the Bureau and Incident Controller to determine recommended messaging
- NTFES Media Unit or Public Information Officer 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'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 – Flooding (isolation) – guide only⁸

Organisation/ Provider	Flood Watch	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 Activate Local Emergency Plan	SITREP is to be circulated to committee members and key stakeholders Ensure all necessary procedures have been updated

⁸ Action stages as per Flood products issued by the Bureau of Meteorology

11.4. Annex D: Summary of response and recovery activities

The following tables list 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	Road clearance teams General public Media reports Survey and rescue teams Impact assessment teams	Contributes to recovery planning through impact assessment data Comprehensive Impact Assessments Needs Assessment
2. Public Information	Public Information Group activation Spokespersons identified SecureNT activated	Continues in recovery
3. Survey and Rescue	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	Survey and Impact Assessment data used to contribute to the Recovery Action Plan
4. Road clearance	Road patrol teams deploy and check assigned routes Road clearance to priority sites	Restoration of road networks and bridges Return to business as usual
5. Emergency accommodation	Emergency accommodation and shelter - evacuation centres	Evacuation centres may continue into recovery Temporary accommodation options Repatriation planning

Activity	Response activities	Recovery activities
	<p>Provision of resources that will enable people to remain in their homes</p> <p>Emergency clothing</p>	
<p>6. Medical</p>	<p>Hospital</p> <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 <p>Health Centres</p> <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 <p>GP clinics and pharmacies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - identify operational GP services - identify operational pharmacies <p>Support medically vulnerable people</p> <p>Medical retrieval services (air and road)</p>	<p>Ongoing provision of health services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - which may include business continuity plans - engagement with stakeholders <p>Repatriation of medically vulnerable people in community</p> <p>GP clinics and pharmacies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ongoing liaison by Medical Group <p>Medical retrieval services – resume business as usual</p>
<p>7. Essential goods and services</p>	<p>Establish emergency feeding and food distribution points</p> <p>Assessing the damage to suppliers and retailers of critical resources</p> <p>Assess the impact on barge operations and any effect on the ability to supply remote communities</p> <p>Implement interim banking arrangements</p>	<p>Ensure enablers are in place to support the re-opening of essential services</p> <p>Monitor levels and availability of essential goods</p> <p>Manage logistics arrangements supplying resources to outlying communities</p> <p>Public health inspections (food outlets)</p> <p>Banking sector business continuity arrangements</p>
	<p><u>Fuel</u></p> <p>Fuel suppliers and point of sale</p>	<p>Monitor fuel levels</p> <p>Infrastructure repairs</p>

Activity	Response activities	Recovery activities
	Manage fuel supplies to emergency power generation	Emergency fuel supplies for recovery Liaise with fuel suppliers, distributors and wholesalers to re-establish long term supply
	<u>Banking</u> Assess damage to banks and ATMs Implement temporary arrangements	Emergency cash outlets Implement long term arrangements
8. Evacuation	Evacuations within community Evacuation out of community Registration	Support services for evacuees Recovery information for evacuees Repatriation
9. Public health	Communicable disease control response Drinking water safety standards Sewage and waste disposal Safe food distribution and advice Vector and vermin control Food and commercial premises	Ongoing in recovery
10. Utilities	Power supply Power generation Water supply Sewerage Emergency sanitation	Restore power network Restore water and sewerage infrastructure Issue alerts until safe to use
11. Impact assessments	Training assessment teams Initial impact assessments	Comprehensive impact assessments Ongoing needs assessments
12. Transport infrastructure (supply lines)	<u>Air (airport/airstrip)</u> Clear the runway to allow air movements Establish a logistics hub at the airport Terminal damage and operational capability assessment	Monitor repairs and business continuity activities
	<u>Road</u> Highway and critical access roads damage assessment Repair work to commence immediately	Planning and prioritising repair work of all affected key roads for the Locality (Roper Highway)

Activity	Response activities	Recovery activities
	<u>Rail</u> Rail damage assessment Outage estimation	Ongoing liaison with operator to support restoration to business as usual
13. Waste management	Waste management requirements and develop waste management plan if required	Continues in recovery
14. Repairs and reconstruction	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 	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 of enabling infrastructure - support DRFA payment facilitation where eligible Temporary accommodation for a visiting construction workforce if necessary or suitable accommodation is unavailable
15. Transport services	Staged re-establishment of public transport services	Continues in recovery
16. Telecommunication	Telstra and Optus will assess the damage to their infrastructure Put in place temporary measures to enable landline and mobile services	Repair damage networks and infrastructure (for private entities there is support for operators only)
17. Public safety	NTPF will maintain normal policing services to the community	Gradual return to business as usual
18. Animal welfare	Temporary emergency arrangements for pets	Reunite pets with their owners and cease emergency support arrangements
19. Community consultation	Information provision regarding the overall situation, response efforts, what services are available and how to access them	Community consultation process regarding long term recovery and community development led by relevant departments

12. Acronyms

Acronyms	Definitions
AAPA	Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority
ABC	Australian Broadcasting Corporation
AIIMS	Australasian Inter-Service Incident Management System
BFNT	Bushfires NT
CM&C	Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet
DAF	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
DCF	Department of Children and Families
DCDD	Department of Corporate and Digital Development
DLI	Department of Logistics and Infrastructure
DLPE	Department of Lands, Planning and Environment
DTBAR	Department of Trade, Business, and Asian Relations
DHLGCD	Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development
DET	Department of Education and Training
DOH	Department of Health
DRFA	Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements
EOC	Emergency Operations Centre
ERA	Emergency Response Area
ESO	Essential Services Operators
FERG	Fire and Emergency Response Group
ICC	Incident Control Centre
ICP	Incident Control Point
IMT	Incident Management Team
JESCC	Joint Emergency Services Communications Centre
LCC	Local Coordination Centre

Acronyms	Definitions
LEC	Local Emergency Committee
LRCC	Local Recovery Coordination Committee
NERAG	National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines
NT	Northern Territory
NTES	Northern Territory Emergency Service
NTFRS	Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service
NTG	Northern Territory Government
NTPF	Northern Territory Police Force
NTFES	Northern Territory Fire and Emergency Services
PAWC	Power and Water Corporation
PPRR	Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery
RAT	Rapid Assessment Team
RCC	Rescue Coordination Centre
SEWS	Standard Emergency Warning Signal
SITREP	Situation Report
TDO	Territory Duty Officer
TEMC	Territory Emergency Management Council
WebEOC	Web-Based Emergency Operations Centre