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Government  
of South Australia



RESCUE

# Emergency Management

June 2013

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S DISASTER RESILIENCE NEWSLETTER

### Keep calm and go online

Many of you would be familiar with the Alert SA website— if not the site address is [www.alert.sa.gov.au](http://www.alert.sa.gov.au)

The SAFECOM team responsible for developing the site recently completed a media campaign to promote the site, encouraging the public to bookmark the site so they have it handy when they may find themselves in an emergency situation.

The site provides the public with an additional reliable source of emergency warning information as it delivers social media messages from South Australia's emergency services.

A number of new and exciting enhancements to the Alert SA site are currently being developed.

Firstly, the site will become mobile and tablet friendly, meaning that users will

be able to easily view the site and its contents on their mobile phone or hand-held tablet.

Secondly the site will host additional tabs, one for viewing live video streams direct from the SAPOL media room and the other for current alert information. This means if there is an event occurring and users want to find out the latest information on that specific event, this tab will contain social media feeds only on this event.

Work is progressing to involve the appropriate agencies.

For more information on how your agency's social media account can be included in the new social media current alert, please contact Amanda Stewart on [stewart.amanda@safecom.sa.gov.au](mailto:stewart.amanda@safecom.sa.gov.au)

The new enhancements are expected to go live in August 2013.



### Applications for Resilient Australia Awards closing soon

Applications for the Resilient Australia Awards close in a few weeks time on Friday 5 July.

The Resilient Australia Awards are an Australian Government initiative sponsored by the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department in conjunction with states and territories.

They recognise innovative practices and achievements across the nation that make our communities safer, stronger, more resilient and better prepared to manage any emergency situation.

Entries in the 2013 awards must relate to projects or initiatives started after 1 January, 2011 or demonstrate significant outcomes since 1 January, 2011.

The six categories for awards are:

- Not-for-profit sector (including volunteer, youth, community)
- Education and research sector (including primary, secondary and tertiary)
- Private sector (including individuals, small-to-medium enterprises, business, infrastructure providers)

- Local government
- State and territory government
- Australian Government and multi-jurisdiction (including projects of national significance).

Each entry will be assessed on its contribution to community safety and/or community resilience in the emergency management context.

Relevance to the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience will also be considered.

Nomination is as simple as completing an application, providing a summary of the project and brief responses to the judging criteria on the online entry portal.

For further information, including assistance and advice on submitting a nomination, please contact Jackie Neo, Resilient Australia Awards Coordinator (SA), SA Fire and Emergency Services Commission on (08) 8463 4147 or email [neo.jackie@safecom.sa.gov.au](mailto:neo.jackie@safecom.sa.gov.au)

More information can also be found on [www.em.gov.au](http://www.em.gov.au)



*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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## Positive feedback from risk assessment process

The stakeholders in SAFECOM's Emergency Risk Management Program (ERM), which include private sector and local government bodies, continue to provide positive feedback about the risk assessment process and the value to their respective organisations in taking part in workshops.

On average, around 20 to 30 organisations/agencies are represented at each workshop.

To date, the focus at zone level has been on the risk assessment process which includes risk identification, analysis and evaluation.

The Zone Emergency Risk Management System (ZERMS) project is now moving in to the risk treatment phase of the emergency risk management cycle where the focus shifts to strengthening existing controls and identifying and assessing potential new risk options.

The SAFECOM ERM team has been working with lead Hazard Leader personnel to develop and refine a risk treatment process that is rigorous yet practical.

All efforts are being made to streamline the process to minimise the demand on stakeholders.

## Nominations for 2013 Community Achievement Awards now open

Nominations for the 2013 Community Achievement Awards are now open.

Presented by Channel 7, nominations are open in the following categories:

- Prime Super Community Group of the Year Award
- Rural Doctors Workforce Agency Rural Community Health and Wellbeing Award
- Medibank Community Healthy Participation Award
- SA Power Networks Leadership and Innovation Award
- Hunt & Hunt Lawyers Community Road Safety Award
- Haigh's Chocolates Career Achievement Award
- Fivestar Print Environment and Sustainability Award
- Carers SA Carer Achievement Award.

The winner of each category will receive a \$2000 Everyday Account from the Commonwealth Bank and a trophy.

Nominations for the awards close on Wednesday 24 July, 2013.

Finalists will be presented and winners announced at an awards dinner on Friday 1 November, 2013 at the Stamford Grand Adelaide.

More information and nomination form can be found on [www.awardsaustralia.com](http://www.awardsaustralia.com)

## SES investing in online training

The State Emergency Service is currently undertaking a significant investment in online content to equip its members with the skills and knowledge to perform their roles.

One of the products currently being developed is an Introduction to Emergency Management.

The Introduction to Emergency Management online training course has been developed using key information from the State Emergency Management Plan (SEMP) which outlines the responsibilities, authorities and mechanisms to prevent and, where necessary, recover from incidents and disasters within South Australia. It is prepared pursuant to Section 9 of the Emergency Management Act 2004.

The SEMP has been prepared and reviewed by the State Emergency Management Committee, a multi-agency committee chaired by the CEO of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, and has representatives from other government agencies including SA Police,

Department for Communities and Social Inclusion and the Department for Health and Ageing.

The aim of the training is to provide those in an emergency management role with a broad understanding of the jurisdiction's emergency management framework in order to undertake their work responsibilities.

Due to the multi-agency state and local government focus on emergency management, it is planned for the Introduction to Emergency Management online training to be shared widely in future across the interested parties within both state and local government.

It is proposed that the course will be hosted on the learning management system and also available on DVD.

After completing this course the learner will have an understanding of:

- organisational requirements for emergency management
- roles and responsibilities for different organisations

- emergency management plans and how they are developed, maintained and implemented
- strategies to prepare and engage stakeholders and organisations
- prevention, preparedness, response and recovery strategies for emergencies
- who is responsible for arrangements, and
- how emergency management plans are developed and implemented.

The State Emergency Management Training Committee (SEMTC) is currently undertaking the final stages of quality assurance and developing an implementation strategy for this new online content.

For further information please contact the chair of SEMTC Greg Mennie on 0401126123 or via email at [Mennie.Greg@ses.sa.gov.au](mailto:Mennie.Greg@ses.sa.gov.au).



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## Disaster Recovery and Renewal Current and Future Focus Forum

The Australian Emergency Management Institute hosted a major forum last month for researchers and practitioners, working in the field of disaster recovery, to share research, explore possibilities and springboard innovation to support and develop resilient communities.

During the two days, participants heard more than 25 presentations from an international, national, state, local government and non-government perspective.

Presentation topics were wide-ranging encompassing: how we think about resilience; embracing diversity; the emergence of community action and response; giving children and young people a voice in recovery; business recovery; and flexible and community response and engagement.

The plenary sessions encourage a lively discussion and debate on topics such as how international events influence the future focus for recovery in Australia and what should be the focus of future research directions and policy and practice.

Highlights included a key note address from Bob Jensen, from the United States Federal Emergency Management Agency, on Hurricane Sandy: communication, policy and politics.

Other highlights included presentations from Mary Hay from the Stronger Christchurch Infrastructure Build Team on Building resilience into the heart of the Christchurch rebuild and Anne Leadbeater from the Murrindindi Shire

Council on Strathewen: Exploring community leadership in disaster recovery.

The South Australian State Recovery Office was well represented and gave the following presentations:

- Engaging culturally and linguistically diverse community organisations in disaster recovery
- Developing sustainable government-business partnerships to benefit recovery
- A sustainable disaster recovery workforce
- How the lived experience of older people influences their preparedness for emergency events.

Participants were also invited to develop poster sessions that focused on the themes of resilience, preparedness and knowledge and learning in disaster and community renewal as well as working in the recovery environment.

Some practical resources were on display including community and household disaster resilience toolkits developed by the Torrens Resilience Institute, as well as information about a preparing for disaster manual for the Cairns tourism industry prepared by James Cook University.

Some of the key themes emerging from the discussions included being better prepared for recovery, a strengths-based approach to recovery, recovery workforce issues, the timing of recovery funding and the shared responsibility of

government, business and community.

A summary paper of the forum, and information about the presentations, will be available in July through the Australian Institute of Emergency Management's Knowledge Hub

<http://www.emknowledge.gov.au/>.

The Knowledge Hub, which is currently being upgraded with new features, provides research, resources and news relevant to emergency management and includes statistics and information, photos, video and media about past disaster events.



Recovery work can be extremely challenging and very rewarding. The forum presented a worthwhile opportunity to learn about current research and new innovations, hear first-hand about recent events both nationally and internationally, and for researchers and practitioners to network with other like-minded individuals to discuss these challenges and share some of the successes.

## 2013 Resilience Conference being held next month

What is building community and organisational resilience?

That is the question to be explored at the 2013 Resilience Conference which has been organised by the Australian Institute of Emergency Services (SA branch) in collaboration with the SA Government.

It will be held on Thursday and Friday 18-19 July at the Adelaide Town Hall.

Leading speakers from South Australia, interstate and overseas will share lessons and best practice approaches for building community and organisational resilience to major emergencies and disasters that participants can reflect upon to ascertain the relevance to their environment.

Speakers include Professor Graeme Hugo, a demographer from the University of Adelaide, Dr Michael Eburn from the Australian National University and Professor Paul Arbon from the Torrens Resilience Institute.

The conference will include a discussion forum that will provide the opportunity for participants to contribute to a strategic report to be presented to the State Emergency Management Committee on what delegates perceive as the resilience issues, opportunities and priorities into the future.

To register or for more information go to [www.resilienceconference.org.au](http://www.resilienceconference.org.au)



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## SEMPOs engaging with Hazard Leaders and providing assistance

The two State Emergency Management Project Officers (SEMPOs) involved in the State Emergency Risk Assessment System (SERAS) have been engaging with Hazard Leaders and providing assistance as required.

At state-level workshops, the SEMPOs (Peter Heylen and Catherine Freriks) are supported by a number of Zone Emergency Management Project Officers (ZEMPOs).

State-level risk assessment workshops have already been conducted for Rural Fire (23 April, 2013) and Human Disease (12 June, 2013).

Further workshops have been scheduled for Foot and Mouth Disease (27 June, 2013), Extreme Storm (5 July, 2013), Plant Disease (22 August, 2013) and Urban Fire (26 August, 2013).

Initial discussions regarding state-level risk assessments for the other hazards have now commenced.

Preliminary discussions have indicated that for the more complex hazards such as Human Disease and Animal and Plant Disease there may be a need to conduct risk assessments for a range of events.

SERAS will continue on from the risk assessment phase into risk treatments. A state-level Foot and Mouth Disease Risk Treatment workshop has tentatively been scheduled for 1 August, 2013 and a Plant Disease Risk Treatment workshop is planned for 12 September, 2013.

## Second workshop conducted in relation to lessons management

Twelve months ago the Australian Emergency Management Institute and the Attorney Generals Department held a workshop to understand and progress lessons management between local, state and national jurisdictions.

The workshop focused on three aspects – developing a good practice guide, promoting lessons management around Australia and finally improving exercise management and evaluation.

One of the other achievements from the past 12 months work has been the development of a community of practice between seven different jurisdictions that also included the Centre of Army Learning.

This month (June, 2013) saw a second workshop being conducted with over 20 federal, state and private sector agencies attending and sharing their lessons from 2011.

Their sharing of the lessons saw the development of several national issues that will be summarised and promoted through a report which will then be shared across Australia's agencies. This will be the third report produced and circulated.

The major lessons identified from this recent workshop included incident management systems, intelligence, public information, multi-agency situational awareness, relationships, community expectations, national arrangements and personnel management (which includes fatigue management).

The workshop also reviewed the national themes that provide a common coding between agencies and allows for common observations to be aggregated.

It was identified that the community of practice has developed a greater understanding of the lessons management process and one of the observed challenges was to bring other agencies along on the journey.

This also included the sharing of a standard format for coding and data bases and sharing observations. It is hoped that the production of the good practice guide, exercise evaluation course and better liaison between agencies will enable greater cooperation and sharing of lessons.

Further information about this work can be obtained from Mark Thomason (CFS), Bob Stevenson (SASES) and Mark Searcy (SAMFS).

## Is it dementia films launched by Minister Butler

A series of 12 short films aimed at helping identify people who may have dementia has been launched in Adelaide by the Minister for Mental Health and Ageing Mark Butler.

Is it dementia is a world-first initiative created by Alzheimer's Australia SA with funding from the Federal Government.

The films were created in consultation with various industry groups including correctional services, retail, banking, transport and emergency services (the State Emergency Service and the Metropolitan Fire Service).

Alzheimer's Australia SA chief executive officer Kathryn Cunningham said the education resource would change the way industry and business will forever see and interact with people with dementia.

"As the population ages, people are more and more likely to come into contact with someone with dementia," she added.

Alzheimer's Australia SA spokesperson Lorrie Beattie said the response to the films had been overwhelmingly positive.

"We are now starting to hear of organisations changing the way they go

about the training of their people so they can better recognise someone who has dementia," she said.

About 200 Australians are diagnosed with dementia each day. The disease can impact people in their fifties, forties or even thirties.

The Is it dementia films can be viewed at [www.isitdementia.com.au](http://www.isitdementia.com.au).

The film involving the State Emergency Service, which was filmed last year at Mawson Lakes, can also be viewed on the SES website [www.ses.sa.gov.au](http://www.ses.sa.gov.au).