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Government
of South Australia



RESCUE

Emergency Management

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SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S DISASTER RESILIENCE NEWSLETTER

New building for Burra SES Unit



The Burra State Emergency Service (SES) Unit has officially opened its new operational facility on Smelts Road, Burra.

Built at a cost of \$1 million, the building has a floor area of 380 square metres. It includes a large multi-use training room, two offices, a communications room, kitchen, laundry and change rooms and toilets for both male and female unit members.

The unit's operational vehicles are housed in a two-vehicle appliance bay.

Burra SES Unit can trace its origins back to 1942 when the Burra Civil Defence Unit published a notice in the Burra Record calling on townsfolk to take heed of warning signals and for new members for its stretcher bearing squad.

About 45 people attended the opening.

SA Minister for Emergency Services Corey Wingard (centre in back row) recently opened the new facility for Burra SES Unit. With Corey are SES Chief Officer Chris Beattie (extreme left) and North Regional Commander Trevor Arnold (extreme right) along with Dom Lane (second from right), the Chief Executive of SAFECOM. Burra SES Unit members (left to right) are Deputy Unit Manager Wendy Jamieson, David Williams, Amber Williams, Arthur Simpson, Tim Miles and Peter Kelly.



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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Understanding Disaster Risk forum

On 21 October 2019, a couple of SES staff and volunteers attended one of the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience's National Disaster Risk forums.

The forum provided a national perspective on climate and disaster risk while also covering stories of lived experience from across Australia. There were also examples of novel projects and state-specific discussions and insights on key initiatives, challenges and opportunities.

Building on extensive work informed by collaboration across a range of key sectors, the Understanding Disaster Risk forum:

- highlighted contemporary thinking and guidance on the least understood dimension of disaster risk—vulnerability—and the underlying causes of disaster risk, such as the growing interconnectedness and dependencies between systems and people
- provided awareness about the value tensions and trade-offs at play in decisions about how we manage these systems
- showcased the [National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework](#) and how to take action
- gave an overview of the latest national guidance on how to make better decisions and apply adaptive learning to prevent and reduce climate and disaster risk.

The forum had a variety of key points, including:

- understanding disaster risk is more than just understanding hazards, and current risk management methodologies are not suitable to address systemic risks and need to be addressed
- people value different things at different times. For example, a person may value something before an emergency but might not value it as much when facing disasters, with other things becoming important to them at that time
- risk-informed, value-based and systemic approaches and decision making are required for where we need to be
- individuals and communities have their roles to play but they do not control most of what is needed to reduce disaster risks. Governments and industry in particular must take coordinated action to reduce disaster risks within their control to limit adverse impacts on communities
- decisions made at multiple levels affect the impacts of disasters
- there is no silver bullet. We need a suite of options to address disaster risks.

A recent article by ABC on the interrelationship between climate change and financial risks, such as obtaining insurance against climate risks, highlights that 'among capital cities, Adelaide will see the fastest expansion of insurance "red zones", mostly in the Adelaide Hills. Increased risk from fire and drought will see the number of uninsurable addresses rise 10-fold, to 15,000 city-wide. By 2100, 98 per cent of addresses in Aldgate and 86 per cent in Stirling are expected to be effectively "uninsurable"'. Further information of this is available on the [ABC website](#).

Motivating effective preparedness behaviour in communities, State Emergency Service Mindhive Challenge

The State Emergency Service (SES) Community Engagement business unit has been reviewing the efficacy of our current programs as part of our commitment to align with best practice within the national community engagement space.

The traditional format of community engagement programs has been one of giving information to the public and an assumption that this will translate into sustained behaviour change. Within the SES, and in discussion with interstate colleagues, we identified that we need more personalised contemporary approaches to reach an audience that is technology focused, ageing, time poor and overwhelmed by planning for emergencies.

To facilitate this review, one of the tools we are using is Mindhive, an online crowdsourcing consultancy. This platform brings together expert thinkers, connecting government and non-government organisations, businesses and the broader community to work on policy or strategy challenges. We began a challenge in July seeking insights that will enable us, along with our colleagues, to develop programs that focus on behaviour change that results in an improved community preparedness and response to emergencies. To achieve this we are seeking feedback and insight into two key questions.

1. What is your experience with programs that have been effective in demonstrating behaviour change, are sustainable and have long term measurable outcomes?
2. How do we bring the lessons from successful behaviour change programs into emergency management preparedness for the community?

The feedback so far has included some ideas that SES will continue to explore, including:

- investigating behaviour change programs in the health sector, psychology and marketing areas
- having scalable programs which enables us to embed evaluation methodology
- moving away from the knowledge/motivation deficit model of behaviour change
- evaluation that takes into account effectiveness, relevance, efficiency, sustainability and impact
- re-thinking our first point of contact with the community and re-focusing our conversations on connected communities rather than disaster information.

If you are interested in finding out about the discussion so far, or you have something you would like to contribute, please contact Oshanna Alexander, Community Engagement Coordinator, Oshanna.Alexander@sa.gov.au or go onto Mindhive.org, register for free, and get involved in the conversation.



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Resilient Australia Awards

On 6 December, the 2019 Resilient Australia Awards were presented at the Zone Emergency Management Symposium.

These awards recognise the hard work that organisations have put into disaster resilience and emergency preparedness for both communities and businesses.

Awards were separated into two categories—Government and Community—and included state commended, state highly commended and state winner.

Congratulations to everyone who received commendations and awards:

- **Government category, state commended** – Country Health SA Local Health Network, Seasonal Preparedness.
- **Community category, state commended** – Rural Business Support, Proactive planning for business survival.
- **Community category, state commended** – Women Learning Together (WoTL), Supporting women to prepare for disasters.
- **Government category, state highly commended** – SAFECOM, Stronger Together South Australia's Disaster Resilience Strategy.
- **Community category, state highly commended** – Growing With Gratitude, Schools and Sports Resilience Community Program.
- **Local Government category, state winner** – City of Marion and State Recovery Office, Exercise Rumble.
- **Community category, state winner** – Australian Red Cross, Resilient South: Aware & Adapt



City of Marion and State Recovery Office, Exercise Rumble



Australian Red Cross, Resilient South: Aware & Adapt

SA Disaster Resilience Grants focus groups

Seventy-five percent of successful projects funded in the recent SA Disaster Resilience Grants round are strategically aligned to [Stronger Together – South Australia's Disaster Resilience Strategy](#)

To achieve the best outcomes for these projects and collectively build disaster resilience across the state, SAFECOM has brought together projects with common targets and goals to establish focus groups. Based on focus areas and cross cutting themes in the Strategy, the following groups were developed:

- Neighbourhoods & Communities, led by Australian Red Cross & State Recovery Office.
- Businesses, led by SAFECOM.
- Children & Young People, led by SAFECOM.
- Strategic & Connected Networks Volunteering, led by SAFECOM.

- Diversity & Inclusion, led by SES & CFS.

The focus groups are being led through collaboration across emergency management agencies, utilising knowledge and expertise as well as maximising connections. The structure provides an opportunity to capture the collective project outcomes against the Strategy directions.

The first meetings were held in July to establish networks and identify shared outcomes across projects. A number of focus groups have already met a second time. Agencies have been extremely positive about how useful the connections and learnings have been. The SAFECOM Grants Team have also seen positive impacts, with a number of agencies actively collaborating on their work and altering project design based on learnings and new opportunities.

EM NEWS FEEDBACK

The SES has been publishing EM News on an occasional basis for the past six years. As a valued reader, we'd love to hear your opinion of the publication. Is EM News of interest to you? Are the articles thought-provoking? Are there any topics or issues you would like to

see covered in future editions? Would you like to see it published more often? Whatever your views we'd love to hear them. Please forward your comments and suggestions to Jon Carr at the SES at jon.carr@sa.gov.au