NT EMERGENCY SERVICE

Milikapiti
Local Emergency Plan

Contents

1. Document control

1.1. Governance

Document title	Milikapiti Local Emergency Plan
Contact details	NT Emergency Service, Planning and Preparedness Command
Approved by	Territory Controller
Date approved	22 December 2014
Document review	Annually
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1.2. Version history

Date	Version	Author	Summary of changes
22/12/2014	1	John McRoberts	First version
04/11/2015	2	Reece P Kershaw	Reviewed and updated
30/12/2016	3	Kate Vanderlaan	Reviewed and updated
28/11/2018	4	Travis Wurst	Reviewed and endorsed by the Regional Controller, as the Territory Controller's delegate
23/01/2020	5	Michael Hebb	Reviewed and endorsed by the Regional Controller, as the Territory Controller's delegate
17/11/2020	6	Travis Wurst	Reviewed and endorsed by the Regional Controller, as the Territory Controller's delegate
13/01/2022	7	Janelle Tonkin	Reviewed and endorsed by the Regional Controller, as the Territory Controller's delegate
20/06/2023	8	Travis Wurst	Reviewed and endorsed by the Regional Controller, as the Territory Controller's delegate
19/06/2024	9	Matthew Hollamby	Reviewed and endorsed by the Regional Controller, as the Territory Controller's delegate
11/03/2025	10	Peter Malley	Reviewed and endorsed by the Regional Controller, as the Territory Controller's delegate
06/01/2026	11	James A O'Brien	Reviewed and endorsed by the Regional Controller, as the Territory Controller's delegate

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

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

Agency/organisation	Name	Role/position
Jilmara Arts	Will Heathcote	Committee member
Milikapiti Clinic	Kristy Butler	Committee member
Milikapiti Sports and Social Club	Derek Eggerling	Committee member
Milikapiti Sports and Social Club	Melinda Eggerling	Committee member
Milikapiti Store	Glenn Benjamin	Committee member
NT Emergency Service	Jamie Richardson	Planning Officer
NT Police Force	Mitchell Gemmola	Local Controller
Tiwi Islands (Melville Lodge)	Kate McDermott	Committee member
Tiwi Islands Regional Council	John Brown	Committee member
Tiwi Islands Regional Council	Gladys Puruntatameri	Committee member
Tiwi Islands Regional Council	Bill Toy	Committee member
Tiwi Islands Training and Employment Board	Tracey Hancock	Committee member

2. Acknowledgement of Country

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

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

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

3. Introduction

3.1. Purpose

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

3.2. Application

This Plan applies to the Locality.

3.3. Key considerations

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

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

This Plan:

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

4. Locality context

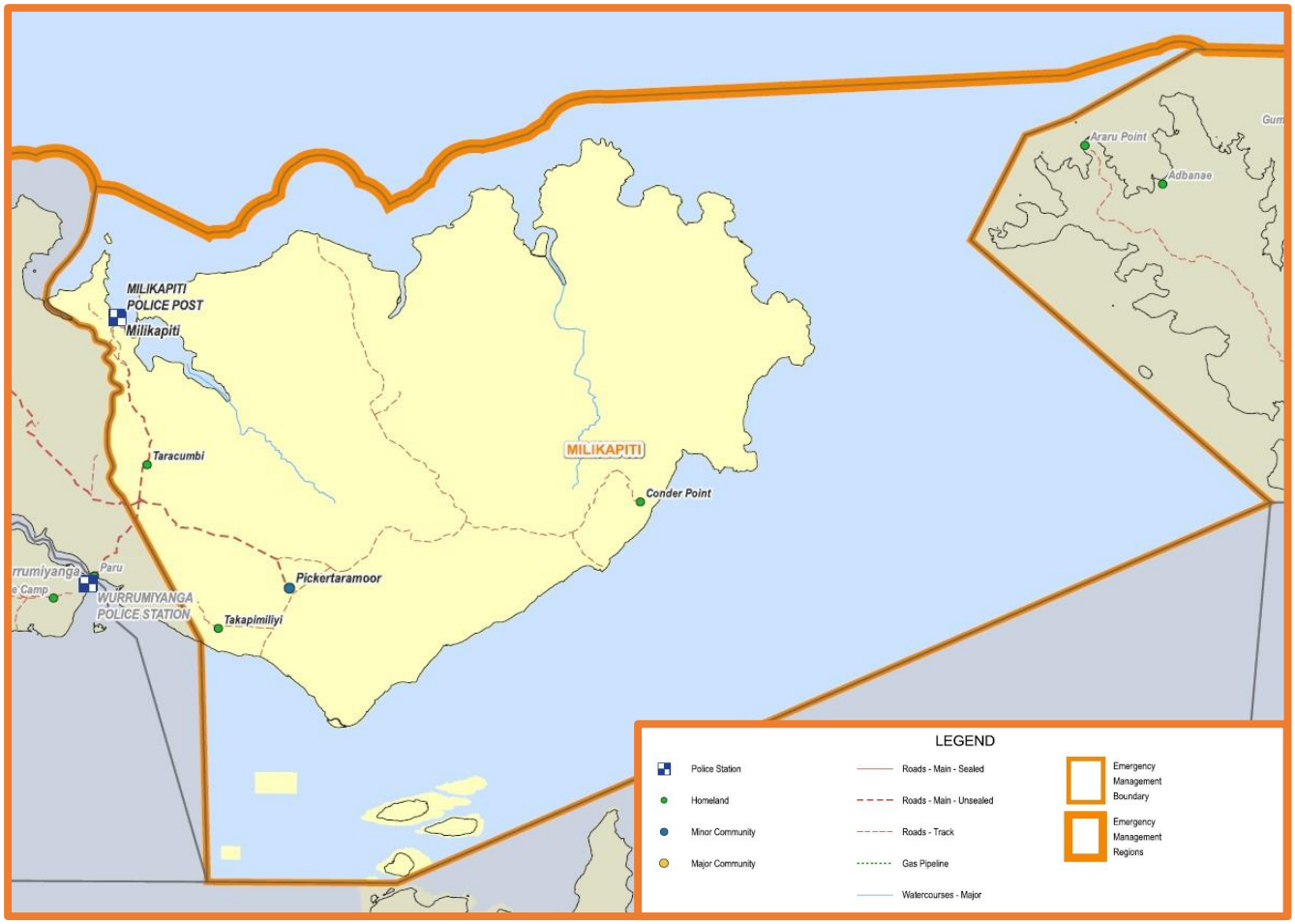
This Plan complements the Northern Regional Emergency Plan[1] as it relates to the Locality. For further information on the hierarchy of plans, refer to the Territory Emergency Plan[2]. The Locality covers approximately 21,500 square kilometres (km) and is located approximately 120 km north of Darwin and forms part of the Northern Region, as defined by the Territory Emergency Plan.

To obtain more information about this Locality, Bushtel[3] is the central point for information about the remote communities of the NT, their people and culutral and historical influences.

The Locality population is approximately 650, the main population centre being the town of Milikapiti and including outstations that are only occupied on a seasonal basis.

The population centres within the Locality are estimated as follows:

Bushtel ID	Locality	Aliases	Approx. population
374	Milikapiti	Snake Bay	486
744	Pickertaramoor		not recorded
Bushtel ID	**Homelands**	**Aliases**	**Approx. population**
1012	Condor Point	Condor Point and Yimpinari	not recorded
424	Taracumbi	Tarintipi, Tarracumbi and Turacumbi	8
1013	Takapimiliyi		5



[1] More information can be found at: https://www.pfes.nt.gov.au/emergency-service/publications
[2] More information can be found at: https://www.pfes.nt.gov.au/emergency-service/emergency-management
[3] More information can be found at: https://bushtel.nt.gov. au/

4.1. Climate and weather

The Locality experiences similar weather conditions which occur throughout the Top End of the NT. There is a distinct Wet Season (October to April) and Dry Season (May to September). Compared to Darwin, temperatures tend to be slightly higher during the Wet Season and slightly lower during the Dry Season. The Locality's average annual rainfall is approximately 1,600 millimetres per annum. Melville Island is known to create its own weather phenomenon, known as Hector the Convector.

4.2. Geography

The general topography of the Locality ranges from sea level to a highest point of approximately 120 metres (m) on Melville Island. The Locality is drained by a number of rivers and creeks, the main being as follows:

- Maxwell Creek
- Tjipriou River
- Jessie (Aliu River)
- Johnston (Tuanungku) River
- Goose Creek
- Shark Bay
- Kulimpinni

Apsley Strait, which links the Arafura Sea with the Beagle Gulf, passes between the islands. Vegetation ranges from saline coastal flats and mangroves to densely wooded areas. There are several pine plantations on Melville Island, which are operated by Tiwi Plantations Corporation.

4.3. Sacred sites

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

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

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

4.4. Sites of conservation

The Tiwi Islands is a site of conservation significance, for further information about these sites contact the Department of Lands, Planning and Environment [4] (DLPE).

4.5. Tourism

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

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

4.6. NT and local government

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

- NTPF
    - Milikapiti Police Station
- Department of Health (DoH)
    - Milikapiti Health Centre
- Department of Education and Training (DET)
    - Milikapiti Primary School

Milikapiti is within the Tiwi Island Regional Council (TIRC) region.

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

Milikapiti has the following land usage, which is in consultation between the TIRC and the Traditional Owners:

- residential
- sewage ponds
- air strip
- waste management

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 TIRC. 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

All power supplied to Milikapiti comes from 3 diesel generators, which are operated and maintained by the Power and Water Corporation (PAWC).

4.11. Water services

Milikapiti water is supplied from bores which is treated and supplied to consumers by the PAWC.

4.12. Health infrastructure

The Locality has 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 Darwin.

4.13. Medically vulnerable clients

The Milikapiti Health Centre has a list of medically vulnerable clients and it is updated regularly. There are no aged care facilities in the Milikapiti area.

4.14. Emergency service infrastructure

The Locality has the following emergency service infrastructure:

- police station and cells
- Milikapiti Health Centre
- sport and recreation hall

4.15. Roads

There are some sealed roads within each township that include the Milikapiti township to the barge landing that links to Pirlangimpi, Pickertaramoor and Paru. All other roads are relatively well maintained however they are prone to flooding/closure and deterioration during the Wet Season. Major roads within the Locality are as follows:

- Pickertaramoor – Milikapiti/Paru Road Junction
- Pickertaramoor to Conder Point

4.16. Airports

The table below lists the airstrips in the Locality:

Name of the strip	Datum	Certified Aerodrome	Details (type, length, etc.)	Operator of the strip
Milikapiti (Snake Bay)	11°25.'S 130°38'E	Certified	Dimensions: 1440 metres (m) x 30 m Surface: sealed Windsock: terminal Hazard: fenced Lighting: manual, with backup generator Fuel held: nil	TIRC
Pickertaramoor	11°45.'S 130°52E	Non-Certified	Dimensions: 1642 m x 49 m Surface: compact dirt Windsock: illuminated Hazard: wildlife/fenced Lighting: yes Fuel held: nil	TIRC

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*[5].

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

4.17. Ports (barge landings)

The barge landing is one km from the Milikapiti community on a sealed road.

4.18. Telecommunication

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

4.19. Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters

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

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

There are 2 STAND sites within this Locality which are located at and managed by the following facilities:

- Milikapiti School
- Tiwi College

4.20. Local radio stations

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

- 102.9 FM Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) Radio
- 106.9 FM Top End Aboriginal Bush Broadcasting Association

5. Prevention

5.1. Emergency risk assessments

The Milikapiti 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)
- heatwave
- marine oil spill (outside the port)
- marine oil spill (inside the port)
- road crash
- tropical cyclone

Hazard	Overall consequence	Overall likelihood	Risk rating
Air crash	Moderate	Very Rare	**Low**
Bushfire (within Fire Protection and Management Zones)	Moderate	Unlikely	**Medium**
Heatwave	Moderate	Likely	**High**
Marine oil spill (outside the port)	Moderate	Very Rare	**Low**
Marine oil spill (inside the port	Moderate	Very Rare	**Low**
Road crash	Moderate	Likely	**High**
Tropical cyclone	Major	Likely	**Extreme**

5.3. Hazard specific prevention and mitigation strategies

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

The cornerstone of mitigation is guided and coordinated risk assessments, which should involve all potentially affected members of a community. Strategies are developed based on a thorough understanding of hazards identified in emergency risk planning and their interaction with all aspects of society.

Specific prevention and mitigation strategies for identified hazards can be found at **Annex C**.

6. Preparedness

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

6.1. Planning

NT emergency plans[6] are required by the Act and are maintained at a Territory, regional and local level. Arrangements in plans aim to be flexible and scalable for all hazards. The planning process enables agreements to be reached between people and organisations in meeting communities' needs during emergencies. The plan becomes a record of the agreements made by contributing organisations to accept roles and responsibilities, provide resources and work cooperatively.

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

6.2. Emergency resources and contacts

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

6.3. Training and education

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

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

6.4. Community education and awareness

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

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

- NTES hazard briefings
- NTES Paddy Program

6.5. Exercises

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

- legislative changes

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

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

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

7. Response

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

7.1. Activation of the Plan

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

The stages are:

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

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

7.2. Control and coordination

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

7.3. Local Emergency Controller

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

the Officer In Charge of the Milikapiti Police Station. The Local Controller is subject to the directions of the Regional Controller. The powers, functions and directions of the Local Controller can be found in sections 77, 78 and 79 of the Act.

7.4. Local Emergency Committee

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

7.5. Emergency Operations Centre/Local Coordination Centre

NT Emergency management arrangements	Controlling authority arrangements
Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) (Territory and Regional level)	Incident Control Centre (ICC)
Local Coordination Centre (LCC) (Local level)	Incident Control Point (ICP)

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

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

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

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

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

7.6. WebEOC

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

7.7. Situation reports

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

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

7.8. 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
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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.

7.9. Stakeholder notifications

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

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

7.10. Official warnings and general public information

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

- radio broadcast
- television news broadcast
- SecureNT 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, NT Fire and Rescue Service (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.

7.11. Australasian Inter-Service Incident Management System

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

7.12. 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.

7.13. 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.

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

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.

7.14. Sheltering in community

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

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

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

7.15. Emergency shelters or strong buildings

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

The recognised emergency shelters within the Locality are:

Shelter(s)	People capacity
Milikapiti Police Station and cells	50
Milikapiti Primary School	50 (strong building, not shelter)
TIRC Office	60-80
Sport and Recreation Hall	200 (evacuation staging only)

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

The responsibilities of the emergency shelter manager are:

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

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

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

7.16. Evacuation

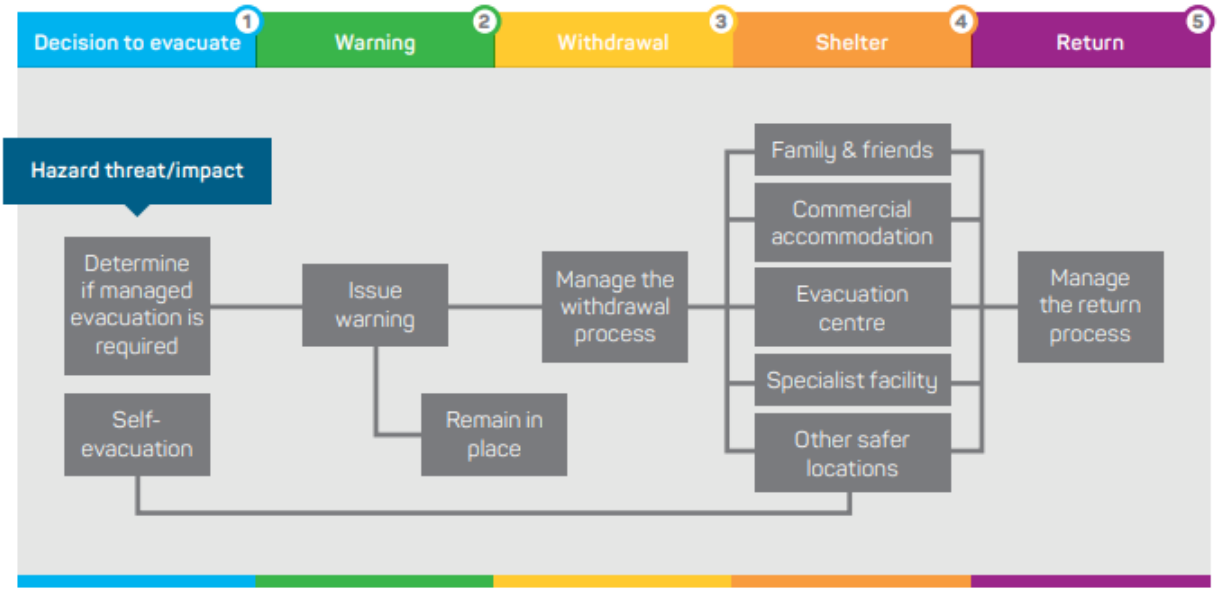
Evacuation is a risk management strategy that can be used to mitigate the effect of an emergency or disaster on a community. It involves the movement of people to a safer location and their return. The decision to evacuate a community, including establishing an evacuation centre, is not taken lightly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

7.17. Identified evacuation centres

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

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

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

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

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

7.18. Impact assessment

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

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

8. Recovery

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

8.1. Local Recovery Coordinator and Coordination Committee

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

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

8.2. Transitional arrangements

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

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

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

- the Territory Controller has briefed the TEMC and the Territory Recovery Coordinator
- the Regional Controller has briefed the Regional Recovery Coordinator, and
- 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*
- *Emergency Management Act 2013*
- National Disaster Risk Assessment Guidelines
- National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework
- Northern Regional Emergency Plan
- *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989*
- Rapid Assessment Team Guidelines
- Territory Emergency Plan
- Transition to Recovery Checklist

11. Annexures

Annex A Functional groups - roles and responsibilities

Annex B Functions table

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

Annex D Summary of response and recovery activities

11.1. Annex A: Functional groups - roles and responsibilities

Functional group	Local contact
Animal Welfare	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF)/TIRC
Critical Goods and Services	Department of Trade, Business and Asian Relations (DTBAR)/Milikapiti Store
Digital and Telecommunications	Department of Corporate & Digital Development (DCDD)
Emergency Shelter	Milikapiti Primary School
Engineering	TIRC
Industry	DTBAR
Medical	Milikapiti Health Centre
Public Health	Milikapiti Health Centre
Public Information	CM&C
Public Utilities	PAWC Essential Services Officer (ESO)
Survey, Rescue and Impact Assessment	NTPF/NTFES
Transport	Tiwi Enterprises
Welfare	Department of Children and Families (DCF)

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

11.2. Annex B: Functions table

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

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

Functions	Agency/organisation/provider responsible
Animal/livestock management	DAF/TIRC
Anti-looting protection	NTPF
Banking services	Milikapiti Store/Milikapiti Sports & Social Club
Broadcasting: What radio stations provide announcements?	ABC Local Radio/Top End Aboriginal Bush Broadcasting Association/TIRC
Clearing of essential traffic routes	TIRC
Clearing storm water drains	TIRC
Clothing and household Items	Milikapiti Store
Community clean Up	TIRC
Control, coordination and management	Designated control authority
Coordination to evacuate public	NTPF
Critical Goods and Services (protect/resupply) • food • bottle gas • camping equipment • building supplies	Milikapiti Store
Damaged public buildings: Coordination and inspections	DLI
Disaster Victim identification capability	NTPFF/Milikapiti Health Centre
Emergency Alerts	NTPF/NTFES/BFNT
Emergency food distribution	TIRC/Catholic Care NT
WebEOC	NTPF/NTFES
Emergency shelter staff, operations and control	DET/Shelter owners/Milikapiti Primary School
Evacuation centre - Staffing, operations and control	DCF

Functions	Agency/organisation/provider responsible
Financial Relief/assistance Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements	CM&C/DCF (Category A measures to individuals)/DTBAR (Category B measures)
Identification of suitable buildings for shelters	DLI
Interpreter services	Aboriginal Interpreter Service
Management of expenditure in emergencies	Controlling authority and any activated functional groups at the direction of the controlling authority
Medical services	Milikapiti Health Centre
Network communications (IT): Responders / Public Maintenance and restoration of emergency communication	Telstra/DCDD
Power: Protection and restoration:	PAWC/ESO
Public messaging during response and recovery	Hazard management authority/CM&C
Public/Environmental Health (EH) management • all EH functions including water & food safety • disease control	Milikapiti Health Centre
Rapid Impact Assessment	NTPF/NTFES
Recovery coordination	CM&C
Repatriation	As detailed in local emergency arrangements
Restoration of public buildings	DLI
Restoration of roads and bridges (council/territory) excluding railways	DLI/TIRC
Road management and traffic control including public Information on road closures	TIRC/NTPF
Sewerage: Protection and restoration	PAWC/ESO
Survey	NTPF
Traffic control	NTPF

Functions	Agency/organisation/provider responsible
Transport : Commercial and Public airport/ planes, automobiles, ferries, buses	Tiwi Enterprise/DLI
Vulnerable groups (medical)	Milikapiti Health Centre
Waste management • collection • disposal of stock	TIRC
Water (including drinking water): Protection and restoration	PAWC/ESO

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:
        - DILP
        - 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[8] (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.

[8] More information can be found at: https://afdrs.com.au/

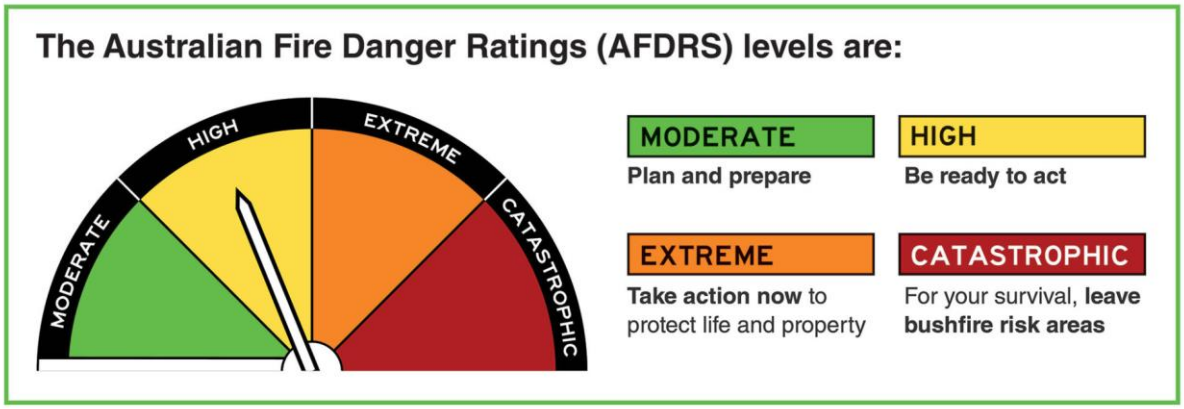


Figure 2: AFDRS Ratings

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

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

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

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

Incident Classification	Description
Level 1	Level 1 fire incidents are characterised by being able to be controlled through local or initial response resources within a few hours of notification. Being relatively minor, all functions of incident management are generally undertaken by the first arriving crew/s.
Level 2	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: • deployment of resources beyond the initial response, • sectorisation of the incident, • the establishment of function sections due to the levels of complexity, or • a combination of the above.
Level 3	Level 3 fire incidents are protracted, large and resource intensive. They may affect community assets and/or public infrastructure, and attract significant community, media and political interest. These incidents will usually involve delegation of all the Incident Management functions.

Australian Warning System

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

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

There are 3 warning levels:

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

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

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

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

11.3.2. Heatwave

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AND the forecast is:

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

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

Level	Description
Level 1	The Severe or Extreme Heatwave has minimal or no impact on normal operations. The Severe or Extreme Heatwave continues for 1 - 3 days.
Level 2	The Extreme Heatwave continues for approximately 3 - 6 days. The Extreme Heatwave has major impact on normal operations. The weather event is resulting in compounding impacts on essential services and infrastructure, and there are anticipated impacts on human health and infrastructure.
Level 3	An Extreme Heatwave is protracted, exceeding 6 days. Maximum temperatures for the localities are exceeded for what is normally expected and multiple days with significantly increased night-time temperatures.

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

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

Public safety message process:

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

Warnings and advice approval flow:

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

There are 3 warning levels:

	Warning level	Description
	Advice (Yellow)	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. 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 pre-determined response arrangements contained within the SerPro system for incidents occurring within an NTFRS ERA. For incidents occurring outside of an ERA, response will be approved by the rostered NTFRS TDO.

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

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

Public safety message process:

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

11.3.4. Tropical cyclone

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

A tropical cyclone[9] hazard includes a cyclone threat to the township, housing and infrastructure of the locality including the surrounding areas. During the cyclone season, November to April, the Bureau keeps a 24-hour watch on developing tropical weather systems. The Bureau will issue a tropical cyclone advice whenever a tropical cyclone is likely to cause winds in excess of 62 km/h (gale force) over Australian communities within the next 48 hours.

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

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

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

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

[9] More information can be found at: http://www.bom.gov.au/cyclone/tropical-cyclone-knowledge-centre/understanding/tc-info/

Table - Tropical cyclone categories

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

Note: Corresponding approximate wind gusts and central pressure are also provided as a guide. Stronger gusts may be observed over hilltops, in gullies and around structures.

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

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

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

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

Public safety message process (initial notification):

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

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

Warnings and advice approval flow

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

There are 3 warning levels:

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

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

On advice from the 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 – Tropical cyclone – guide only[10]

Organisation/ Provider	Watch	Warning (onset of Gale Force Winds)			Reduced risk	Transition to recovery
	48 hours	24 + hours	6 + hours	3 + hours		
All Members		Attend briefings Inform key personnel Assist the Local Controller as required	Attend briefings Assist the Local Controller as required Inform key personnel	Assist the Local Controller as required Take and remain in shelter	Remain in shelter until directed by Local Controller Assist the Local Controller as required	Attend briefings Inform key personnel Assist the Local Controller as required
Local Controller	Liaise with the NTES TDO/EOC Convene meeting of the LEC Ensure LEC members and community have activated their Cyclone Plan Co-ordinate the dissemination of the cyclone watch information to the relevant local community Participate in LEC meetings as required	Liaise with the NTES TDO/EOC Convene meeting of the LEC Ensure that the dissemination of the cyclone warning information to the public is maintained Activate EOC if required	Liaise with the NTES TDO/EOC Update LEC and allocate tasks as required Ensure that the dissemination of the cyclone warning information to the public is maintained At the appropriate time, advise persons at risk to move to a shelter NTPF presence will be required at the designated shelter/s	Take and remain in shelter	Liaise with the NTES TDO/EOC When it is declared safe to move outside, ascertain the extent of injury to persons and damage to property Give directions to survey teams advising community of reduced risk	Provide SITREPs to Regional Controller and Incident Controller Prepare for transition to recovery Begin compilation of information for Post Operation Report

[10] Action stages as per Tropical Cyclone advice and warnings issued by the Bureau of Meteorology

Organisation/ Provider	Watch	Warning (onset of Gale Force Winds)			Reduced risk	Transition to recovery
	48 hours	24 + hours	6 + hours	3 + hours		
NTPFF	Brief police members Disseminate warnings and information as required Maintain normal police duties Assist Local Controller as required Ensure all operational vehicles are fully fuelled	Brief police members Assist with the preparation of the EOC Disseminate cyclone warning information as directed by the Local Controller and advise information received	Brief police members Disseminate cyclone information as directed by the Local Controller and advise him of information received Limit transport and ensure all emergency vehicles are fully operational Co-ordinate the movement of personnel to shelter Commence final patrol of area Ensure all personnel take shelter	Take and remain in shelter	When advised by Local Controller move outside ascertain the extent of injury to persons and damage to property and report with damage assessments Assist Local Controller with prioritising response operations	Assist in the preparation of the final SITREPs Ensure that all NTPF equipment used in the operation is accounted for, maintained and restored Inform key personnel
PAWC ESO	Attend emergency management	Monitor	Monitor	Take and remain in shelter	At the direction of the Local Controller, commence survey	Assist the Local Recovery Coordinator as required

Organisation/ Provider	Watch	Warning (onset of Gale Force Winds)			Reduced risk	Transition to recovery
	48 hours	24 + hours	6 + hours	3 + hours		
	meeting and perform actions as needed				Advise Local Controller of damage and what essential services are still in operation	
Milikapiti School	Participate in pre-cyclone clean up Refuel vehicles, fill water containers and maintain normal duties	When advised, close school and inform the community to secure buildings Staff to secure personal residences	Undertake final checks of shelter Ensure all personnel take shelter	Take and remain in shelter	At the direction of the Local Controller, check the school for damage Restore facilities and resume normal education duties as soon as possible	Advise Local Recovery Coordinator of any urgent priorities and participate in meetings as required
Health centre	Brief health centre personnel Advise Local Controller of state of preparedness and of any urgent requirements Check generator fuel levels Liaise with NTPFF regarding homelands/outstations Review booked patient travel arrangements with	Brief health centre personnel Any potential medevacs and long term treatment patients need to be transferred to appropriate medical facilities or appropriate shelter, at the discretion of the clinic manager	Brief health centre personnel Deliver disaster packs to designated cyclone shelters Allocate health centre vehicles to safe areas Secure all medical records in filing cabinets and compactor Transfer patients who require monitoring or treatment to clinic	Take and remain in shelter	Upon advice from the Local Controller, ensure personnel and facilities are available for triage treatment as soon as the destructive winds have dropped Advise the Local Controller on all first aid/medical requirements	Advise the Local Recovery Coordinator of any urgent priorities and participate in meetings as required

Organisation/ Provider	Watch	Warning (onset of Gale Force Winds)			Reduced risk	Transition to recovery
	48 hours	24 + hours	6 + hours	3 + hours		
	patient travel in Darwin Review patients that may need evacuation Assist in reviewing aged care facilities Maintain normal health and community services	Ensure all vehicles are fuelled Allocate staff to check emergency equipment Check satellite phones Review patient medications Advise Top End Remote Health management of the situation	or other designated shelter (with necessary family members) Advise Top End Remote Health Management in Darwin of the situation Upon advice from the Local Controller ensure all personnel take shelter			
Community store	Get emergency supplies ready Clear yard/store of any dangerous items	Staff to secure personnel residence Close store and undertake final checks	Ensure all personnel take shelter	Take and remain in shelter	At the direction of the Local Controller, attend and assess damage to store and supplies	Participate in meetings as required

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 • Spokes persons identified • SecureNT activated	• Continues in recovery
3. Survey and Rescue	• Survey teams deploy to designated areas • Critical sites surveyed • Deploy rescue teams – NTFRS and NTPF Specialist Response Division provide primary Urban Search and Rescue capability	• Survey and impact assessment data used to contribute to the Recovery Action Plan
4. Road clearance	• Road patrol teams deploy and check assigned routes • Road clearance to priority sites	• Restoration of road networks and bridges • Return to business as usual

Activity	Response activities	Recovery activities
	• Assess Stuart Hwy to Katherine (supply route)	
5. Emergency accommodation	• Emergency accommodation and shelter - evacuation centres • Provision of resources that will enable people to remain in their homes • Emergency clothing	• Evacuation centres may continue into recovery • Temporary accommodation options • Repatriation planning

6. Medical	• Hospital
	  - Identify any issues with accessing facilities
	  - Initial Impact assessment
	  - Access to critical supplies e.g. medicines, consumables, power or fuel and water
	  - ongoing acute clinical care and critical services requirements
	  - increase morgue capacity
	Health Centres
	  - identify any issues with accessing facilities
	  - Access to critical supplies e.g. medicines, consumables, power or fuel and water
	• GP clinics and pharmacies
	  - identify operational GP services
	  - identify operational pharmacies
	• Support Medically vulnerable people
		• Ongoing provision of health services
		  - which may include business continuity plans
		  - engagement with stakeholders
		• Repatriation of medically vulnerable people in community
		• GP clinics and pharmacies
		  - ongoing liaison by the Medical Group
		• Medical retrieval services – resume business as usual

Activity	Response activities	Recovery activities
	• Medical retrieval services (air and road	
7. Essential goods and services	• Establish emergency feeding and food distribution points • Assessing the damage to suppliers and retailers of critical resources • Assess the impact on barge operations and any effect on the ability to supply remote communities • Implement interim banking arrangements	• Support the re-opening of the private business sector • Monitor levels and availability of essential goods • Manage logistics arrangements supplying resources to outlying communities • Public Health inspections (food outlets) • Banking sector business continuity arrangements
	<u>Fuel</u> • Fuel suppliers and point of sale • Manage fuel supplies to emergency power generation	• Monitor fuel levels • Infrastructure repairs • Emergency fuel supplies for recovery • Liaise with fuel suppliers, distributors and wholesalers to re-establish long term supply
	<u>Banking</u> • Assess damage to banks and ATMs • Implement temporary arrangements	• Emergency cash outlets • Implement long term arrangements
8. Evacuation	• Evacuations within community • Evacuation out of community • Registration	• Support services for evacuees • Recovery information for evacuees • Repatriation
9. Public Health	• Communicable disease control response • Drinking water safety standards • Sewage and waste disposal • Safe food distribution and advice • Vector and vermin control • Food and commercial premises	• Ongoing in recovery

Activity	Response activities	Recovery activities
10. Utilities	• Power supply • Power generation • Water supply • Sewerage • Emergency sanitation	• Restore power network • Restore water and sewerage infrastructure • Issue alerts until safe to use
11. Impact assessments	• Training assessment teams • Initial impact assessments	• Comprehensive impact assessments • Ongoing needs assessments
12. Transport infrastructure (supply lines)	<u>Air (Airport/Airstrip)</u> • Clear the runway to allow air movements • Establish a logistics hub at the airport • Terminal damage and operational capability assessment	• Monitor repairs and business continuity activities
	<u>Road</u> • Highway and critical access roads damage assessment • Repair work to commence immediately	• Planning and prioritising repair work of all affected key 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 - impact assessments - temporary repairs • Government buildings	• Private housing - information and support to facilitate repairs • Government buildings - repairs and reconstruction

Activity	Response activities	Recovery activities
	- damage assessment • Public housing - impact assessments • Private industry - damage assessments	• Public housing - long term repair plans • Private industry - repair and reconstruction • Temporary accommodation for a visiting construction workforce
15. Transport services	• Staged re-establishment of public transport services	• Continues in recovery
16. Telecommunications	• 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	• Police 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
AIIMS	Australasian Inter-Service Incident Management System
BFNT	Bushfires NT
CASA	Civil Aviation Safety Authority
CM&C	Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet
DCDD	Department of Corporate and Digital Development
DCF	Department 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
EMA	Emergency Management Australia
EOC	Emergency Operations Centre
ERA	Emergency Response Area
ESO	Essential Services Officer
ICC	Incident Control Centre
ICP	Incident Control Point
IMT	Incident Management Team
JESCC	Joint Emergency Services Communications Centre
KM	Kilometres
LCC	Local Coordination Centre
LEC	Local Emergency Committee

Acronyms	Definitions
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
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
TIRC	Tiwi Island Regional Council
WebEOC	Web-Based Emergency Operations Centre