NT EMERGENCY SERVICE

Yarralin
Local Emergency Plan

Contents

1. Document control **4**
1.1. Governance 4
1.2. Version history 4
1.3. Local Emergency Committee members and key stakeholders engaged for review 5
2. Acknowledgement of Country **6**
3. Introduction **6**
3.1. Purpose 6
3.2. Application 6
3.3. Key considerations 6
4. Locality context **7**
4.1. Climate and weather 8
4.2. Geography 8
4.3. Sacred sites 8
4.4. Sites of conservation 8
4.5. Tourism 8
4.6. NT and local government 8
4.7. Building codes 9
4.8. Land use 9
4.9. Homelands 9
4.10. Power generation and distribution 9
4.11. Water services 10
4.12. Health infrastructure 10
4.13. Emergency service infrastructure 10
4.14. Roads 10
4.15. Airports 10
4.16. Telecommunication 11
4.17. Local radio stations 11
4.18. Medically vulnerable clients 12
5. Prevention **12**
5.1. Emergency risk assessments 12
5.2. Disaster hazard analysis and risk register 12
5.3. Hazard specific prevention and mitigation strategies 12
6. Preparedness **13**
6.1. Planning 13
6.2. Emergency resources and contacts 13
6.3. Training and education 13
6.4. Community education and awareness 13
6.5. Exercises 13
7. Response **14**
7.1. Activation of the Plan 14

7.2. Control and coordination 14
7.3. Local Emergency Controller 14
7.4. Local Emergency Committee 15
7.5. Emergency Operations Centre/Local Coordination Centre 15
7.6. WebEOC 15
7.7. Situation reports 15
7.8. Stakeholder notifications 16
7.9. Official warnings and general public information 16
7.10. Australasian Inter-Service Incident Management System 17
7.11. Closure of schools 17
7.12. Closure of government offices 17
7.13. Sheltering in community 17
7.14. Emergency shelters or strong buildings 17
7.15. Evacuation 18
7.16. Identified evacuation centres 19
7.17. Impact assessment 19
8. Recovery 20
8.1. Local Recovery Coordinator and Coordination Committee 20
8.2. Transitional arrangements 20
9. Debrief 21
10. Related references 21
11. Annexures 21
11.1. Annex A: Functional groups - roles and responsibilities 22
11.2. Annex B: Functions table 23
11.3. Annex C: Prevention, mitigation strategies and action plans for identified hazards 26
11.3.1. Bushfire (within Fire Protection and Management Zones) 26
11.3.2. Flooding 33
11.3.3. Road crash 37
11.4. Annex D: Summary of response and recovery activities 40
12. Acronyms 45

1. Document control

1.1. Governance

Document title	Yarralin Local Emergency Plan
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1.2. Version history

Date	Version	Author	Summary of changes
30/12/2014	1	John McRoberts	First version
04/11/2015	2	Reece P Kershaw	Reviewed and updated
30/12/2016	3	Kate Vanderlaan	Reviewed and updated
27/11/2018	4	Travis Wurst	Reviewed and endorsed by the Regional Controller, as the Territory Controller's delegate
18/02/2020	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
13/06/2024	9	Matthew Hollamby	Reviewed and endorsed by the Regional Controller, as the Territory Controller's delegate
11/03/2025	10	Peter Malley	Reviewed and endorsed by the Regional Controller, as the Territory Controller's delegate
06/01/2026	11	James A O'Brien	Reviewed and endorsed by the Regional Controller, as the Territory Controller's delegate

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

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

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

Agency/organisation	Name	Role/position
Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development	Sahadi Garling	Committee member
Katherine West Health Board	Lorraine Johns	Committee member
Lingara Community	Community members	Committee member
NT Emergency Service	Jamie Richardson	Planning Officer
NT Police Force	Andrew McBride	Sergeant
NT Police Force	Justice Mkwetwa	Local Controller
NT Police Force	Virginia Read	Superintendent
Victoria Daly Regional Council	Pete Valentine-Smith	Committee member
Victoria Daly Regional Council/Community Elder	Colin Campbell	Committee member
Victoria Daly Regional Council/Mayor	Brian Pedwell	Committee member
Yarralin School	Kyria Chapman	Committee member
Yarralin School	Wesley Campbell	Committee member
Yarralin Store	Brian Wilson	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 Yarralin 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

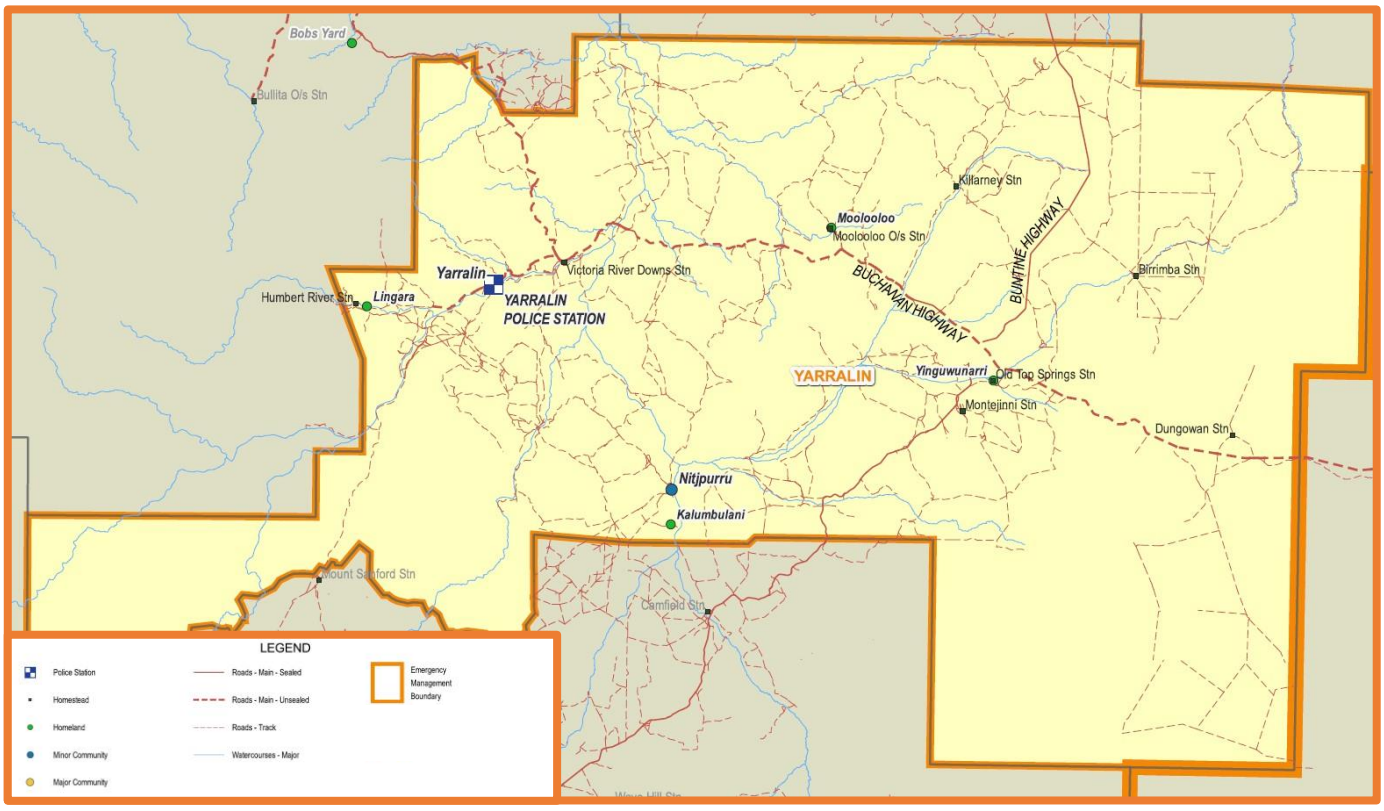
This Plan complements the Northern Regional Emergency Plan[1] as it relates to the Locality. For further information on the hierarchy of plans, refer to the Territory Emergency Plan[2]. The Locality covers approximately 12,300 square kilometres (km) and is located approximately 382 km south west of Katherine and forms part of the Northern Region, as defined by the Territory Emergency Plan.

The Locality is accessed by the Buchannan Highway which is predominately a gravel road, and is also in close proximity of the Gregory National Park. The Locality comprises of 3 minor communities close to the township of Yarralin, being Lingara, Top Springs and Nitjpurru (formerly known as Pigeon Hole).

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 population centres within the Locality are estimated as follows:

Bushtel ID	Locality	Aliases	Approx. population
658	Yarralin		332
639	Nitjpurru	Bunbidee and Pigeon Hole	142
613	Lingara	Lingarra, Old Humbert River and Walangeri	28
Bushtel ID	**Homelands**	**Aliases**	**Approx. population**
941	Kalumbulani	Camfield and Kulumanbulani	not recorded
15203	Moolooloo		not recorded
659	Yinguwunarri	Montejinni, Old Top Springs, Top Springs, Wanarr and Yingawinarri	not recorded



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

4.1. Climate and weather

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

4.2. Geography

The Locality topography ranges from sandy soils and salt flats to rocky outcrops into the escarpment and Jasper Gorge area of the Gregory National Park. The communities are in close proximity to the Victoria, Humbert and Yarralin Rivers that are fed from a number of small creeks within the catchment areas west and south-west of Yarralin.

4.3. Sacred sites

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

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

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

4.4. Sites of conservation

There are no sites of conservation significance in this Locality, for further information about these sites contact the Department of Lands, Planning and Environment[4] (DLPE).

4.5. Tourism

The Locality is exposed to tourism by way of through traffic, and although on the increase, has no significant impact on the Locality.

4.6. NT and local government

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

- NTPF
    - Yarralin Police Station
- Department of Education and Training (DET)
    - Yarralin School
    - Nitjpurru School

The Locality is within the Victoria Daly Regional Council (VDRC) region.

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

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

The Locality land use is in consultation between VDRC landowners and Traditional Owners. A number of freehold and leasehold pastoralists utilise the area for the production of export cattle. Land use in the Locality includes:

- air strips
- cemeteries
- indigenous protected areas
- pastoral
- power stations
- residential
- sewerage ponds
- waste management

The following pastoral stations are located within the Locality:

- Birrimba Station
- Dungowan Station
- Humbert River Station
- Killarney Station
- Montejinni Station
- Mooloolloo O/S Station
- Old Top Springs Station
- Victoria River Downs Station

4.9. Homelands

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

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

4.10. Power generation and distribution

The Power and Water Corporation (PAWC) is responsible for the supply of power to Yarralin, Nitjpurru and Lingara.

4.11. Water services

The PAWC is responsible for the supply of water to Yarralin. Bore water is supplied throughout the Locality.

4.12. Health infrastructure

The Yarralin and Nitjpurru communities are serviced by Katherine West Health Board having the capacity to provide emergency medical aid in addition to routine health treatment. Nitjpurru is only serviced between Tuesday morning and Thursday afternoon, with staff travelling from Kalkarindji. Serious medical cases are required to be evacuated to Katherine or Darwin. Patients can be evacuated either via road or air.

4.13. Emergency service infrastructure

The Locality has the following emergency service infrastructure:

- police station and cells

4.14. Roads

The Locality has an approximate total of 320 km of unsealed roads and 25 km of sealed roads. Main access is from the sealed Victoria Highway and the unsealed Buchannan Highway (384 km from Katherine) which is often impassable during the Wet Season. Alternative access is from the Buntine Highway through Top Springs (404 km from Katherine). This is also impassable during the Wet Season with occasional 14 metres (m) of water flooding the Dashwood Crossing.

A one-way trip from Katherine to the community will take approximately 4-5 hours, and apart from the Victoria and Buntine Highways, all roads are unsealed gravel and often rocky.

4.15. Airports

The table below lists the airstrips in the Locality:

Name of the strip	Datum	Certified Aerodrome	Details (type, length, etc.)	Operator of the strip
Yarralin	12°26.6'S 131°52.8'E	Non-Certified	Dimensions: 1210 m x 18 m Surface: sealed Windsock: yes Hazards: wildlife Fuel Held: nil Lighting: LED solar lighting Fenced: yes	DLI
Kidman Springs	16°6.9'S 130°57.2'E	Non-Certified	Dimensions 1100 m Surface: unsealed gravel Windsock: nil Hazards/fuel: nil Lighting: yes	Kidman Springs Station

Name of the strip	Datum	Certified Aerodrome	Details (type, length, etc.)	Operator of the strip
Lingara Community	16°29.5'S 130°37.7'E	Non-Certified	Dimensions: 1200 m Surface: gravel/dirt unsealed Windsock: no Hazards: fenced but not maintained Hazards/fuel: nil	YHBR Humbert River Station (Lingara Community)
Nitjpurru Community	16°48'S 131°13'E	Non-Certified	Dimensions: 1000 m x 18 m Surface: unsealed limestone gravel Windsock: yes (solar illuminated) Hazards/fuel: nil Lighting: Nil	VDRC Yarralin
Victoria River Downs	16°24'S 131°00'E	Non-Certified	Dimensions: 1251 m x 30 m Surface: unsealed limestone gravel Windsock: yes Hazards: wildlife/cattle Fuel held: AVGAS/AVTUR Lighting: emergency lighting Fenced: nil	VRD Station

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].

4.16. Telecommunication

There is 4G mobile coverage in Yarralin, as well as fixed line. There is one payphone in the Yarralin township, one in Lingara and 2 in Nitjpurru. Satellite phones are the only available communications across the remainder of the Locality.

4.17. Local radio stations

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

- 95.5 FM Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) Local Radio
- 102.9 FM Top End Aboriginal Bush Broadcasting Association (TEABBA)

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

4.18. Medically vulnerable clients

The Yarralin Primary Health Centre has a list of medically vulnerable clients. The lists are updated regularly. Currently there is a service to assist the elderly in Yarralin and outstations.

5. Prevention

5.1. Emergency risk assessments

The Yarralin 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
- heatwave
- road crash

Hazard	Overall consequence	Overall likelihood	Risk rating
Air crash	Minor	Rare	**Low**
Bushfire (within Fire Protection and Management Zones)	Moderate	Unlikely	**Medium**
Flooding	Moderate	Likely	**Medium**
Heatwave	Moderate	Unlikely	**Medium**
Road crash	Minor	Likely	**Medium**

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
- NTFRS Smart Sparx Program

6.5. Exercises

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

- legislative changes

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

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

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

7. Response

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

7.1. Activation of the Plan

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

The stages are:

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

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

7.2. Control and coordination

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

7.3. Local Emergency Controller

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

the Officer In Charge of the Yarralin 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 Yarralin 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 Yarralin 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 the NTFES. The online platform is used for the coordination of multi-agency response to, and recovery from, an emergency event. WebEOC also enables real-time information sharing across all agencies involved in emergency management activities.

7.7. Situation reports

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

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

7.8. Stakeholder notifications

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

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

7.9. Official warnings and general public information

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

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

Official warnings are issued by the Bureau of Meteorology (the Bureau), Geoscience Australia, 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)[7] is a robust incident management system that enables the seamless integration of activities and resources of a single agency or multiple agencies when applied to the resolution of any event.

7.11. Closure of schools

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

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

7.12. Closure of government offices

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

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

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

7.13. Sheltering in community

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

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

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

7.14. Emergency shelters or strong buildings

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

There are currently no emergency shelters within the Locality, the below areas are used for staging purposes:

Shelter(s)	People capacity
Nitjpurru Airstrip	(for staging only)
Yarralin Airstrip	(for staging only)
Yarralin Primary School	(for staging only)

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

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

The responsibilities of the emergency shelter manager are:

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

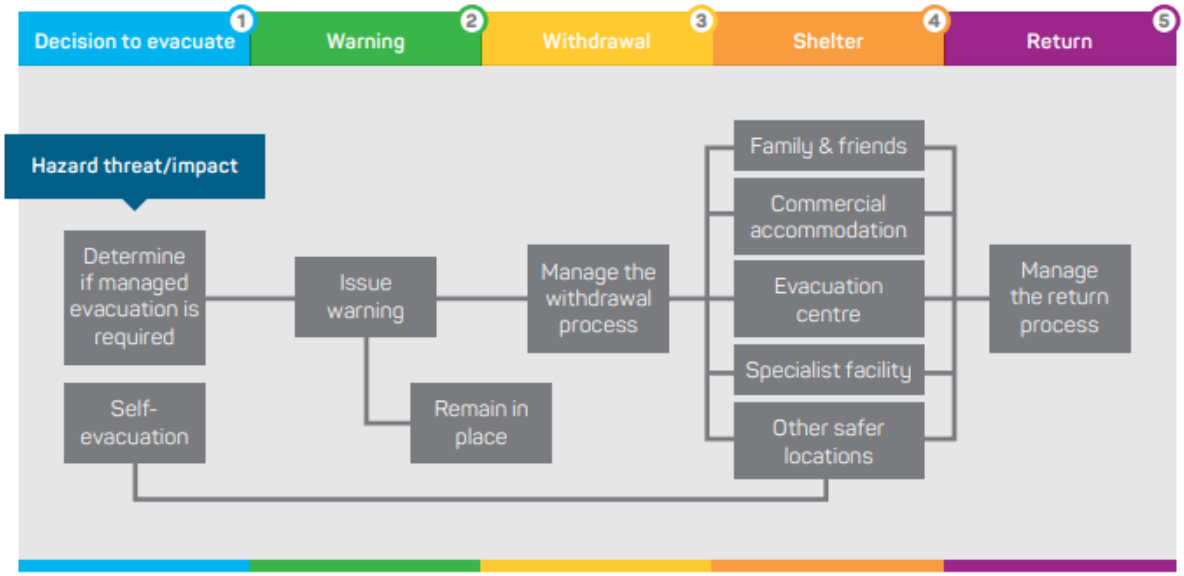
Evacuation is a risk management strategy that can be used to mitigate the effect of an emergency or disaster on a community. It involves the movement of people to a safer location and their return. The decision to evacuate a community, including establishing an evacuation centre, is not taken lightly 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 Guideline, 2017.

7.16. Identified evacuation centres

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

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

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

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

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

7.17. Impact assessment

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

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

8. Recovery

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

8.1. Local Recovery Coordinator and Coordination Committee

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

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

8.2. Transitional arrangements

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

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

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

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

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

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

9. Debrief

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

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

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

10. Related references

The following references apply:

- *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (Cth)
- *Building Act 1993*
- *Building Regulations 1993*
- *Emergency Management Act 2013*
- National Disaster Risk Assessment Guidelines
- National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework
- Northern Regional Emergency Plan
- *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act (NT) 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 Specific 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	VDRC
Critical Goods and Services	Yarralin Store/VDRC Store
Digital and Telecommunications	Department of Corporate & Digital Development (DCDD)
Emergency Shelter	DET
Engineering	Department of Logistics and Infrastructure (DLI)
Industry	Department of Trade, Business and Asian Relations (DTBAR)
Medical	Yarralin Health Centre
Public Health	Yarralin Health Centre
Public Information	CM&C
Public Utilities	PAWC
Survey, Rescue and Impact Assessment	NTPF
Transport	VDRC
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	
Anti-looting protection	NTPF
Banking services	N/A
Broadcasting: What radio stations provide announcements?	ABC Radio/TEABBA
Clearing of essential traffic routes	VDRC
Clearing storm water drains	VDRC
Clothing and household Items	VDRC/Yarralin Store/Nitjpurru Store
Community clean up	VDRC
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	VDRC/Yarralin Store/Nitjpurru Store
Damaged public buildings: Coordination and inspections	DLI
Disaster Victim identification capability	NTPF/Yarralin Health Centre
Emergency Alert	NTPF/NTFES
Emergency food distribution	VDRC/Yarralin Store/Nitjpurru Store
WebEOC	NTPF/NTFES
Emergency shelter staff, operations and control	DET/Shelter owners
Evacuation centre - Staffing, operations and control	DCF
Financial Relief/assistance	CM&C/DCF (Category A measures to individuals)/DTBAR (Category B measures)

Functions	Agency/organisation/provider responsible
Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements	
Identification of suitable buildings for shelters	DLI
Interpreter services	Aboriginal Interpreter Service/VDRC
Management of expenditure in emergencies	Controlling authority and any activated functional groups at the direction of the controlling authority
Medical services	Yarralin Health Clinic
Network communications (IT): Responders /Public Maintenance and restoration of emergency communication	Telstra/DCDD
Power: Protection and restoration:	PAWC
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	DoH/Yarralin Health Clinic
Rapid Impact Assessment	NTPF/NTFES
Recovery Coordination	CM&C
Repatriation	DCF
Restoration of public buildings	DLI
Restoration of roads and bridges (council/territory) excluding railways	VDRC
Road management and traffic control including public Information on road closures	VDRC
Sewerage: Protection and restoration	PAWC/AUS Projects
Survey	NTPF
Traffic control	VDRC/NTPF
Transport: Commercial and public airport/ planes, automobiles, buses	DLI
Vulnerable groups (medical)	Yarralin Health Clinic

Functions	Agency/organisation/provider responsible
Waste management • collection • disposal of stock	VDRC
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:
    - DLI
    - VDRC
    - Parks and Wildlife
    - NTFRS
    - BFNT
    - Contracted private entities.

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

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

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

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

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

The Australian Fire Danger Rating 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/

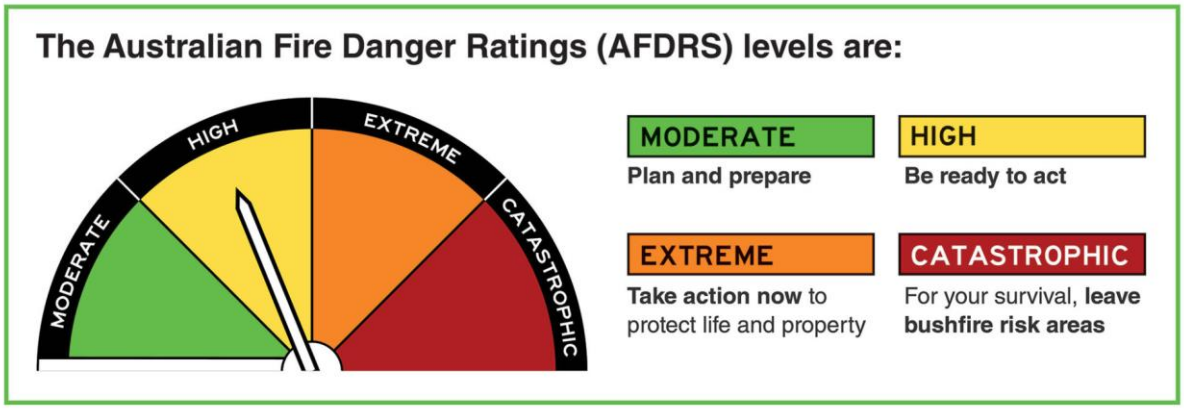


Figure 2: AFDRS Ratings

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.

Actions to be taken – Bushfire – guide only

Organisation/ Provider	Stage 1: Alert	Stage 2: Standby	Stage 3: Activation	Stage 4: Stand down	Transition to recovery
All Members	Attend briefings Inform key personnel Provide SITREPs	Attend briefings Inform key personnel Provide SITREPs	Attend briefings Inform key personnel Provide SITREPs	Attend briefings Inform key personnel Provide SITREPs	Attend briefings Inform key personnel Provide SITREPs
Local Controller		Ascertain state of preparedness Determine the need to disseminate warning/information to the public	Proceed to fire scene and carry out the following: • Establish Forward Command Post Co-ordinate requests for assistance from other agencies	On completion of operation: • Ensure all personnel (victims/responders) are accounted for Ensure all personnel are advised of debrief arrangements	Compile and forward Post Operations Report Attend debrief
NT Police – 2IC		Attend briefings Inform key personnel Provide SITREPs Ensure following items are on the vehicle: • Road closed signs • Safety devices • First aid kit	Establish contact with the Local Controller and obtain details of incident On arrival at the scene accompany fire responders and conduct reconnaissance of area If necessary, initiate evacuation procedures and arrange for security of evacuated property	Upon completion of operations (as authorised by investigating authority), co-ordinate the clean-up of the scene Account for all equipment used Assist the Local Controller in the compilation of the Post Operations Report Assist the Local Controller with other tasks, as directed	Assist where required Take action upon debrief

Organisation/ Provider	Stage 1: Alert	Stage 2: Standby	Stage 3: Activation	Stage 4: Stand down	Transition to recovery
Yarralin Health Clinic	Attend briefings Inform key personnel Provide SITREPs	Advise the Local Controller of state of preparedness Maintain normal health services, and if activated, provide additional health and medical assistance	Implement call-out procedures Brief staff and if necessary, instruct to remain on standby Prepare vehicles and health centre in the event of possible casualties	Upon completion of operation: • Account for all health personnel • Refurbish equipment • Co-ordinate the re-establishment of normal health centre operations • If necessary, liaise with the Local Controller regarding requirements for Critical Incident Debriefing support • Conduct operational debrief with health centre staff • Provide relevant information to the Local Controller for inclusion in the final SITREP Stand-down personnel	Assist where required Take action upon debrief
Yarralin Primary School	Attend briefings Inform key personnel Provide SITREPs	Attend briefings Inform key personnel Provide SITREPs	Provide mustering point and shelter assistance, as required by the Local Controller Provide other assistance, as requested	If necessary, liaise with the Local Controller regarding Critical Incident Debrief support Provide information for inclusion in the final SITREP to the Local Controller	Attend debrief Take action where required

Organisation/ Provider	Stage 1: Alert	Stage 2: Standby	Stage 3: Activation	Stage 4: Stand down	Transition to recovery
VDRC	Attend briefings Inform key personnel Provide SITREPs	Attend briefings Inform key personnel Provide SITREPs Brief personnel and place on standby Ascertain state of preparedness	On receipt of advice of fire/bushfire threat, implement call out procedures Establish contact with the Local Controller Dispatch fire units to area, assess situation and update the Local Controller Take appropriate action to contain and extinguish fire, if possible Once under control, patrol area until satisfied fire is no longer a threat	Upon completion of operations, account for all equipment used and supervise the cleaning and refurbishment Conduct operational debrief with personnel If necessary, liaise with the Local Controller regarding Critical Incident Debrief support	Attend debrief Take action where required
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)

The Yarralin Locality may be subject to isolation caused by seasonal monsoonal/severe storm activity. When such isolation occurs, access by road will be restricted. Isolation causes communities/individuals to be cut off from the rest of the area. This could mean some people in an area are affected by a flood while others are not.

Flood events can cause long-term impacts on communities, such as disruptions to supplies of food, clean water, wastewater treatment, electricity, transport, communication, education and health care. Where isolation is likely to occur for an extended time, preseason planning by the LEC is critical to ensure there will be limited disruptions to critical goods and services.

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

Yarralin is prone to isolation and flooding with extreme rainfalls in the catchments of the Wickham and Humbert Rivers. As the only flood gauge in the area is located at Williams Crossing, a long warning time of a possible flood in the Yarralin Locality will not always be possible. Although the gauge at Williams Crossing provides a guide to probable levels of the Wickham River adjacent to the community[9].

Consideration must be given to the Nitjpurru (Pigeon Hole) community, if the flood will impact the community. Previous evacuations include the 2001 and the 2023 and 2024 major floods, where the community were evacuated to Darwin. Whilst there are no gauging stations for the locality, the following table provides guidance for riverine flooding on NT communities.

Yarralin

Flood Impact	Consequence
Disruptive flooding	Causes inconvenience. Low-lying areas next to water courses are inundated. Roads become boggy with some major roads (Buchannan hwy) becoming inaccessible to 2wd and heavy vehicles also may be closed and low-level bridges submerged.
Community impact flooding	In addition to the above, the area of inundation is more substantial. Evacuation of flood affected areas may be 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.

[9] More information can be found at: http://www.bom.gov.au/cgi-bin/wrap_fwo.pl?IDD60022.html

Nitjpurru (Pigeon Hole)

Flood Impact	Consequence
Disruptive flooding	Community becomes isolated due to road access through river bed (normally dry when river at Kalkarindji is at low levels)
Community impact flooding	Low lying areas become inundated, residents self-evacuate generally to higher levels and begin preparing longer term shelter at "The Shed" on high ground
Critical/emergency flooding	Community township becomes inundated due to flood waters with substantial losses to all infrastructure

Lingara

Flood Impact	Consequence
Disruptive flooding	Community may become isolated due to rising creek and river crossings. Community is prepared with extra fuel supplies (self-purchased from Yarralin)
Community impact flooding	Community remains isolated – prolonged food supply becomes an issue
Critical/emergency flooding	Community is on high ground with all houses elevated, with generator (electric) supplies able to be sourced through nearby station – Humbert River (owned by Heytesbury Pastoral Group)

Dashwood Crossing – Victoria River (Buchanan Highway)

Flood Impact – Dashwood Xing gauge	Consequence
1.5 m at the crossing	Causes inconvenience, crossing sits at 0.50 m, any river rises will close crossing with access to Yarralin from Top Springs (Kalkarindji) cut off
17 m	At 17 m at the crossing will begin to severely impact and inundate Victoria River Downs station.

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

Other factors also affect flooding in the community, including local rain which feeds creeks and watercourses downstream from the crossing, the tide times and levels in the Victoria River which influence the rate of flow of the Wickham River and the ability of the surrounding countryside to absorb water. Should flooding occur, it will not be possible to access the community by road and it is likely the airstrip will only be operable for a short period of time due to the billabong at the rear of the airstrip flooding and water rising to the fence line of the airstrip or further.

It is difficult to assess when and to what extent flooding will affect the Yarralin community throughout any given Wet Season. Although some warning may be possible due to computation of data collected from Williams Crossing, a flood event may occur with little warning.

Lingara community has 3 – 4 creek and river crossings between the community and Yarralin. These crossings flood easily and quickly. Lingara residents are to be advised at the earliest possible time to evacuate and head into Yarralin. Should flash flooding occur, it will not be possible to relocate to Yarralin via road and is likely that a helicopter rescue will need to be initiated.

Nitjpurru (Pigeon Hole) is susceptible to inundation from flood waters from the Victoria and Camfield Rivers. Where major flood levels are reported at Kalkarindji (on the Victoria River), these flood waters can be expected to impact Nitjpurru (Pigeon Hole) in approximately 2½ days' time.

During the major floods in 2023 and 2024, where floodwaters peaked at the rooftops of houses within the community, resulted in catastrophic damage to residential properties and critical infrastructure. Flood waters flowing in from the Camfield River may have an impact on Nitjpurru (PigeonHole), on top of major flooding on the Victoria will have a major effect on the community.

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

- Community education, flood updates and forecasting

Public safety message process:

- the Bureau issues a flood advice to NTES TDO
- NTES TDO issues Australian Warning System to the NTFES Media Unit
- NTES TDO notifies Local Controller and NTES Manager Northern
- Local Controller notifies LEC
- NTES Manager Northern consults with the Bureau and Incident Controller to determine recommended messaging
- NTFES Media Unit or Public Information 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's weather warnings, the NTES determine the Australian Warning System level.

The NTES TDO is responsible for issuing Australian Warning System warnings and advice prior to an Incident Controller is appointed.

Actions to be taken – Flooding – guide only[10]

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

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

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 NTPFES members

Public message approval flow:

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

Actions to be taken – Road crash – guide only

Organisation/ Provider	Stage 1: Alert	Stage 2: Standby	Stage 3: Activation	Stage 4: Stand down	Transition to recovery
All Members			Attend briefings Inform key personnel Provide SITREPs	Attend briefings Inform key personnel Provide SITREPs	Attend briefings Inform key personnel Provide SITREPs
Local Controller			Carry out initial reconnaissance of the area affected	Ensure all personnel (victims and responders) are accounted for Ensure all personnel are advised of debrief arrangements	Arrange for Critical Incident Debrief, action as appropriate Compile and forward Post Operations Report
NT Police 2IC			Carry out initial reconnaissance of the area affected Action security procedures for incident scene and personal property	Account for all equipment Assist the Local Controller with other tasks as directed	Assist the Local Controller in the compilation of the Post Operations Report
Yarralin Health Clinic (KWHB)			Implement call out procedures Equip and dispatch vehicle to accident scene Brief staff and instruct to remain on standby Preparation of health clinic to receive possible accident victims	Account for all health personnel Refurbish equipment as necessary and co-ordinate the re-establishment of normal health centre operations Provide relevant information to the Local Controller for inclusion in	Liaise with the Local Controller regarding the requirements for Critical Incident Debrief support Liaise with the Local Controller regarding any on-going public health issues resulting of the incident

Organisation/ Provider	Stage 1: Alert	Stage 2: Standby	Stage 3: Activation	Stage 4: Stand down	Transition to recovery
			Advise Aerial Medical Section Darwin of incident and commence triaging Administer emergency treatment	the Post Operations Report	
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
5. Emergency accommodation	Emergency accommodation and shelter - evacuation centres Provision of resources that will enable people to remain in their homes and emergency clothing	Evacuation centres may continue into recovery Temporary accommodation options Repatriation planning
6. Medical	• Hospital o Identify any issues with accessing facilities o Initial Impact assessment o Access to critical supplies e.g. medicines, consumables, power or fuel and water o ongoing acute clinical care and critical services requirements o increase morgue capacity • Health Centres o identify any issues with accessing facilities o Access to critical supplies e.g. medicines, consumables, power or fuel and water • GP clinics and pharmacies o identify operational GP services o identify operational pharmacies • Support Medically vulnerable people • Medical retrieval services (air and road)	• 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
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
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

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
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 - damage assessment Public housing - impact assessments Private industry - damage assessments	Private housing - information and support to facilitate repairs Government buildings - repairs and reconstruction 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. Telecommunication	Telecommunications providers will assess the damage to their infrastructure	Repair damage networks and infrastructure (for private entities there is support for operators only)

Activity	Response activities	Recovery activities
	Put in place temporary measures to enable landline and mobile services	
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
AIIMS	Australasian Inter-Service Incident Management System
BFNT	Bushfires NT
CASA	Civil Aviation Safety Authority
CM&C	Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet
DCF	Department of Children and Families
DET	Department of Education and Training
DLI	Department of Logistics and Infrastructure
DoH	Department of Health
DTBAR	Department of Trade, Business and Asian Relations
EOC	Emergency Operations Centre
ERA	Emergency Response Area
ESO	Essential Services Operators
ICC	Incident Control Centre
ICP	Incident Control Point
JESCC	Joint Emergency Services Communications Centre
KM	Kilometres
LCC	Local Coordination Centre
LEC	Local Emergency Committee
LRCC	Local Recovery Coordination Committee
M	Metres
NERAG	National Disaster Risk Assessment Guidelines
NT	Northern Territory

Acronyms	Definitions
NTES	Northern Territory Emergency Service
NTFES	Northern Territory Fire and Emergency Services
NTFRS	Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service
NTG	Northern Territory Government
NTPF	Northern Territory Police Force
RAT	Rapid Assessment Team
RCC	Rescue Coordination Centre
SEWS	Standard Emergency Warning Signal
SITREP	Situation Report
TDO	Territory Duty Officer
TEABBA	Top End Aboriginal Bush Broadcasting Association
TEMC	Territory Emergency Management Council
VDRC	Victoria Daly Regional Council
WebEOC	Web-Based Emergency Operations Centre