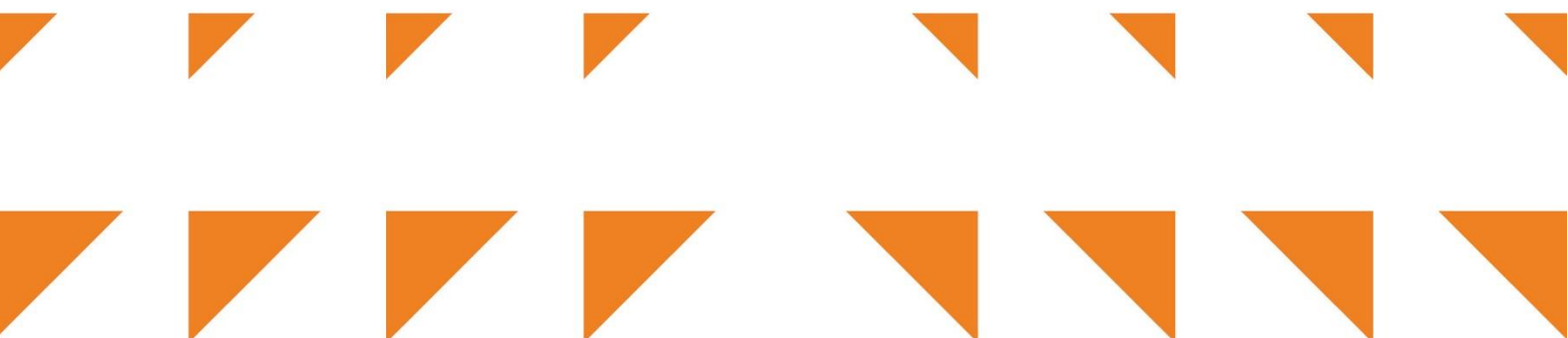


# Arlparra (Utopia) and Ampilatwatja Local Emergency Plan



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# 1. Document control

## 1.1. Governance

Document title	Arlparra (Utopia) and Ampilatwatja Local Emergency Plan
Contact details	NT Emergency Service, Planning and Preparedness Command
Approved by	Territory Controller
Date approved	12 December 2014
Document review	Annually
TRM number	04-D25-107579

## 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
17/03/2025	9	Peter Kennon	Reviewed and endorsed by the Regional Controller, as the Territory Controller's delegate
03/03/2026	10	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.

### 1.3. Annual Local Emergency Plan Review

The following Local Emergency Committee members and key stakeholders were engaged with during the review of the 2025 Arlparra (Utopia) and Ampilatwatja Local Emergency Plan, to ensure it addresses the specific needs of the community.

Agency/organisation	Name	Role/position
NT Police Force	Jared Richards	Remote Sergeant/Local Controller
NT Emergency Service	Emily West	Planning Officer
NT Emergency Service	Ian Carlton	Manager, Southern Command
Urapuntja Aboriginal Corporation	Jim Stacey	CEO
Arlparra Store	Janith Hewa	Manager
Barkly Regional Council	Shirely Kunoth	

## 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 Arlparra (Utopia) and Ampilatwatja 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 Southern Regional Emergency Plan<sup>1</sup> as it relates to the Locality. For further information on the hierarchy of plans, refer to the Territory Emergency Plan<sup>2</sup>. The Locality covers approximately 23,000 square kilometres (km) and is located approximately 270 km north east of Alice Springs via the Sandover Highway. The Locality is within the Southern Region, as defined by the Territory Emergency Plan.

The main population centres within the Locality are Ampilatwatja, Arawerr and Arlparra and there are also a number of surrounding homelands/outstations. Population numbers for these homelands can vary widely during the course of the year:

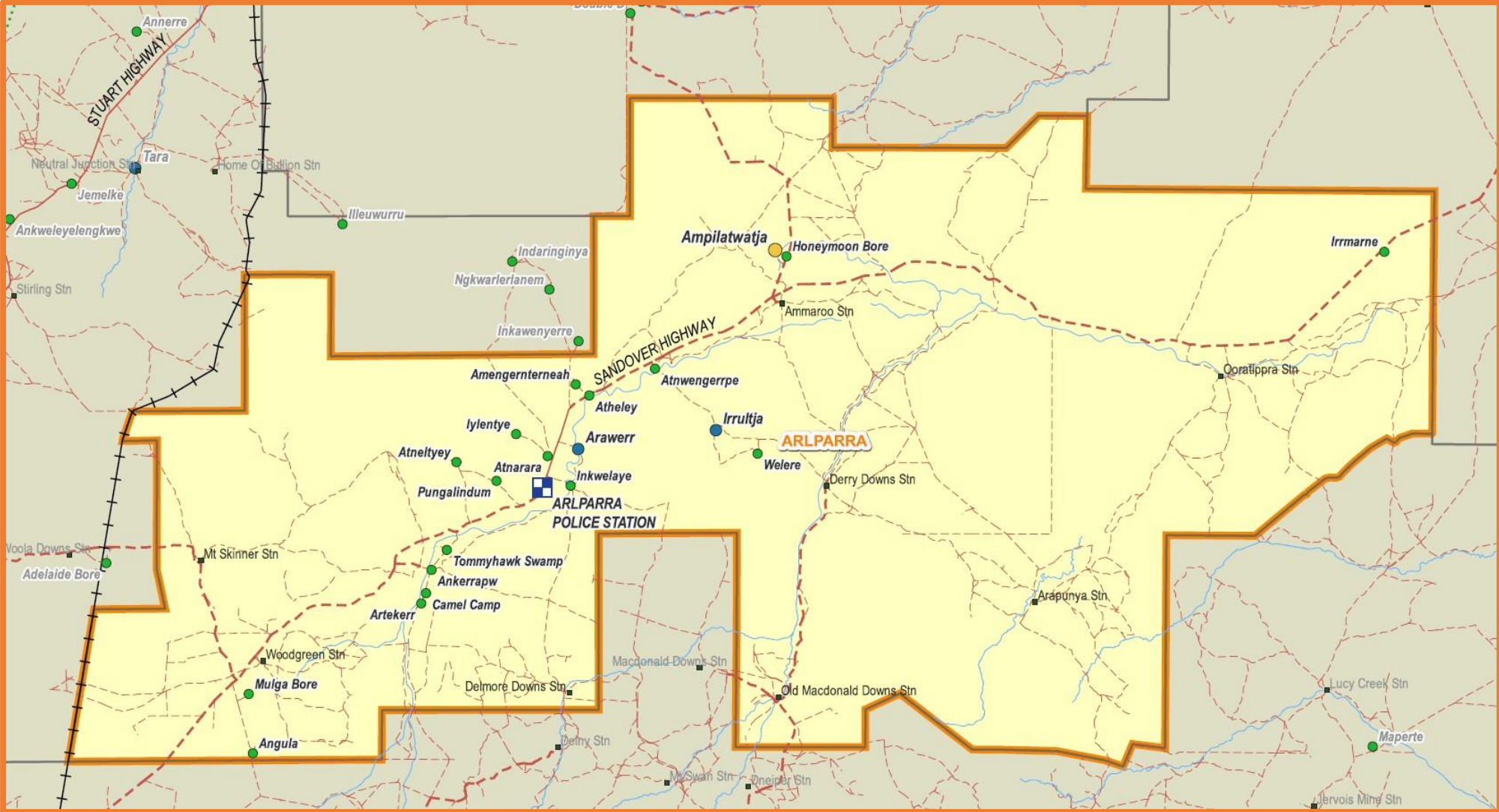
Major Community	Approx. population
Ampilatwatja	439
Arawerr	129
Arlparra	110
Homelands	Approx. population
Amengernterneh	not recorded
Angula	6
Ankerrapw	not recorded
Artekerr	26
Atheley	88
Atnarara	47
Atnelteye	51
Atnwengerrpe	30
Camel Camp	39
Honeymoon Bore	5
Inkwelaye	31
Irrmarne	not recorded
Iylentye	33
Mulga Bore	46
Pungalindum	33
Tommyhawk Swamp	5
Welere	6

To obtain more information about this Locality, Bushtel<sup>3</sup> is the central point for information about the remote communities of the NT, their people and cultural and historical influences.

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

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

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



## 4.1. Climate and weather

The Locality experiences a broad variety of weather typical to Central Australian arid desert climate with high summer daytime and low winter night-time temperatures. The average annual rainfall is approximately 280 millimetres (mm).

## 4.2. Geography

The general topography of the Locality consists of relatively flat sandy country covered by sparse low scrub. The Locality is drained by a number of usually dry rivers and creeks. Of note, these are the Sandover and Bunday Rivers.

## 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](mailto:enquiries.aapa@nt.gov.au) Sites of Conservation.

## 4.4. Conservation sites

The Davenport and Murchison ranges are sites of conservation significance to the NT. For further information about these sites contact the Department of Lands, Planning and Environment (DLPE)<sup>4</sup>.

## 4.5. Tourism

Tourism is also a major economic contributor to the Locality, particularly aimed at those traveling through the area.

## 4.6. NT and local government

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

- NTPF
  - Arlparra Police Station
- NTFES
- Department of Education and Training (DET)
  - Arlparra School
  - Ampilatwatja School
- Department of Health (DOH)
  - Urapuntja Health Service
  - Ampilatwatja Health Centre

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

Local government in Ampilatwatja is provided by the Barkly Regional Council (BRC). While council headquarters is located in Tennant Creek, there is a service delivery centre located in Ampilatwatja.

#### 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

Arlparra (Utopia) and Ampilatwatja has the following land usage:

- pastoral
- residential
- freehold
- parks/reserves
- Indigenous protected areas
- sewage ponds
- airstrip
- waste disposal

#### 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 Urapuntja Aboriginal Corporation. 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

The Arlparra Power Station has 3 power generators which service the infrastructure and surrounding communities of:

- Arlparra
- Ampilatwatja
- Ammaroo Station
- Antarringinya
- Ngkwarlananima
- Arnkawenyerr
- Urapuntja Clinic
- Theley
- Atnwengerrp (Anurapa)
- Irrwelty (Irrultja)

- Weler (Wulira)
- Soapy Bore
- Kurrajong Bore

#### 4.11. Water services

Ground water is the primary water source in the Southern Region. 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 includes:

- Ampilatwatja
  - 2 x production bores
  - 1 x 45 kilolitre (kL) elevated tank
  - 1x 195 kL ground level tank

Water is transported to the surrounding communities without bores.

#### 4.12. Health infrastructure

There are 2 health centres in the Locality situated at Ampilatwatja and Amengernterneah (Urapuntja). A doctor attends the centres when availability allows. Serious medical cases are required to be medically evacuated to Alice Springs.

Both health centres have the capacity to provide emergency medical aid in addition to routine health treatment and has a fully equipped ambulance station. Serious medical cases are required to be evacuated to Alice Springs. Patients can be evacuated either via road or air.

#### 4.13. Medically vulnerable clients

The Ampilatwatja and Urapuntja health centres have lists of medically vulnerable clients. There are no aged care facilities in the Arlparra (Utopia) or Ampilatwatja Locality, but the BRC provide aged care services to residents in the Locality.

#### 4.14. Emergency service infrastructure

The Locality has the following emergency service infrastructure:

- Arlparra Police Station and cells

#### 4.15. Roads

The main road in the Locality is the Sandover Highway which is unsealed from the Plenty Highway to Arlparra. 20 km of the road is sealed bitumen from Arlparra north to the Urapuntja Health Centre and the air strip. The remainder of the roads are unsealed station/pastoral lease access roads. During periods of heavy rainfall all unsealed roads may become impassable.

## 4.16. Airports

The table below lists the registered airstrips within the Locality:

Name of the Strip	Datum	Certified Aerodrome	Details (type, length, etc.)	Operator of the strip
<b>YAMJ</b> Ampilatwatja	Lat 21° 39' 15.91"S Long 135° 13' 50.04"E	Non-Certified	Dirt 1200 metre (m) long Lighting – LED solar	BRC
<b>YUTP</b> Utopia Community	Lat 22° 3' 9.46"S Long 134° 47' 27.44"E	Non-Certified	Sealed 1400 m long Lighting – LED solar	
<b>YAMM</b> Ammaroo	Lat 21° 44' 21.73"S Long 135° 14' 49.99"E	Non-Certified	Dirt 1100 m long Lighting – flares Caution – disused cross runway	Amaroo Station
<b>YDYD</b> Derry Downs	Lat 22° 4' 30.2"S Long 135° 20' 27.01"E	Non-Certified	Dirt 1500 m long	
<b>YMDS</b> MacDonald Downs	Lat 22° 27' 33.48"S Long 135° 14' 34.78"E	Non-Certified	Dirt 1100 m long	
<b>YDLD</b> Delmore Downs	Lat 22° 27' 37.62"S Long 134° 53' 12.33"E	Non-Certified	Dirt 1000 m long	

**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 services<sup>5</sup>.

## 4.17. Telecommunication

Telecommunications are available across the Arlparra (Utopia) and Ampilatwatja town area via a combination of landline, mobile and satellite communications delivery. Mobile phone coverage has an approximate radius of 10 km around Arlparra and 5 km around Ampilatwatja. The phone tower located in Arlparra operates on solar power that regularly fails, leaving the Locality without phone reception for emergency communication. The tower located in Arlparra also experiences outages due to multiple cloudy days, power outages, which impacts mobile use.

## 4.18. Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters

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

There are currently 56 sites across the Territory that have STAND capability, and additional sites will be incorporated within the next stage of installation. There is one STAND site within this Locality, which is located and managed by the following facility:

- Ampilatwatja School

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

## 4.19. Local radio stations

Arlparra Locality has the following radio stations broadcasting in the area:

- 107.7FM 8KIN (Ampilatwatja)

## 5. Prevention

### 5.1. Emergency risk assessments

The Arlparra and Ampilatwatja 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
- road crash

Hazard	Overall Consequence	Overall Likelihood	Risk Rating
Air crash	Minor	Unlikely	Low
Bushfire (within Fire Protection and Management Zones)	Moderate	Unlikely	Medium
Flooding	Moderate	Unlikely	Medium
Hazardous material	Moderate	Very Rare	Low
Heatwave	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

NT emergency plans<sup>6</sup> 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 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](mailto: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 are 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
- NT Fire and Rescue Service (NTFRS) Smart Sparx Program

### 6.5. Exercises

Local level exercises are a key measure for testing the effectiveness of the Local Emergency Plan and 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

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<sup>6</sup> 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. The Local Controller can request an exercise by emailing the request through to [EmergencyManagementPlanning@pfes.nt.gov.au](mailto: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 the resources of the community are depleted a number of arrangements are in place to seek assistance from the region, the Territory and/or the Australian Government. Pathway for assistance is through the Regional Controller.

### 7.3. Local Emergency Controller

In accordance with section 76 of the Act, the Territory Controller or their delegate (section 112 of the Act) can appoint a Local Emergency Controller (Local Controller). The Local Controller for the locality is the Officer In Charge of the Arlparra 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 an Arlparra 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.

### 7.5. 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 Arlparra (Utopia) Police Station. The Regional EOC will be located in Alice Springs at the 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.

### 7.6. 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
- 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, NTPF, NTFES and Controlling Authorities.

Emergency Alert is a national telephony-based emergency warning system that can deliver warning messages to landlines and mobile handsets based on the service address and mobile handsets based on the last known location of the device. Authority to utilise the Emergency Alert may be given by virtue of the pre-approval of a hazard specific emergency plan or under the Territory Emergency 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)<sup>7</sup> 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.

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

## 7.14. 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	Accessibility (ramp/toilets)
Arlparra School	100	Wheelchair access ramp, disabled toilets
Ampilatwatja School	50	

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

The responsibilities of the emergency shelter manager (shelter owner/contractor) are:

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

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

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

## 7.15. Evacuation

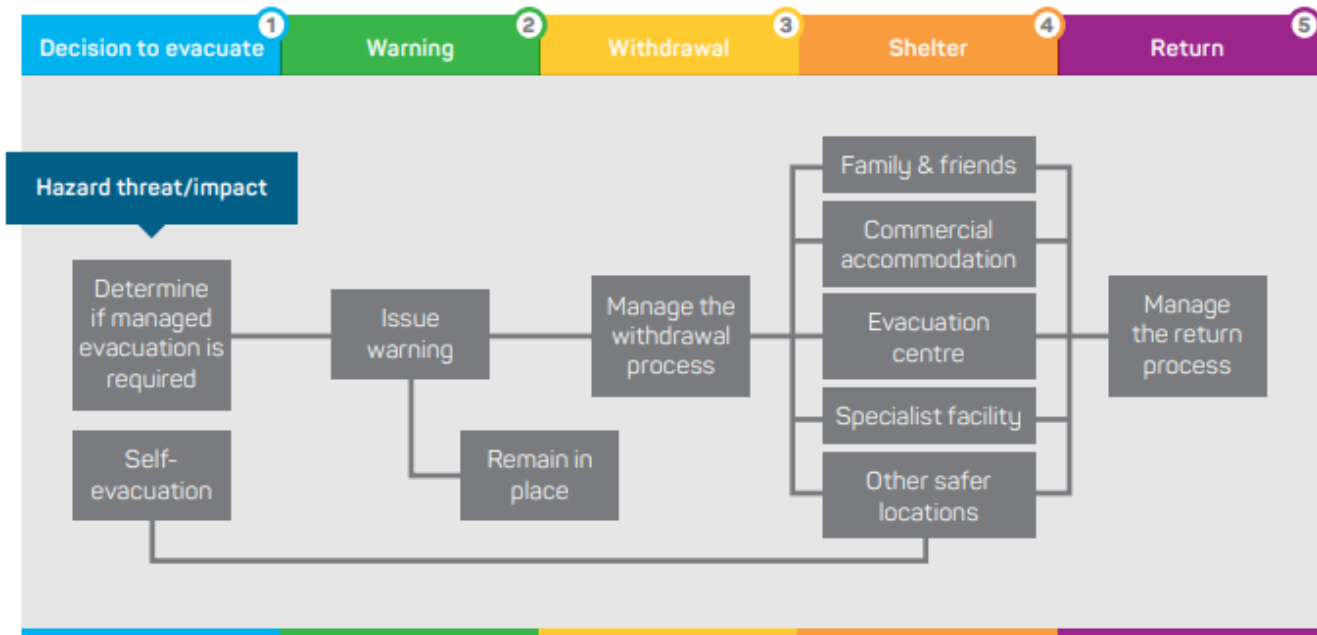
Evacuation is a risk management strategy that can be used to mitigate the effect of an emergency or disaster on a community. It involves the movement of people to a safer location and their return. The decision to evacuate a community, including establishing an evacuation centre, is not taken lightly 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 an evacuation, it is vital to have an understanding of the 5-step process.



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

## 7.16. Identified evacuation centres

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

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

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

An evacuation centre'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.

## 7.17. 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.

### 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 Centre (LRCC) drawing from membership of the LEC and other relevant members of the community as needed. The Local Recovery Coordinator reports directly to the Regional Recovery Coordinator.

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

### 8.2. Transitional arrangements

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 9. Debrief

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

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

During any operational response, personnel involved are encouraged to record activities where there are lessons to be learned. Activities can include decision making and consequential responses. Where decisions are made by an Incident Controller, Incident Management Team (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 Summary of response and recovery activities

## 11.1. Annex A: Functional groups roles and responsibilities

Functional Group	Local Contact
Animal Welfare	BRC
Critical Goods and Services	Aherrenge Store/Arlparra Community Store
Digital and Telecommunications	Department of Corporate and Digital Development (DCDD)
Emergency Shelter	Arlparra School/Ampilatwatja School
Engineering	Department of Logistics and Infrastructure (DLI)
Industry	Department of Trade, Business and Asian Relations (DTBAR)
Medical	Ampilatwatja Health Centre/Urapuntja Health Service
Public Health	Ampilatwatja Health Centre/Urapuntja Health Service
Public Information	CM&C
Public Utilities	PAWC/BRC Essential Service Operator (ESO)
Survey, Rescue and Impact Assessment	NTPF
Transport	BRC
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	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF)/BRC/Cattle stations
Anti-looting protection	NTPF
Banking services	ATM at stores
Broadcasting: what radio stations provide announcements?	FM 8KIN (Ampilatwatja)
Clearing of essential traffic routes	DLI/BRC/Urapuntja Aboriginal Corporation (UAC)
Clearing storm water drains	BRC/UAC
Clothing and household Items	Arlparra Community Store/Aherrenge Store
Community clean up	BRC/UAC
Control, coordination and management	Designated control authority
Coordination to evacuate public	NTPF
Critical goods and services (protect/resupply) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• food</li> <li>• bottle gas</li> <li>• camping equipment</li> <li>• building supplies</li> </ul>	DTBAR/DCF/Aherrenge Store/Arlparra Community Store
Damaged public buildings: coordination and inspections	DLI/Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development (DHLGCD)
Disaster victim identification capability	NTPF
Emergency Alerts	NTPF/NTFES/BFNT
Emergency food distribution	DCF/BRC Aged Care Service/Arlparra Community Store/Aherrenge Store
EOC including WebEOC	NTPF
Emergency shelter, staff, operations and control	DET/Arlparra School/Ampilatwatja School
Evacuation centre - staffing, operations and control	DCF

Functions	Agency/organisation/provider responsible
Financial relief/assistance Payments of NDRRA (National Disaster Relief and Recovery Assistance)	CM&C/DCF (Category A measures to individuals)/DTBAR (Category B measures)
Identification of suitable buildings for shelters	DET/DLI/LEC
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	Ampilatwatja Health Centre/Urapuntja Health Service
Network communications (IT): responders/public maintenance and restoration of emergency communication	CM&C/Telstra/NTPF
Power, protection and restoration:	PAWC on call/BRC ESO
Public messaging during response and recovery.	Hazard management authority
Public/Environmental Health (EH) management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• all EH functions including water &amp; food safety</li> <li>• disease control</li> </ul>	DOH/Ampilatwatja Health Centre/Urapuntja Health Service
Rapid Impact Assessment	NTPF/NTFES
Recovery coordination	CM&C
Repatriation	As per local arrangements/DCF
Restoration of public buildings	DLI/DHLGCD
Restoration of roads and bridges (council/territory) excluding railways	DLI/BRC
Road management and traffic control including public Information on road closures	DLI
Sewerage: protection and restoration	PAWC on call
Survey	NTPF
Traffic control	NTPF

Functions	Agency/organisation/provider responsible
Transport: commercial and public airport/ planes, automobiles, buses	BRC/NTPF/DLI
Vulnerable groups (medical)	Ampilatwatja Health Centre/Urapuntja Health Service
Waste management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• collection</li> <li>• disposal of stock</li> </ul>	BRC/Cattle stations
Water (including drinking water): protection and restoration	PAWC on call/BRC (Ampilatwatja)/UAC (Arparra and outstations)

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

### 11.3.1. Bushfire (within Fire Protection and Management Zones)

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

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

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

#### Landholder responsibility to control fire

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Australian Fire Danger Rating System<sup>8</sup> (AFDRS) is a nationally aligned approach to fire weather forecast. Both the NTFRS and BFNT, through a Territory wide observer network, gather a specific range of observation data at selected locations to provide data for the daily Fire Danger Rating. The ratings are described in the below image.

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<sup>8</sup> For more information: <https://afdrs.com.au/>

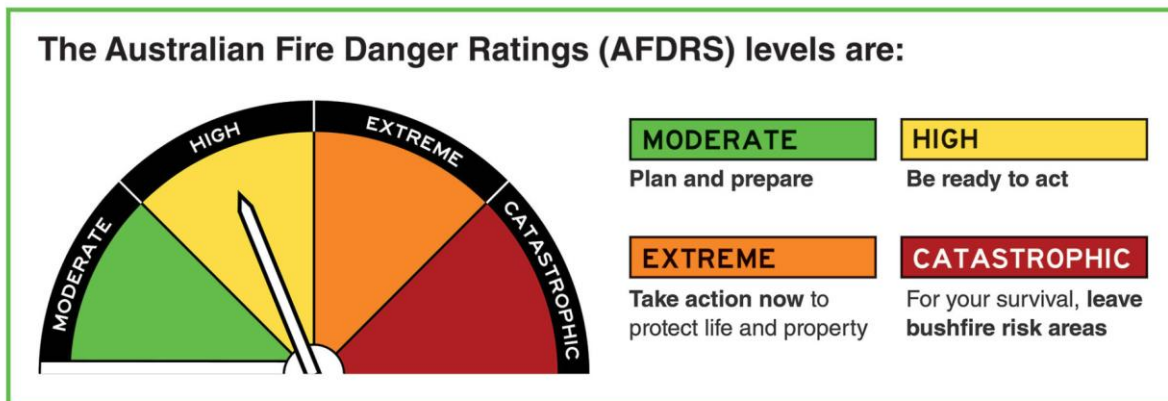


Figure 1: AFDRS Ratings

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

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

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

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




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

### Australian Warning System

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

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

There are 3 warning levels:

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

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

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

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

Actions to be taken – Bushfire - guide only

Organisation / Provider	Stage 1: Alert	Stage 2: Standby	Stage 3: Activation	Stage 4: Stand down	Transition to recovery
All Members	Attend Briefings. Inform key personnel. Provide SITREPS.	Attend Briefings. Inform key personnel. Provide SITREPS.	Attend Briefings. Inform key personnel. Provide SITREPS.	Attend Briefings. Inform key personnel. Provide SITREPS.	Attend Briefings. Inform key personnel. Provide SITREPS.
Bushfires NT	Gather intelligence. Issue Bushfire Information Message (BIM).	Gather Intelligence, prepare resources for activation. Brief attending crews. Monitor and update WebEOC. Issue Bushfire Warning Message (BWM).	Co-ordinate firefighting efforts utilising AIIMS principles. Conduct firefighting efforts as per BFNT SOPs and usual firefighting practice. Provide SITREPS to Incident Controller.	Conduct debrief with members. Provide SITREPS to Incident Controller. Resume normal activities.	Assist where required. Take action upon debrief.
Local Controller	Notify relevant Functional Groups.	Notify relevant Functional Groups. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arlparra School /Ampilatwatja School</li> <li>• Urapuntja Health Service/ Ampilatwatja Health Centre.</li> </ul> Prepare evacuation plan (if necessary). Collate SITREPS. Provide relevant SITREPS to BFNT.	Activate evacuation plan if required. Notify relevant Functional Groups. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arlparra School /Ampilatwatja School</li> <li>• Urapuntja Health Service/ Ampilatwatja Health Centre.</li> </ul> Request set up of WebEOC incident.	Notify relevant Functional Groups. Convene Committee briefing if required. Monitor and update WebEOC.	Notify relevant Functional Groups. Convene Committee briefing if required. Monitor and update WebEOC.

Organisation / Provider	Stage 1: Alert	Stage 2: Standby	Stage 3: Activation	Stage 4: Stand down	Transition to recovery
		Convene Committee briefing if required.	Monitor and update WebEOC.		
Arlparra School / Ampilatwatja School	Duties as required by the Local Controller.	Advise key personnel. Prepare evacuation plan (if necessary). Provide SITREPS to Local Controller.	Activate evacuation plan if required (on advice from Local Controller).  Duties as required by the Local Controller.	Duties as required by the Local Controller.	Duties as required by the Local Controller.
Urapuntja Health Service / Ampilatwatja Health Centre	Notify key personnel.	Commence passive response measures.	Assist and triage any casualties as per SOPs.  Duties as required by the Local Controller.	Account for all equipment used and supervise cleaning, service/repair and refurbishment.  Duties as required by the Local Controller.	Attend debrief.  Duties as required by the Local Controller.
Support organisations	Provide support as requested by the Local Controller.				

### 11.3.2. Flooding

	Hazard	Controlling Authority	Hazard Management Authority
	Flooding	NT Police Force	NT Fire and Emergency Services (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, October to April. The Arlparra and Ampilatwatja 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 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. 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. The Locality is drained by a number of rivers and creeks, of note, these include the Sandover and Bunday rivers. These rivers cause community isolation concerns when in flood. 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 Arlparra (Utopia) and Ampilatwatja 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, sections being washed away, and river or water courses cutting the roads all together making the roads impassable. These issues can cause isolation to the communities and outstations for periods of a few days 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 is provided in the table below:**

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

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

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

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

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




**Public safety message process:**

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

**Warnings and advice approval flow**

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

**There are 3 warning levels:**

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

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

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

**Actions to be taken - Flooding<sup>9</sup> - guide only**

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

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<sup>9</sup> Action stages as per Flood products issued by the Bureau of Meteorology

### 11.3.3. Heatwave

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AND the forecast is:

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

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

Level	Description
<b>Level 1</b>	The thresholds for a heatwave are activated with a Severe or Extreme Heatwave meeting the triggers. The Severe or Extreme Heatwave has minimal or no impact on normal operations. The Severe or Extreme Heatwave continues for one - 3 days. Hospitals and health services may observe an increase in activity commensurate with the incident. Response by NT Health through heat health alerts. Community alert messaging may utilise Watch and Act or Emergency Warning for day(s) where the heatwave is occurring.
<b>Level 2</b>	The Extreme Heatwave continues for approximately 3 - 6 days. The triggers for activation of plan are met. The Extreme Heatwave has major impact on normal operations. The weather event is resulting in compounding impacts on essential services and infrastructure, and there are anticipated impacts on human health and infrastructure. Hospital and health service activity increases. Response by NT Health

Level	Description
	through heat health alerts and emergency medical attention. Community alert messaging utilises Watch and Act, and Emergency Warning.
<b>Level 3</b>	An Extreme Heatwave is protracted, exceeding 6 days. The triggers for activation of plan are met. Maximum temperatures for the localities are exceeded for what is normally expected and multiple days with significantly increased night-time temperatures. Public infrastructure is affected. Power supply outages, compounding the heatwave and resulting in the public unable to seek respite from the heat. Abnormally high presentations at hospitals for heat related illness. Abnormally high ambulance call outs. Businesses are taking significant actions to protect the welfare of their workers. There are a significant number of anticipated impacts.

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

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




Public safety message process:

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

**Warnings and advice approval flow:**

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

There are 3 warning levels:

Warning level	Description
 Advice (Yellow)	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.

### 11.3.4. Road crash

	Hazard	Controlling Authority	Hazard Management Authority
	Road crash	NT Police Force	NT Fire and Emergency Services (NT Fire and Rescue Service)

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

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

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

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

- radio, television and social media
- targeted road safety campaigns
- community engagement strategies

**Public safety message process:**

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

Actions to be taken – Road crash - guide only

Organisation / Provider	Stage 1: Alert	Stage 2: Standby	Stage 3: Activation	Stage 4: Stand down	Transition to recovery
All Members	Attend Briefings. Inform key personnel. Provide SITREPS.	Attend Briefings. Inform key personnel. Provide SITREPS. Monitor and update WebEOC.	Attend Briefings. Inform key personnel. Provide SITREPS. Monitor and update WebEOC.	Attend Briefings. Inform key personnel. Provide SITREPS. Monitor and update WebEOC.	Attend Briefings. Inform key personnel. Provide SITREPS. Monitor and update WebEOC.
Local Controller	Notify relevant Functional Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urapuntja Health Service/ Ampilatwatja Health Centre</li> <li>NTFRS</li> </ul>	Notify relevant Functional Groups. Collate SITREPS. Request the creation of a WebEOC Incident Board.	Notify relevant Functional Groups. Convene Committee briefing if required.	Notify relevant Functional Groups. Convene Committee briefing if required.	Notify relevant Functional Groups. Convene Committee briefing if required.
NTFRS / NTPF	Advise key personnel.	Update key personnel. Brief crews attending. Monitor and update WebEOC.	Conduct firefighting / rescue efforts as per NTFRS / NTPF / NTES SOP's. Monitor and update WebEOC.	Update WebEOC. Conduct debrief with members. Monitor and update WebEOC.	Assist where required. Take action upon debrief.
Urapuntja Health Service / Ampilatwatja Health Centre	Advise key personnel. Personnel notified will depend on extent and type of incident. Convene a briefing. This decision will be based on the number of	Commence passive response measures. Update key personnel. Provide SITREPS including updating WebEOC.	Mass Casualty Plan is activated (dependent on number of casualties). All relevant Section Leaders have activated their relevant plan. Provide SITREPS including WebEOC.	Debrief with all members of response team.	Support lead recovery agencies as required.

Organisation / Provider	Stage 1: Alert	Stage 2: Standby	Stage 3: Activation	Stage 4: Stand down	Transition to recovery
	casualties and the Clinic's activities.				
Barkly Regional Council	Duties as required by the Local Controller.	Duties as required by the Local Controller.	Duties as required by the Local Controller.	Duties as required by the Local Controller.	Duties as required by the Local Controller.
Support organisations	Provide support as requested by the Local Controller.				

### 11.4. Annex D: Summary of response and recovery activities

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

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

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

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

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



Activity	Response activities	Recovery activities
1. Situational awareness	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 Assess Stuart Highway to Katherine (supply route)	Restoration of road networks and bridges Return to business as usual

Activity	Response activities	Recovery activities
<p>5. Emergency accommodation</p>	<p>Emergency accommodation and shelter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- evacuation centres</li> </ul> <p>Provision of resources that will enable people to remain in their homes</p> <p>Emergency clothing</p>	<p>Evacuation centres may continue into recovery</p> <p>Temporary accommodation options</p> <p>Repatriation planning</p>
<p>6. Medical</p>	<p>Hospital</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identify any issues with accessing facilities</li> <li>- Initial Impact assessment</li> <li>- Access to critical supplies e.g. medicines, consumables, power or fuel and water</li> <li>- ongoing acute clinical care and critical services requirements</li> <li>- increase morgue capacity</li> </ul> <p>Health Centres</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- identify any issues with accessing facilities</li> <li>- Access to critical supplies e.g. medicines, consumables, power or fuel and water</li> </ul> <p>GP clinics and pharmacies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- identify operational GP services</li> <li>- identify operational pharmacies</li> </ul> <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"> <li>- which may include business continuity plans</li> <li>- engagement with stakeholders</li> </ul> <p>Repatriation of medically vulnerable people in community</p> <p>GP clinics and pharmacies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ongoing liaison by the Medical Group</li> </ul> <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>Support the re-opening of the private business sector</p> <p>Monitor levels and availability of essential goods</p>

Activity	Response activities	Recovery activities
	<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>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>Initial impact assessments</p>	<p>Comprehensive impact assessments</p> <p>Ongoing needs assessments</p>

Activity	Response activities	Recovery activities
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
	Waste management requirements and develop waste management plan if required	Continues in recovery
13. Waste management		
14. Repairs and reconstruction	Private housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- impact assessments</li> <li>- temporary repairs</li> </ul> Government buildings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- damage assessment</li> </ul> Public housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- impact assessments</li> </ul> Private industry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- damage assessments</li> </ul>	Private housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- information and support to facilitate repairs</li> </ul> Government buildings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- repairs and reconstruction</li> </ul> Public housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- long term repair plans</li> </ul> Private industry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- repair and reconstruction</li> </ul> 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	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

## 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
CAHS	Central Australia Health Service
CASA	Civil Aviation Safety Authority
CM&C	Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet
DAF	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
DCDD	Department of Corporate and Digital Development
DCF	Department of Children and Families
DET	Department of Education and Training
DLI	Department of Logistics and Infrastructure
DLPE	Department of Lands, Planning and Environment
DOH	Department of Health
DTBAR	Department of Trade, Business and Asian Relations
EOC	Emergency Operations Centre
ERA	Emergency Response Area
ESO	Essential Service Operator
ICC	Incident Control Centre
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
NTFES	Northern Territory Fire and Emergency Services
NTFRS	Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service
NTG	Northern Territory Government
NTPF	Northern Territory Police Force
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
STAND	Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters
TDO	Territory Duty Officer
TEMC	Territory Emergency Management Council
UAC	Urapuntja Aboriginal Corporation
WebEOC	Web-Based Emergency Operations Centre