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Government  
of South Australia



RESCUE

# Emergency Management

January 2013

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S DISASTER RESILIENCE NEWSLETTER

### National Flood Risk Information Project

The main aim of the National Flood Risk Information Project is to make flood risk information accessible from a central location.

Geoscience Australia will facilitate this through the development of an online flood risk information portal. Over the next four years the project will increase the amount of flood risk information that is publicly accessible and increase stakeholder capability in the production and use of flood risk information.

During the initial phase of the portal, Geoscience Australia's **Australian Flood Studies Database (AFSD)** will be updated with digital flood study reports, some of which include flood maps, and a more user-friendly interface. Summary information on each flood study will also be provided, including information on how the study was done, what data was used, what flood maps were produced and for what scenarios, and the custodian and author (e.g. consultant) details.

Where the study included an assessment of damage, details such as estimates of annual average damage, or the number of properties affected during a flood of a particular likelihood, will also be included.

Later phases will see the development of the Australian Flood Information System. The system will host mapped flood data and provide access to the information already available in the AFSD. Mapped flood data likely to be accessible through the system will include flood extents and to a lesser degree information on water depths.

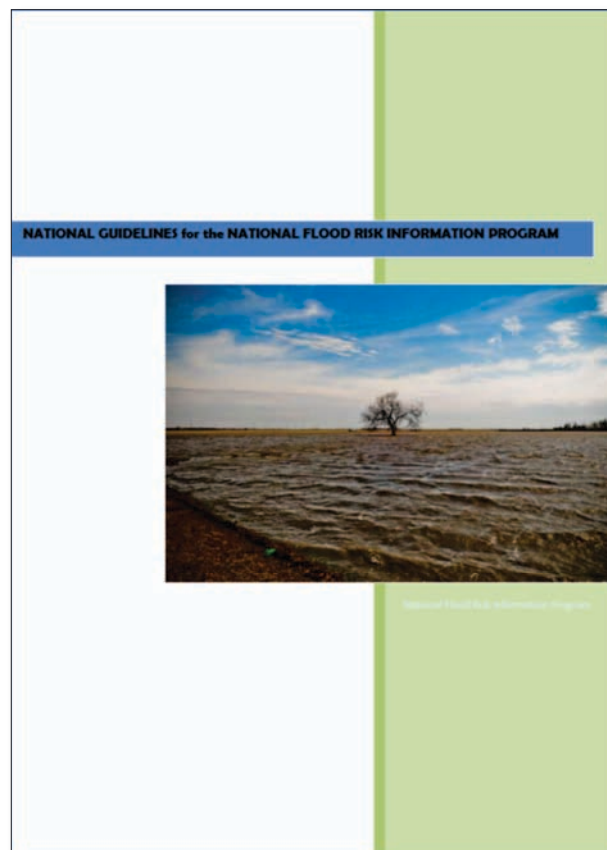
The aim is for the system to display data for a range of scenarios from small to extreme events. It will also include historical flood data obtained from a 30-year record of Landsat imagery.

This data will show whether a particular location was 'wet' at some point during the 30-year period; however, it will not necessarily represent the peak of a flood or show water depth. This data will be particularly useful in rural areas where there is little or no flood information.

To support the project new national guidelines for flood risk information have recently been adopted by all states and territories.

The guidelines set out the framework and principles under which Australian jurisdictions will work together to improve the quality, consistency and accessibility of information on floods.

They build on an ongoing program of coordinated national effort to generate nationally consistent flood mapping.



The new guidelines set out the roles and responsibilities of local governments, states and territories and the commonwealth government in relation to the Flood Information Portal and articulate best practice principles and guidelines for a national approach to the creation, collation and dissemination of flood information in Australia.

Implementation of these guidelines will enable all levels of government, the corporate and non-government sectors, communities and individuals to more effectively address flood risk issues.

### Our next edition

Thank you to everyone in the SA emergency services sector who contributed articles for this edition of EM. Work on the next edition is already underway. If you have an article for the next edition please send it ASAP to EM editor Bob Stevenson ([stevenson.robert@ses.sa.gov.au](mailto:stevenson.robert@ses.sa.gov.au)) at the State Emergency Service. Photographs are most welcome.



*Each decision and action makes us more vulnerable to disasters – or more resilient to them. Thus disaster risk reduction involves every part of society, every part of government, and every part of the professional and private sector." United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.*



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## Marine disaster the focus of Team Spirit 12

The annual state exercise 'Team Spirit 12' was held on Wednesday 21 November 2012 at Keswick Barracks. The hypothetical discussion exercise (DISCEX) provided participants with a number of scenarios to discuss, focusing on a catastrophic event that had statewide impacts. The exercise explored the state's capacity to deal with a significant maritime emergency resulting in loss of life, injuries, large scale evacuations, people displacement and a significant impact on the environment.

The exercise examined government, agency and private sector crisis management procedures at the strategic level.

Team Spirit 12 was written and conducted under the guidelines developed by the State Response Advisory Group (SRAG), Central Exercise Writing Team (CEWT) and other parties. SAPOL's Assistant Commissioner Brian Fahey addressed the participants prior to the commencement and stressed the importance of this type of exercise.

### **The aim of the exercise:**

*'To discuss the strategies needed from the response to the recovery phase of a significant emergency in South Australia.'*

The complex scenario focused on a large passenger cruise ship colliding with a tuna boat at Port Lincoln. The collision results in one of the vessels sinking, fire on the other vessel, death, injuries, missing people, large scale evacuations, displaced people and environmental impacts.

The 14 functional services were represented and other attendees included Flinders Ports, the EPA, Port Lincoln Council and oil companies. Discussion around the scenario was very robust and a number of key issues were identified which will be discussed further at the exercise debrief to follow. Early feedback from participants was that the exercise was both interesting and beneficial and the scenario provided significant challenges for the participants.

The exercise writing and management team consisted of CEWT members with additional assistance from PIRSA and DPTI.



## Dates set for this year's resilience conference

The South Australian resilience conference is booked and planned for Thursday and Friday, July 18-19.

The theme of this year's conference is 'Building Community & Organisational Resilience'. It will be held in the main hall of the Adelaide Town Hall.

### **Guest speakers include:**

- Professor Graeme Hugo – demographer from South Australia University
- Professor Edward Blakely – Chair of Urban & Regional Planning (Reconstruction Coordinator for New Orleans – Hurricane Katrina)
- Assistant Secretary Chris Collett - Attorney Generals Department
- Assistant Secretary Mike Rothery – Attorney Generals Department
- Professor Paul Arbon – Director Torrens Resilience Institute
- Doctor Michael Eburn – Emergency law – Resilience
- Lawrence Yule – Mayor of Hastings (New Zealand)

Coupled with the guest speakers are key work sessions to obtain information and issues in relation to the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience as well as showcasing resilience strategies already in place.



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## National Resilient Australia Awards



The awards are sponsored by the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department and SAFECOM and recognise innovative practices and achievements in emergency management. Congratulations to the following 2012 State Winners and also to those who won commendations. Details about all of the commended projects are found on the SAFECOM website – refer useful links below.

- SA Veterinary Emergency Management Inc - SA Veterinary Emergency Management Plan

- The Department of Planning, Transport, and Infrastructure, and Volunteer Marine Rescue - Coast Radio Adelaide
- Department of Environment, Water & Natural Resources - Flood and Riverbank Collapse Hazard Plans

We know there are many other great projects being implemented across the State and encourage you to think about entering the 2013 Awards. If you wish to be advised when 2013 entries open please email [emergencymanagement@safecom.sa.gov.au](mailto:emergencymanagement@safecom.sa.gov.au) to be included on the direct promotion list.

<http://www.em.gov.au/DisasterResilientAustralia/Documents/2012%20Booklet%20Resilient%20Australia%20Awards%20-%20Final.pdf>



## Property Risk Information System Manager (PRISM)

### What is it?

The Property Risk Information System Manager (PRISM) is a "pre incident planning" database of properties throughout South Australia. It provides the South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) with timely and relevant information when responding to emergency calls. It also includes MFS Public Building Inspection (PBI) records.

### What it contains

The PRISM database provides information on the site, buildings, and tenancies covering the widest range of properties from small individual retail properties to large commercial or industrial complexes with multiple buildings. Relevant information that can be entered includes: the location of the site, buildings, alarm, utilities, hazardous material details (HazMats including MSDS links), other hazards, firefighting equipment, business hours and after hours telephone contact numbers and much more.

### Images

Utilising aerial and street views, MFS staff add standardised symbols to create images that provide much of the information crews require when responding to emergencies in a format that is very easy to interpret.

Currently the database is available through the computer system at all stations, on command vehicles and in the State Coordination Centre Fire. Also a three-page document for each site, building and tenancy is available on fire appliances for sites located within their response area.

In the financial year 2013/14 the system will be available on all MFS appliances via a computer tablet which will provide an enhanced capability at the scene of the incident. This will be a huge leap forward for incident management in the MFS. To avoid connectivity and bandwidth issues data will be resident on the tablets with regular syncing for updates.

### The Future

Future developments are likely to include:

- information regarding risks in the urban interface areas.
- integration with other data sources is also being investigated (ie Built Environment)
- remote access for owner/occupiers to access the database and update information as it changes.

The database currently contains 966 sites, 1518 buildings and 332 tenancies and is growing quickly. This initiative provides responding MFS crews with greater situational awareness about the risks they are responding to. We hope it will greatly improve firefighter safety and allow us to do our job more effectively.

### Michael Shepherd

Metropolitan Commander  
Emergency Management  
SA Metropolitan Fire Service





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## New bushfire management planning arrangements in SA

The Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005, which was amended in November 2009, introduced a two-tiered bushfire management planning structure to replace the existing three-tiered structure. This approach was recommended by a ministerial review committee which was established to implement the recommendations of the independent review of the fires of January 11, 2007 conducted by Dr Bob Smith.

The State Bushfire Co-ordination Committee (SBCC) is responsible for bushfire management planning in SA. Its membership was gazetted on 20 May 2010 and the committee held its first meeting on 11 June of that year.

The SBCC has divided the state into nine bushfire management areas and established nine bushfire management committees (BMCs) which have been operating since October 2010.

### DisasterMapper wins knowledge innovation award

DisasterMapper, an interactive resource for schools, has received the Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council (AFAC)/Motorola Knowledge Innovation Award for 2012.

DisasterMapper (<http://disastermapper.ema.edu.au>) forms part of an extensive range of disaster resilience school education resources developed by the Australian Emergency Management Institute (AEMI).

It provides an interactive map of Australia that challenges students to explore statistics, images, video and information about more than 50 major Australian disasters that have occurred since the 1900s.

It's been designed to engage students in years 5-9 and is supported by an extensive teaching guide linked to the Australian curriculum which includes a series of lesson plans and activities for teachers.

### NERAG compliant bushfire management planning

In line with the commonwealth and state government mandate for NERAG-compliant hazard plans, the CFS has embarked on the road to compliance by conducting a state-level Bushfire NERAG Workshop. Initially this was scheduled for 27 November 2012 but it was postponed due to the unprecedented bushfire activity and forecast bad fire weather for that week. The state workshop will be followed by a series of zone workshops in 2013. The NERAG process will inform the State Bushfire Hazard Plan and the SBMP, which covers the prevention and preparedness aspects of the Bushfire Hazard Plan, which will also be informed by that risk assessment.

### Bushfire management plans

The SBCC endorsed the development of interim Bushfire Management Area Plans (iBMAPs) for SA as the Bushfire Risk Register software is not yet ready for use.

The interim plans are an amalgamation of existing local government and CFS bushfire prevention plans, and state government land management agency fire management plans. The iBMAPs have been drafted by each of the BMCs according to parameters established by the SBCC.

The interim State Bushfire Management Plan (iSBMP) is in the final stages of drafting and sets out the principles, policies and standards for bushfire management in the state. Eight BMCs have prepared iBMAPs for their area and these form part three of the iSBMP. These plans were approved by the SBCC on 26 October 2012.

Each organisation on the BMC is expected to prepare, maintain and implement operations/works plans for the work defined in the iBMAP.

**Leigh Miller**

CFS Manager Prevention Services

## National Strategy for Disaster Resilience Companion Document

The national strategy, which is endorsed by COAG, is intended to guide the national direction in emergency management over the next few years.

A challenge is that we're still trying to understand the concept of disaster resilience both internationally and in Australia. What does a resilient community look like? What are best practice approaches to support and build community resilience?

One approach is to develop community resilience indicators and measures and this is a current national project being undertaken in South Australia by the Torrens Resilience Institute (TRI).

We will provide more information about this program in the next newsletter.

Another approach is to highlight examples from around Australia. This is the purpose of the Disaster Resilience Companion Document which highlights success stories during the first 12 months of the national strategy. There are three SA projects in the publication including the SA Veterinary Emergency Management Incorporated program and the Alert SA program. The links to these are as follows: <http://www.ag.gov.au/EmergencyManagement/Documents/NationalStrategyforDisasterResilience-CompanionBooklet.PDF>

**Julie Frittum**

Project Manager

NSDR Implementation Program

SA Fire & Emergency Services Commission