

A collection of abstract orange shapes, including a large ring-like shape on the left, several solid circles of varying sizes, and a thin orange line forming a loop with a small circle at its base.

Avon Downs & Alpururulam Local Emergency Plan



**Northern Territory
Emergency Service**

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1. Document control

1.1. Governance

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Document title | Avon Downs and Alpururulam Local Emergency Plan |
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1.2. Version history

| Date | Version | Author | Summary of changes |
|------------|---------|----------------|--|
| 12/12/2014 | 1 | John McRoberts | First version |
| 04/11/2015 | 2 | Reece Kershaw | Reviewed and updated |
| 30/11/2018 | 3 | Narelle Beer | Reviewed and endorsed by the Regional Controller, as the Territory Controller's delegate |
| 09/12/2019 | 4 | Narelle Beer | Reviewed and endorsed by the Regional Controller, as the Territory Controller's delegate |
| 09/11/2020 | 5 | Narelle Beer | Reviewed and endorsed by the Regional Controller, as the Territory Controller's delegate |
| 21/01/2022 | 6 | Craig Laidler | Reviewed and endorsed by the Regional Controller, as the Territory Controller's delegate |
| 29/05/2023 | 7 | Martin Dole | Reviewed and endorsed by the Regional Controller, as the Territory Controller's delegate |
| 08/08/2024 | 8 | Peter Kennon | 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 Service (NTFES) and the Northern Territory Police (NTP) 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 Avon Downs and Alpururulam Locality (the Locality).

3.2. Application

This Plan applies to the Avon Downs and Alpururulam 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.

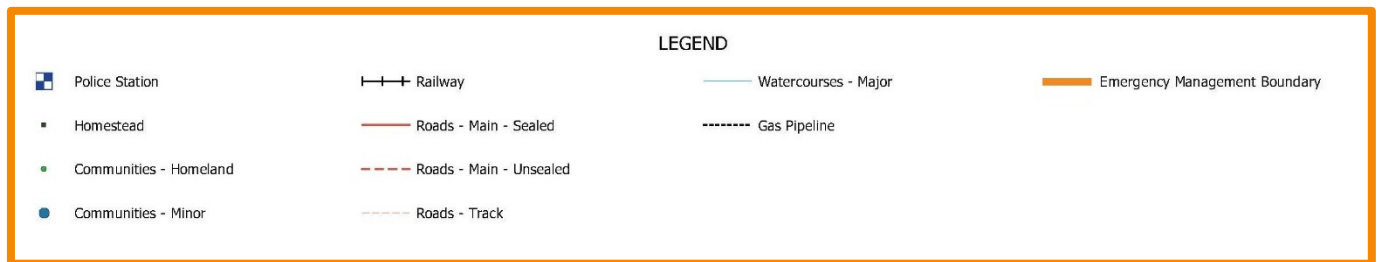
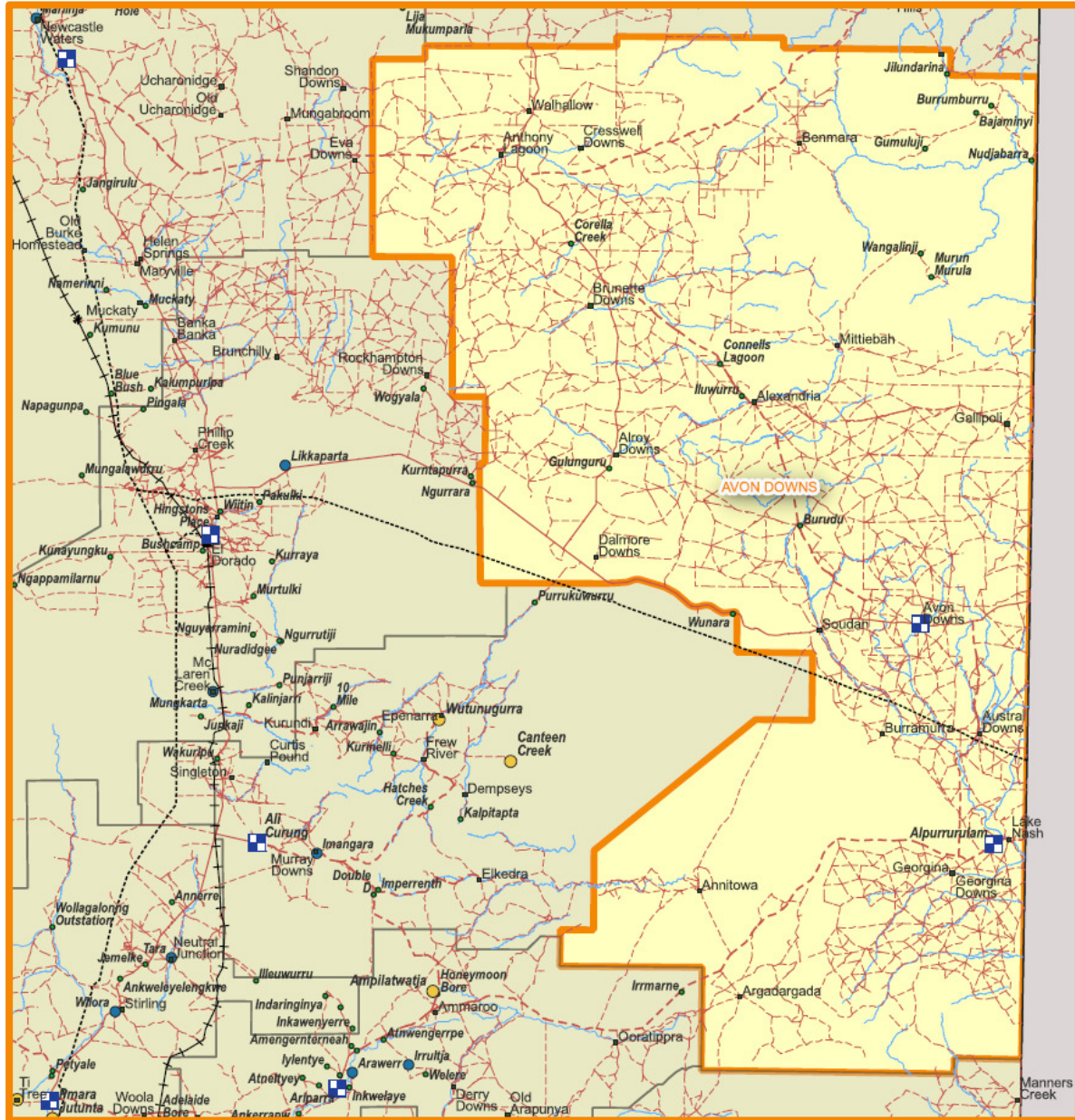
This Plan:

- confirms appointment of a Local Emergency Controller
- confirms establishment of the Local Emergency Committee (LEC)
- 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 Southern 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 116,000 square kilometres (km) and is located east of Tennant Creek along the Queensland border. The Locality is within the Southern Region, as defined by the Territory Emergency Plan.

The population of the Locality is approximately 800, with the main population centre of Alpururulam having approximately 400 residents.



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>

4.1. Climate and weather

The Locality experiences a broad variety of weather typical to Central Australia arid desert weather with high summer day time and low winter night time temperatures. The average annual rainfall is approximately 277 millimetres.

4.2. Geography

The general topography of the Locality consists of relatively flat grasslands with sparse areas of low scrub. This is broken by the Carrara Ranges and the river systems, which are usually dry and subject to flooding on an infrequent basis.

The Locality is drained by a number of rivers and creeks. Of note, these are:

- James River
- Georgina River
- Rankin River
- Happy Creek
- Bybby Creek

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 Northern Territory.

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 Elkedra River Floodout Swamps are sites of conservation significance to the Avon Downs and Alpururulam Locality. For further information about these sites contact the Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security³ (DEPWS).

4.5. Tourism

Avon Downs is situated on the Barkly Highway. The Barkly Highway is a national highway of both Queensland and the NT. It is the only sealed road between Queensland and the NT and forms a major route for travellers, resources and food supply.

4.6. NT and local government

In March 2019, NT Government (NTG) implemented 6 regional boundaries across the NT to strengthen the role of the Regional Network Group and align service delivery and reporting. This Locality sits within the Barkly Boundary.

³ More information can be found at: <https://nt.gov.au/environment/environment-data-maps/important-biodiversity-conservation-sites/conservation-significance-list>

NTG agencies that have a presence in the Locality include:

- NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services (NTPES)
 - NT Police (NTP), Avon Downs Police Station
 - NTP Alpururulam Police Station (unmanned)
- Department of Health (DoH)
 - Alpururulam (Lake Nash) health centre
- Department of Education (DoE)
 - Alpururulam School

Avon Downs and Alpururulam are located within the Barkly Regional Council (BRC). While council headquarters is located in Tennant Creek, there is a service delivery centre located in Alpururulam.

4.7. Building codes

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

4.8. Land use

Avon Downs and Alpururulam has the following land usage:

- pastoral
- residential
- freehold
- parks/reserves
- Indigenous protected areas

4.9. 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 AUS Projects NT. 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.

4.10. Power generation and distribution

Alpururulam has 4 power generators which adequately cover the daily needs of the community as well as their infrastructure. Solar and wind generation supplements the power generation.

4.11. Water services

Water in Avon Downs and Alpururulam is supplied from ground water. The Power and Water Corporation (PAWC) is responsible for supplying the community with water sourced through bores and stored in tanks.

Water infrastructure in the Locality include:

- 4 x production bores
- 2 x 49 kilolitre (kl) elevated tanks
- 1 x 304 kl ground tank
- 1 x 120 kl ground tank

4.12. Health infrastructure

There is one health centre in the Locality situated in Alpururulam. The Alpururulam (Lake Nash) Health Centre has a doctor that attends the centre when availability allows. Serious medical cases are required to be evacuated to Tennant Creek or Mount Isa. Patients can be evacuated either via road or air.

4.1. Medically vulnerable clients

The Alpururulam (Lake Nash) Health Centre has a list of medically vulnerable clients and is updated regularly. There are no aged care facilities in the Avon Downs and Alpururulam Locality, but the local BRC provides services for aged care residents.

4.2. Emergency service infrastructure

The Locality has the following emergency service infrastructure:

- Avon Downs Police Station and cells
- Avon Downs Police Station has a NT Emergency Service (NTES) emergency response cache with road crash rescue trailer
- Alpururulam Police Station (unmanned)

4.3. Roads

The main roads in the Locality are: Barkly Highway; Tablelands Highway; Carpentaria Highway; and Sandover Highway. During periods of heavy rain all unsealed roads, including the Sandover Highway, often become impassable.

4.4. Airports

The table below lists the registered/certified airstrips within the Locality. All airstrips are subject to closure with low cloud cover, which may impact on the initial emergency response capability.

| Name of the Strip | Datum | Details (type, length, etc.) | Operator of the strip |
|---------------------|---|--|---|
| YALP Alpururulam | Lat 20° 59' 5.07"S Long 137° 49' 56.84" | sealed 1200 metres (m) long 22m wide solar lighting | Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (DIPL) |
| YLKN Lake Nash | Lat 20° 58' 50.46"S Long 137° 55' 8.25"E | dirt 1 km long lighting flares | Georgina Pastoral, Lake Nash |

| Name of the Strip | Datum | Details (type, length, etc.) | Operator of the strip |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|---|
| YAUS Austral Downs Stn | Lat 20° 29' 34.63"S Long 137° 45' 58.45"E | dirt 1.2 km long lighting headlights | |
| YALX Alexandria | Lat 19° 3' 44.96"S Long 136° 42' 58.37"E | dirt 1 km long lighting headlights | |
| YBKS Barkly Wayside Inn | Lat 19° 42' 13.84"S Long 135° 48' 55.7"E | gravel/bitumen 1.2 km long avgas available solar lighting | Barkly Homestead |
| YALD Alroy Downs | Lat 19° 17' 26.89"S Long 136° 4' 46.93"E | dirt 900 m long lighting headlights avgas available | |
| YANL Anthony Lagoon | Lat 18° 1' 15.54"S Long 135° 32' 28.33"E | dirt 1.6 km long lighting headlights avgas available | Australian Agricultural – Anthony Lagoon |
| YBRU Brunette Downs | Lat 18° 38' 3.45"S Long 135° 56' 18.94"E | dirt 2 x strips 1 km and 1.2 km long avgas available lighting flares | Australian Agricultural – Brunette Downs |
| YAVD Avon Downs | Lat 20° 2' 13.53" S Long 137° 31' 14.3" E | dirt 1.2 km long 80 m wide | |

4.5. Telecommunication

Telecommunications are available across the Avon Downs and Alpururulam town area via a combination of landline, mobile and satellite communications delivery. Mobile phone coverage has an approximate radius of 30 km around the Barkly Homestead and Arlpururulam with no other coverage until Tennant Creek to the west and across the Queensland border at Camooweal to the east.

4.6. Local radio stations

The Locality has the following radio station broadcasting in the area:

- 102.1 FM Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association (CAAMA)

5. Prevention

5.1. Emergency risk assessments

The Avon Downs and Alpururulam LEC is responsible for undertaking appropriate activities to prevent and mitigate the impact of emergencies in its Locality.

5.2. Disaster hazard analysis and risk register

The LEC has identified the following hazards for the Locality:

- air crash
- flood
- hazardous material
- road crash

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

| Hazard | Overall Consequence | Overall Likelihood | Risk Rating |
|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Air crash | Minor | Unlikely | Low |
| Flood | Minor | Likely | Medium |
| Hazardous material | Minor | Likely | Medium |
| Road crash | Minor | Almost certain | Medium |

5.3. Hazard specific prevention and mitigation strategies

Prevention and mitigation relate to measures that 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 the hazards identified in emergency risk planning and how those hazards can impact all aspects of the community.

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 and recovery

NT emergency plans⁴ are required by the Act and are maintained at a Territory, regional and local level. Arrangements in the plans aim to be flexible and scalable for all hazards. The planning process enables agreements to be reached between people and organisations in meeting community 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 LEC is responsible for the annual review of operations and the effectiveness of the Local Emergency Plan, supported by the NTES Planning and Preparedness Command.

6.2. Emergency resources and contacts

The LEC is responsible for maintaining the emergency resource register and LEC contact list. 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 list 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.

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
- St Johns 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 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

⁴ More information can be found at: <https://pfes.nt.gov.au/emergency-service/publications>

- major changes 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.

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. 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 the resources of the community are depleted a number of arrangements are in place for assistance from the region, the Territory and/or the Australian Government. Pathway for assistance is through the Regional Controller.

7.2. 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 Avon Downs 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.

7.3. Local Emergency Committee

In accordance with section 80 of the Act, the Territory Controller has established an Avon Downs and Alpuururulam LEC. The Local Controller 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.

7.4. 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 will be 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 Avon Downs Police Station. The Regional EOC will be located in Alice Springs at the NTES Damien Clifton 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.

7.5. WebEOC

WebEOC is a critical information management system used throughout the NT for emergency management activities. The system is owned and maintained by NTPES. 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.

7.6. 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.

7.7. 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.

7.8. 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
- Southern Regional Controller
- NTES Territory Duty Officer (TDO)

7.9. Official warnings and general public information

Official warnings and general public information may 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), NTPES 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
- Director, 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
- Director, 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)⁵ 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 (TEMCO). 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, DoE.

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 TEMCO. 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 TEMCO.

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. Emergency shelters or 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.

The recognised emergency shelters within the Locality are:

| Shelter(s) | People capacity |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| BRC The Shiny Shed Youth Hub | 50 |
| BRC Alpururulam Community Centre | 20 |

The DoE in conjunction with the NTP and 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 NTP

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

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

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 to the discretion of the local shelter manager if food will be provided.

7.14. 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.

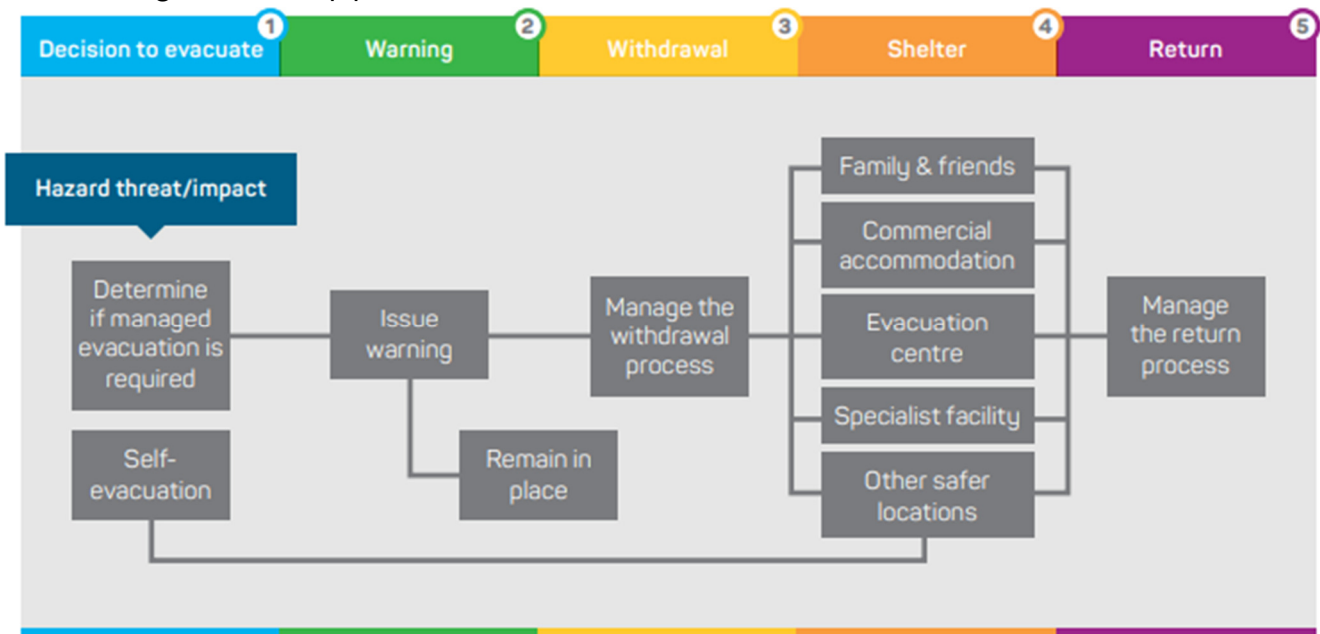
Evacuation of the Locality will be considered as a last resort. Where an evacuation is required the TEMC, in consultation with the Regional Controller, Local Controller and the LEC, will arrange emergency accommodation and transport, as necessary, through the relevant functional group/s.

An evacuation guideline for the Locality can be found at **Annex D**.

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.

7.15. 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's provision of some or all of these services is 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 Field Guide available on WebEOC.

7.16. Register.Find.Reunite registration and inquiry system

Australian Red Cross, in partnership with the Australian Government Attorney-General's Department, has developed an improved system to help reunite families, friends and loved ones separated by an emergency. This system is called Register.Find.Reunite⁶.

This system can be initiated by either the Territory or Regional Controller without the national system being activated. Any activation of this system should occur in consultation with the Welfare Group in the first instance.

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 NTP/NTFES, is responsible for coordinating rapid impact assessments. At the local level, Local Controllers should contact the Survey, Rescue and Impact Assessment Group lead to discuss impact assessments if deemed appropriate.

⁶ More information can be found at: <https://register.redcross.org.au/>

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.

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 E**.

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 (IMT) 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*
- National Disaster Risk Assessment Guidelines
- National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework
- *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989*
- *NT Emergency Management Act 2013*
- Rapid Assessment Team Guidelines
- Southern Regional Emergency Plan
- 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 Evacuation guideline

Annex E Summary of response and recovery activities

11.1. Annex A: Functional groups roles and responsibilities

| Functional Group | Local Contact |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Animal Welfare | Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade (DITT)/BRC |
| Critical Goods and Services | DITT/Warte Alparayetye Aboriginal Community Store/Roadhouse |
| Digital and Telecommunications | Department of Corporate and Digital Development (DCDD) |
| Emergency Shelter | DoE/BRC |
| Engineering | DIPL |
| Industry | DITT |
| Medical | Alpurrurulam (Lake Nash) Health Centre |
| Public Health | Alpurrurulam (Lake Nash) Health Centre |
| Public Information | CM&C |
| Public Utilities | PAWC |
| Survey, Rescue and Impact Assessment | NTP/NTFES |
| Transport | DIPL/BRC |
| Welfare | Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities (TFHC) |

Full details on functional groups 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 | BRC/DITT |
| Anti-looting protection | NTP |
| Banking services | BRC Alpururulam Service Centre |
| Broadcasting: what radio stations provide announcements? | CAAMA radio |
| Clearing of essential traffic routes | BRC |
| Clearing storm water drains | BRC |
| Clothing and household Items | TFHC/Warte Alparayetye Aboriginal Community Store |
| Community clean up | BRC |
| Control, coordination and management | Designated Control Authority |
| Coordination to evacuate public | NTP |
| Critical goods and services (protect/resupply) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • food • bottle gas • camping equipment • building supplies | DIPL/TFHC/ Warte Alparayetye Aboriginal Community Store |
| Damaged public buildings: coordination and inspections | DIPL |
| Disaster victim identification capability | NTP |
| Emergency Alerts | NTP/NTFES/BFNT |
| Emergency food distribution | Community Care/Warte Alparayetye Aboriginal Community Store/BRC/TFHC |
| EOC including WebEOC | NTP/NTFES |
| Emergency shelter, staff, operations and control | DoE/BRC |
| Evacuation centre - staffing, operations and control | TFHC |

| Functions | Agency/organisation/provider responsible |
|---|---|
| Financial relief/assistance Payments of NDRRA (National Disaster Relief and Recovery Assistance) | CM&C |
| Identification of suitable buildings for shelters | DIPL/DoE |
| 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 | DoH/Alpurrurulam (Lake Nash) Community Health Centre |
| Network communications (IT): responders/public maintenance and restoration of emergency communication | DCDD |
| Personal support | Alpurrurulam (Lake Nash) Community Health Centre/TFHC/BRC |
| Power: protection and restoration: | PAWC/BRC |
| 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/Alpurrurulam (Lake Nash) Community Health Centre |
| Rapid Impact Assessment | NTP/NTFES |
| Recovery coordination | DCMC |
| Repatriation | CM&C/TFHC |
| Restoration of public buildings | DIPL |
| Restoration of roads and bridges (council/territory) excluding railways | DIPL/BRC |
| Road management and traffic control including public Information on road closures | DIPL/BRC/NTP |
| Sewerage: protection and restoration | PAWC/BRC |
| Survey | NTP/NTFES |
| Traffic control | NTP/DIPL |

| Functions | Agency/organisation/provider responsible |
|--|--|
| Transport: commercial and public airport/ planes, automobiles, buses | DIPL/BRC |
| Vulnerable groups | DoH/Alpurrurulam (Lake Nash) Community Health Centre/ TFHC |
| Waste management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • collection • disposal of stock | BRC |
| Water (including drinking water): protection and restoration | PAWC |

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

11.3.1. Air crash

| | Hazard-specific capabilities | Controlling Authority | Hazard Management Authority |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
|  | Air Crash | NT Police | NT Fire and Rescue Service |

Air crash means an occurrence associated with the operation of an aircraft which takes place between the time any person boards the aircraft with the intention of flight and all such persons have disembarked, and in which any person suffers death or serious injury, or in which the aircraft receives substantial damage.

Aircraft movements across the NT include commercial air transport and general aviation. Personnel involved with aircraft accidents are advised to obtain and read a copy of the Australian Transport Safety Bureau Civil and Military Aircraft Accident Procedures for Police Officers and Emergency Services personnel⁷.

In the NT, Airservices Australia supplies an “on airport” Aviation Rescue and Fire Fighting Service (ARFFS) at Darwin, Alice Springs and Yulara Airports. The NTFRS will assist ARFFS at these Airports.

Under the National Search and Rescue (SAR) Plan, responding to an aviation disaster that involves an unregistered aircraft, or an aircraft registered in another jurisdiction, is the responsibility of the state or territory in which the disaster occurred. Responses to accidents involving all other civilian (non-military) aircraft that occur outside an aerodrome precinct and within the Australian SAR Region are the Australian Maritime Safety Authority’s responsibility, in conjunction with the applicable state or territory emergency arrangements.

Responses to air crash incidents will be coordinated from the NT Joint Emergency Service Communication Centre (JESCC). NTFRS resources will respond as per the pre-determined response arrangements. These arrangements are contained within the Intergraph Computer-Aided Dispatch (ICAD) system for incidents occurring within an NTFRS Emergency Response Area (ERA). For incidents occurring outside of an ERA, response will be approved by the rostered NTFRS TDO.

Where an aircraft emergency occurs within the vicinity of a certified or registered aerodrome, the local Aerodrome Emergency Plan (AEP) details the response arrangements to the emergency. The AEP is not a publicly available document however authorised agencies can request a copy through Airservices Australia. The Australian Maritime Safety Authority, in conjunction with the applicable state or territory emergency arrangements, is responsible for coordinating the SAR phase when an aircraft is assumed to be lost, to have ditched or have crashed outside of a certified aerodrome, or a distress beacon associated with the aircraft or persons on board is detected.

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority may transfer coordination to the state or territory police services in accordance with the recovery effort as well as under national SAR arrangements.

NTFRS roles and responsibilities for an air crash on an aerodrome include:

- within an ERA where there is no "on aerodrome" fire service, or when designated in the AEP, take charge of firefighting operations
- where the ARFFS or Australian Defence Force fire service is stationed, assist that service in the firefighting operations and provide specialist firefighting equipment.

⁷ More information can be found at: www.atsb.gov.au/publications/2017/hazards-at-aviation-accident-sites/

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

- the aviation industry operates under stringent national, state and local legislation and guidelines to minimise risk to the community
- Australian Government Aviation Disaster Response Plan (AUSAVPLAN 2014)
- in accordance with the Civil Aviation Standards Authority Manual of Standards part 139 aerodromes may have an local AEP
- aerodrome maintenance
- reducing the risk of animal hazards on aerodromes
- training in PUASAR022 Participate in a Rescue Operation delivered to NTFRS members
- skills maintenance of procedures surrounding aircraft incidents developed by the Australian Transport and Safety Bureau

Public safety message process:

- NTP Territory Duty Superintendent to approve public messaging and forward to NTPES Media and Corporate Communications Unit for dissemination

11.3.2. Fire

A fire hazard is an event, accidentally or deliberately caused, which requires a response from 1 or more of the statutory fire response agencies. 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 |

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 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.

In areas where there is no gazetted fire protection zone, if the owner or occupier of land is unable to control fire on the land, the owner or occupier must notify BFNT of this fact. When fires are reported to 000, the JESCC will contact BFNT to triage the report. In these areas, firefighting response from Bushfires NT is not guaranteed as there is no established volunteer firefighting resource. BFNT may assist the owner or occupier of the land through the coordination of information and advice to assist the owner or occupier to control the fire.

This may include liaison with affected neighbouring owners or occupiers for resource support, provision of fire weather information or the issuing of public information. In some circumstances, BFNT may deploy firefighting resources from larger regional centres to assist the owner or occupier to control the fire. BFNT have a rostered NT Duty Officer (NTDO) to provide 24/7 incident triage coverage who can be contacted through the JESCC.

Actions to be taken

As described above, in areas where there is no fire protection zone (BFNT) or emergency response area (NTFRS), fire is the responsibility of the land owner or occupier. Where an owner or occupier has contacted BFNT that they are unable to control fire on the land, BFNT may contact the Local Controller to discuss local response arrangements and coordination of resources.

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




- a Fire Danger Period is declared 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. Broadly this is during the Austral summer months in central Australia and during the Dry Season further north. A permit to burn is required before 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
- 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). Permits to burn are required throughout the entire year inside an ERA or FPZ and a minimum 4m wide firebreak within the perimeter boundary of all properties and additional firebreaks around permanent structures and stationary engines is required within an FPZ
- BFNT Regional Fire Management Plan
- establishment of an Incident Management Team with liaison officers from other agencies to assist
- radio, television and social media posts

Warning and advice approval flow (bushfire only):

The Australian Warning System is a new 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 (Bushfire only):

| | 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.

11.3.3. Flood

| Hazard | Controlling Authority | Hazard Management Authority |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
|  Flood | NT Police | NT Emergency Service |

Floods in Central 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, November to April. The Avon Downs Locality may be subject to isolation caused by seasonal 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, pre-season planning by the LEC is critical to ensure there will be limited disruptions to critical goods and services.

The river systems of the region are normally dry and sandy with river flows occurring infrequently and only after heavy rainfall from the draining lands. After heavy rainfall, Happy Creek, Ranken River, James River, and Georgina River can over flow the Barkly Highway cutting off access. The source of flooding in the Alpururulam community is believed to be Bybby Creek, which is fed by the Georgina River from a high ridge and flows into the rubbish dump. These rivers cause community isolation concerns when in flood. 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 Avon Downs Locality are unsealed with the potential for rains to cause disruption to transportation. After heavy rains, the roads become saturated leading to the unsealed roads becoming slippery, muddy, water pooling on them, or sections being washed away. Rivers or water courses cutting off the roads all together making the roads impassable. These issues can cause isolation to the communities and outstations for periods of a few days to several weeks until the water drains away, roads dry out and/or road maintenance can occur.

Whilst there are no gauging stations for the Locality, the following table provides guidance for riverine flooding on NT communities. **The indicative impact of floods levels indicated in the table below:**

| Flood Classification | Consequence |
|----------------------|--|
| Minor | 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 |
| Moderate | 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 |
| Major | 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, of 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 NTFES Media Unit
- NTES TDO notifies Local Controller and NTES Manager Southern
- Local Controller notifies LEC
- NTES Manager Southern consults with the Bureau and Incident Controller to determine recommended messaging
- NTFES Media Unit or Public Information Group receives approved messaging to publish

Warnings and advice approval flow

The Australian Warning System is a new 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 Bureaus' 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 – Flood⁹

| 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 | SITREP is to be circulated to committee members and key stakeholders |

11.3.4. Hazardous material

| | Hazard | Controlling Authority | Hazard Management Authority |
|---|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
|  | Hazardous Material | NT Police | NT Fire and Rescue Service |

Hazardous material means any of the following:

1. dangerous goods as defined in the *Dangerous Goods Act 1998*
2. a hazardous chemical as defined in the *Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Regulations 2011*
3. a product or substance that has the potential to harm life, health, property or the environment

Large quantities of hazardous materials are transported daily by road to many centres throughout the NT and as a consequence any release or spillage could easily result in the loss of life, widespread disruption, danger to communities and a threat to the environment.

Responses to hazardous material incidents will be coordinated from the JESCC. NTFRS resources will be responded as per pre determine response arrangements contained within the ICAD 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:

- a person involved in the handling of dangerous goods must ensure, as far as practicable, that the goods are handled safely as described within the *Dangerous Goods Act 1998*
- a person who manufactures, imports or supplies dangerous goods must ensure, as far as practicable, that the goods are not imported into, or supplied in, the Territory in an unsafe condition as described within the *Dangerous Goods Act 1998*
- hazard labels for dangerous goods
- training in PUA FIR306 Identify, detect and monitor hazardous materials at an incident and PUA FIR308 Employ Personal Protection at a hazardous materials incident delivered to NTFRS members
- NTFRS HAZMAT and Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Hazard Management Plan

Public safety message process:

- NTFRS to send approved public messaging to NTPES Corporate Communication Unit for dissemination in consultation with the Police Territory Duty Superintendent

11.3.5. Road crash

| | Hazard | Controlling Authority | Hazard Management Authority |
|---|------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
|  | Road Crash | NT Police | 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 determined response arrangements contained within the ICAD system for incidents occurring within an NTFRS ERA. For incidents occurring outside of an ERA, response will be approved by the rostered NTFRS TDO.

The NTES have established, equipped and trained volunteer units and members, of which are capable of responding to the impact of road crash in remote communities. Initial control and coordination will be through the NTES TDO.

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

- radio, television and social media
- targeted road safety campaigns
- community engagement strategies
- Avon Downs Police have basic vehicle recovery equipment and a NTES road crash rescue trailer
- training in PUASAR024 - undertake road crash rescue delivered by NTES and NTFRS to NTPES members

Public safety message process:

- NTP Territory Duty Superintendent to approve public messaging and forward to NTPES Corporate Communications Unit for dissemination

11.4. Annex D: Evacuation guideline

The following is to be used as a guide only.

| Stage 1 - Decision | | |
|---|--|---|
| Authority | <p>The Regional Controller will authorise the activation of the evacuation plan.</p> <p>This evacuation plan is to be approved by the TEMC prior to activation.</p> | Regional Controller in conjunction with TEMC |
| Legal references | The Act and approved Local Emergency Plan. It is recommended that the Minister declares an Emergency Situation under section 18 of the Act, when this evacuation plan is activated. | |
| Alternative to evacuation? i.e. shelter in place, temporary accommodation on-site/nearby. | If needed residents will be progressively relocated within the community to <location to be determined>. | Local Controller to arrange |
| Summary of proposed evacuation | <p>Decision – made by the Regional Controller when the community have sustained damage during <to be determined> that cannot support residents in situ during recovery.</p> <p>The Local Controller to disseminate information to the community.</p> <p>Withdrawal – 3 stage process:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <location to be determined>; community to the <location to be determined>; to be registered for evacuation to <location to be determined> 2. once registered, groups to move to the airstrip assembly area using buses/vehicles 3. Red Cross to register check utilising Register Find Reunite. <p>Shelter – evacuees will be encouraged to stay with friends or family. The remainder will be accommodated at an evacuation centre <Location to be determined></p> <p>Return – to be determined once recovery can sustain return to <location to be determined>.</p> | The decision will be informed by additional advice from technical experts, e.g. the Bureau. |
| Which communities/outstations or geographical area does the evacuation apply to? | <Out stations, Homelands and homesteads> | |

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| <p>Vulnerable groups within the community</p> | <p>The Medical Group will liaise with local health staff and provide information on medically vulnerable people.</p> <p>The identified people will be evacuated <at a time to be determined>.</p> | <p>Medical Group and Transport Group to action.</p> |
| <p>Community demographics (approx. total number, family groups, cultural groups etc.)</p> | <p>For more information, refer to the Evacuation Centre Field Guide (page 20 section 4.3) which can be found in WebEOC.</p> <p>Examine the demographic breakdown of the community to be evacuated including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the total number of people being evacuated • an estimate of the number of people likely to require accommodation in the evacuation centre • a breakdown of the evacuees to be accommodated by age and gender. For example, the number of family groups and single persons, adult males and females, teenage males and females, and the number of primary school-aged children, toddlers and infants • a summary of cultural considerations, family groups, skin groups and community groups • potential issues that may arise as a result of these groups being accommodated in close proximity to one another • a summary of people with health issues, including chronic diseases, illnesses and injuries. • details of vulnerable clients (other than medically vulnerable), such as the elderly, frail and disabled (and if they are accompanied by support i.e. family members) • details of community workers also being evacuated who may be in a position to support the operation of the evacuation centre. Examples include teachers, nurses, health workers, shire staff, housing staff and police. | |
| <p>What is the nature of the hazard?</p> | <p><To be determined></p> | |
| <p>Estimated duration of the potential evacuation?</p> | <p><To be determined></p> | |

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>Triggers for the evacuation</p> | <p>Example</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. evacuation planning to commence when the Locality is under a <to be determined> 2. implement evacuation if the severity and impact has caused major damage and disruption to all services 3. elderly and vulnerable people are to be considered for evacuation due to limited health services. <p>Further details of the intra-community relocation plan are required.</p> | <p>Regional Controller</p> |
| <p>Self-evacuation</p> | <p>Where possible residents will be encouraged to self-evacuate and make their own accommodation arrangements if they wish to do so. Individuals and families taking this option will be encouraged to register prior to leaving the community.</p> | <p>Local Controller</p> |
| <p>Responsibility for the coordination Stage 1</p> | <p>Regional Controller Local Controller</p> | |
| <p>Stage 2 – Warning</p> | | |
| <p>Who has the authority to issue warnings?</p> | <p>The Bureau will issue advice and warnings. All further public information will be approved by the Regional Controller in consultation with the Public Information Group and NTES.</p> <p>The Local Controller will coordinate the dissemination of community level information.</p> <p>A combination of the following will be utilised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • broadcasted over radio and television • social media utilising the NTPS Facebook page SecureNT X (formerly known as Twitter) feed. • loud hailer • door to door • Emergency Alert System. | <p>Regional Controller to liaise with Public Information Group and NTES</p> |
| <p>Process for issuing evacuation warnings and other information</p> | <p>At community level, the Local Controller is to appoint a community spokesperson to disseminate up to date situational information at community meetings which are to be held immediately post a convening LEC meeting, at each declared stage of the Local Emergency Plan. A media brief approved by the Local Controller at each LEC meeting, will be announced over the local radio station containing current situational information, relevant safety information, what to prepare, when to self-evacuate, and where to go.</p> | <p>Local Controller</p> |

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| When will warnings be issued (relative to the impact of the hazard)? | Immediately upon a decision to evacuate being made the LEC will commence coordinating residents to prepare for transport. | Local Controller |
| What information will the messages contain? (What do people need to know?) | To be determined: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> outline of the proposed evacuation plan measure to prepare residences safety issues; not overloading transport items to bring on the evacuation arrangements for pets and animals. | Local Controller Animal Welfare Group |
| Responsibility for the coordination of Stage 2 | Local Controller/Regional Controller | |
| Stage 3 - Withdrawal | | |
| Outline | 3 stage process: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> community residents to <staging area 1> <staging area 1> to airport airport to <location to be determined> evacuation centre | |
| <Location> community to the airstrip | <p>Lead</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NTP <p>Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the community will gather at the <location to be determined> prior to being transported by community buses to the airstrip. <p>Risks/other considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> evacuation should be undertaken during daylight hours, if possible. risks include inclement weather, persons with infectious diseases, vulnerable persons, and frail/elderly persons, chronically ill estimated time en-route: ___ minutes each way estimated timeframe overall: ___ hours utilising current resources. alternate transport options. | NTP |

| | | |
|--|---|--------------------------------|
| <p>Assembly area</p> | <p>Likely location of evacuation centre: <to be determined>.</p> <p>Additional resources will be required to host an evacuation centre in the form of tents and bedding. This will also be the point where evacuee registration will take place. Basic services should be provided i.e. drinking water, information.</p> <p>Services to be provided</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red Cross Coordinator: Red Cross <p>Other details</p> <p>Evacuee registration. Residents will need to register at <location to be determined> or airport if (self-evacuating) to be permitted access to the evacuation centre at the <location to be determined>.</p> | <p>NTP/TFHC</p> |
| <p><Location> community to <location to be determined></p> | <p>Lead - NTP</p> <p>Example Lead - Transport Group</p> <p>Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport Group has identified commercial operators and the Police Air Section able to provide evacuation assistance. • Total proposed air assets: _____. Commercial operators will be charging commercial rates for their services at a cost of (\$_____). • The operation will begin at _____hrs with the first aircraft, leaving <to be determined> and arriving at _____hrs • The operation will continue throughout the day until all community members are evacuated. It is estimated that all community members can be evacuated by _____hrs (arriving in <to be determined>). | <p>NTP/Transport/Logistics</p> |

| | | |
|---|--|-------------------------------|
| <p><Location> airport to evacuation centre <to be determined></p> | <p>Lead - Transport Group</p> <p>Example</p> <p>Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buses will be on standby at • <location to be determined> airport from ____am to receive passengers and continue throughout the day transferring to <to be determined> only, as required. • Transport staff will be on the ground at <location to be determined> airport to marshal passengers on buses only. • Buses to be arranged by the Transport Group. Evacuees will be collected from <location to be determined> airport and transported to the <location to be determined>. <p>A reception team provided by NTP will meet evacuees and facilitate transport.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • details <to be determined> • estimated time en-route: ____ minutes • estimated timeframe: possibly ____ hours, dependant on aircraft arrivals • alternate transport options: ____. | <p>Transport Group</p> |
| <p>End point</p> | <p><Location to be determined></p> | <p>EOC/Welfare</p> |
| <p>Transport of vulnerable members of the community</p> | <p>Medical Group to arrange transport of vulnerable people from the community to <location to be determined>.</p> | <p>Medical Group</p> |
| <p>Registration and tracking</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welfare Group to activate registration arrangements. Registration will be undertaken by NTP and will occur at <location to be determined>. • Names of evacuees will be obtained prior to boarding buses. • Where possible details of individuals and families self-evacuating to be obtained on arrival at the <location to be determined> airstrip. • If persons are not registered as evacuees or self-evacuees they will not be provided access to the evacuation shelter. | <p>Welfare Group/ NTP</p> |

| | | |
|---|---|-----------------------|
| Coordination Stage 3 | Regional Controller | EOC coordination. |
| Stage 4 – Shelter | | |
| Overview | An evacuation centre will be established at the <location to be determined>. The <location to be determined> will be the primary areas used. | |
| Alternate shelter options | Where possible evacuees will be encouraged to seek alternative accommodation with family, friends or through commercial accommodation. | |
| Estimated duration of the shelter phase | <To be determined> | |
| Arrangements for domestic animals | No domestic animals are to accompany evacuees. Any self-evacuees with domestic animals will be expected to make their own arrangements for the animals. | Advise Animal Welfare |
| Roles | | |
| • Director | TFHC | Welfare Group |
| • Deputy Director | TFHC | Welfare Group |
| • Logistics/planning | EOC | Controlling Authority |
| • Admin teams | EOC | CM&C/Welfare Group |
| • Shift manager/s | <To be determined> – drawn from pool of trained staff. | Welfare Group |
| • Welfare team | <To be determined> | Welfare Group |
| • Facility team | <To be determined> | |
| • Sport and Rec team | <To be determined> | |
| • Medical team | <To be determined> It is likely St Johns volunteers will be requested. Evacuees will be referred to off-site medical services. | Medical Group |
| • Public health team | <To be determined> | Public Health Group |
| • Transport team | <To be determined> | Transport Group |
| Evacuation centre set-up | Refer to the evacuation centre template for set-up considerations. | |

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| What strategy will be put in place to close the evacuation centre? | Closure of the evacuation centre will be largely dependent on the extent of inundation and complexity of the recovery process. | |
| Stage 5 – Return | | |
| Indicators or triggers that will enable a return | (Refer to Recovery action plan for the community) CM&C | |
| Who is responsible for developing a plan for the return? | Recovery coordination in conjunction with IMT. | |
| • Transportation | <To be determined> | |
| • Route/assembly points en-route | <To be determined> | |
| • End point | <To be determined> | |
| How will information about the return be communicated to evacuees? | <To be determined> | |
| What information needs to be conveyed to the evacuated community members? | <To be determined> | |

11.5. Annex E: Summary of response and recovery activities

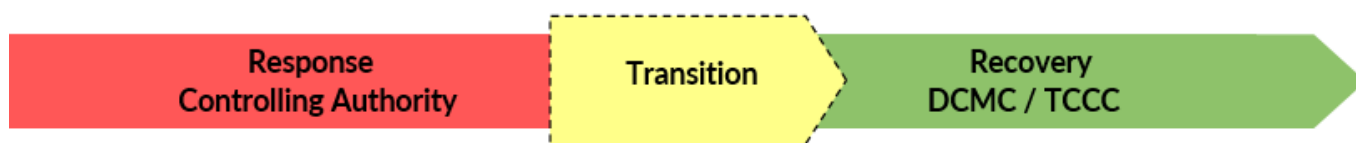
The following table outlines a summary of possible response and recovery activities to be considered following an event.

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 | 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 Territory Response Group provide primary Urban Search and Rescue capability | Survey and Impact Assessment data used to develop the Recovery Action Plan |
| 4. Road clearance | Road patrol teams deploy and check assigned routes Road clearance to priority sites Assess Stuart Highway to Katherine (supply route) | 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 |

| Activity | Response activities | Recovery activities |
|------------|--|--|
| | Provision of resources that will enable people to remain in their homes Emergency clothing | Repatriation planning |
| 6. Medical | <p>Hospital</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - road clearance to the hospital - damage assessment - increase morgue capacity - divert patients from remote and regional areas - power (fuel) and water supplies <p>Medical clinics and field hospitals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - determine the need for clinics to be opened - assess damage to clinics - deploy field hospital/s <p>Medical presence in shelters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - supplied by the Medical Group <p>Ambulance pick up points on key, cleared roads</p> <p>GP clinics and pharmacies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - identify GP clinics able to open - identify pharmacies able to open <p>Medically vulnerable people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - support agencies to follow-up and advise the Medical Group - vulnerable people in shelters - support for vulnerable people at shelters <p>CareFlight/Royal Flying Doctor Service</p> | <p>Hospital</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - repair works - business continuity plans <p>Department of Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - health centres - repair works - reopen other clinics <p>Support return of vulnerable people in community.</p> <p>GP clinics and pharmacies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ongoing liaison by the Medical Group <p>CareFlight/Royal Flying Doctor Service - resume business as usual</p> <p>St John Ambulance – resume business as usual</p> |

| Activity | Response activities | Recovery activities |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| 7. Essential goods and services | <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>Support the re-opening of the private business sector</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>Manage fuel supplies to emergency power generation</p> | <p>Monitor fuel levels</p> <p>Infrastructure repairs</p> <p>Emergency fuel supplies for recovery</p> <p>Liaise with fuel suppliers, distributors and wholesalers to re-establish long term supply</p> |
| | <p><u>Banking</u></p> <p>Assess damage to banks and ATMs</p> <p>Implement temporary arrangements</p> | <p>Emergency cash outlets</p> <p>Implement long term arrangements</p> |
| 8. Evacuation | <p>Evacuations within community</p> <p>Evacuation out of community</p> <p>Registration</p> | <p>Support services for evacuees</p> <p>Recovery information for evacuees</p> <p>Repatriation</p> |
| 9. Public health | <p>Communicable disease control response</p> <p>Drinking water safety standards</p> <p>Sewage and waste disposal</p> <p>Safe food distribution and advice</p> <p>Vector and vermin control</p> <p>Food and commercial premises</p> | <p>Ongoing in recovery</p> |
| 10. Utilities | <p>Power supply</p> <p>Power generation</p> <p>Water supply</p> <p>Sewerage</p> <p>Emergency sanitation</p> | <p>Restore power network</p> <p>Restore water and sewerage infrastructure</p> <p>Issue alerts until safe to use</p> |
| 11. Impact assessments | <p>Training assessment teams</p> | <p>Comprehensive impact assessments</p> |

| Activity | Response activities | Recovery activities |
|---|--|--|
| | Initial 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 Territory Highways (Stuart, Barkly, Victoria and Arnhem) |
| | <u>Rail</u> Rail damage assessment Outage estimation | Ongoing liaison with operator to support restoration to business as usual |
| | <u>Port, harbour and barge</u> Assess damage to port infrastructure and harbour facilities Assess the damage to barge facilities | Repairing infrastructure Establish alternate arrangements for the supply of remote communities |
| 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 Temporary accommodation for a visiting construction workforce |
| | 15. Transport services | Staged re-establishment of public transport services |

| Activity | Response activities | Recovery activities |
|----------------------------|--|--|
| 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 | NTP 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 |

12. Acronyms

| Acronyms | Definitions |
|----------|---|
| AAPA | Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority |
| ABC | Australian Broadcasting Corporation |
| AEP | Aerodrome Emergency Plan |
| AIDR | Australian Institute Disaster Resilience |
| AIIMS | Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System |
| ARFFS | Aviation Rescue and Fire Fighting Service |
| BFNT | Bushfires NT |
| BRC | Barkly Regional Council |
| CAAMA | Central Australia Aboriginal Media Association |
| CAHS | Central Australia Health Service |
| CM&C | Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet |
| DCDD | Department of Corporate and Digital Development |
| DEPWS | Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security |
| DIPL | Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics |
| DITT | Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade |
| DoE | Department of Education |
| DoH | Department of Health |
| EOC | Emergency Operations Centre |
| ERA | Emergency Response Area |
| FERG | Fire and Emergency Response Group |
| ICAD | Intergraph Computer-Aided Dispatch |
| ICC | Incident Control Centre |
| ICP | Incident Control Point |
| JESCC | Joint Emergency Service Communication Centre |

| Acronyms | Definitions |
|----------|---|
| kl | Kilolitres |
| 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 |
| NTES | Northern Territory Emergency Service |
| NTFRS | Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service |
| NTG | Northern Territory Government |
| NTP | Northern Territory Police |
| NTPES | Northern Territory Police, 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 |
| TFHC | Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities |
| WebEOC | Web-Based Emergency Operations Centre |