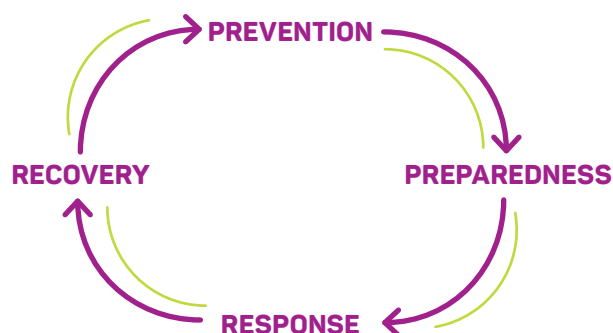# Australian Emergency Management Arrangements

2019

Sharing responsibilities

Dealing with emergencies is not a matter for governments alone. Sharing roles and responsibilities for key non-government stakeholders provides many benefits.

- Australian government
- state and territory governments
- local governments
- communities
- families and individuals
- schools and school communities
- emergency management volunteers
- critical infrastructure owners and operators
- businesses, industry and primary producers
- residential and small businesses
- land use planners
- design, building and construction industries
- insurance industry
- non-government organisations
- not-for-profit sector
- natural resource management bodies
- broadcasters and information dissemination mechanisms
- scientists and researchers.

> **"** To help prepare for a future that is complex and uncertain, the Australian Emergency Management Arrangements Handbook (AIDR 2019) has been prepared to articulate the national arrangements for emergency management within Australia and its states and territories.
>
> — Australian Emergency Management Arrangements Handbook

PPRR — prevention, preparedness, response and recovery

The Australian approach to managing emergencies recognises four phases of emergency management: **prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.** This is abbreviated to **PPRR**.

PREVENTION → PREPAREDNESS → RESPONSE → RECOVERY

Key documents underpinning emergency management in Australia

NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR DISASTER RESILIENCE (2011)
provides the basis for governments to shift from the traditional emphasis of response to and recovery from emergencies to one which emphasises the need for a greater focus on prevention, mitigation, preparedness and building capability.

NATIONAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION FRAMEWORK (2018)
is informed by the Sendai Framework and sets out the foundational work to proactively reduce risk now and into the future. It guides national, whole-of-society efforts to proactively reduce disaster risk in order to minimise the loss and suffering caused by disasters.

SENDAI FRAMEWORK FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION 2015-2030
states that to strengthen resilience, countries must prevent new and reduce existing disaster risk. It outlines four global priorities for action to reduce disaster risk: understanding disaster risk; strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk; investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience and enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to 'Build Back Better' in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

AIDR is a disaster resilience knowledge centre

AIDR develops, maintains and shares knowledge and learning to support a disaster-resilient Australia.

Building on extensive knowledge and experience in Australia and internationally, we work with government, communities, NGOs, not-for-profits, research organisations, education partners and the private sector to enhance disaster resilience through innovative thinking, professional development and knowledge sharing.

AIDR is supported by its founding partners: the Australian Government, AFAC, Australian Red Cross and the Bushfire & Natural Hazards CRC

Australian Emergency Management Arrangements
on the Australian Disaster Resilience Knowledge Hub
Enquires: **enquiries@aidr.org.au**

The Australian Emergency Management Arrangements Handbook outlines 11 emergency management principles that provide guidance and a broad understanding of the approaches to emergency management in Australia.

PRIMACY OF LIFE	The protection and preservation of human life (including both communities and emergency service personnel) and relief of suffering will be paramount over all other objectives and considerations.
COMPREHENSIVE	The development of emergency management arrangements will embrace the phases of prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery (PPRR) across all hazards. These phases of emergency management are not necessarily sequential.
COLLABORATIVE	Relationships between emergency management stakeholders and communities are based on integrity, trust and mutual respect, building a team atmosphere and consensus. Planning and systems of work reflect common goals and all stakeholders work with a unified effort.
COORDINATED	The bringing together of organisations and other resources to support emergency management response, relief and recovery. It involves the systematic acquisition and application of resources (organisational, human and equipment) in an emergency situation. Activities of all stakeholders are synchronised and integrated. Information is shared to achieve a common purpose and impacts and needs are continuously assessed and responded to accordingly.
FLEXIBLE	Emergency situations are constantly changing. Emergency management decisions may require initiative, creativity and innovation to adapt to new and rapidly emerging challenges. Emergency plans need to be agile to change and adapt to these new circumstances.
RISK BASED	Emergency managers use sound risk management principles and processes in prioritising, allocating and monitoring resources to manage the risks from hazards. Risk based planning will anticipate the effect of efforts, the changing hazard landscape and the changing consequences of the emergency.
SHARED RESPONSIBILITY	Everyone understands their own responsibility in an emergency, and the responsibility of others. Communities and individuals understand the risk. This encourages all stakeholders to prevent, prepare for, and plan for how they will safely respond to and recover from an emergency situation.
RESILIENCE	The ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate, adapt to, transform and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions through risk management (UNDRR 2017).
COMMUNICATION	Information is crucial to decision making and to the preservation of life. Emergency managers need to support common information systems and are responsible for providing and sharing clear, targeted and tailored information to those who need it, and to those at risk, to enable better decision making by all stakeholders.
INTEGRATED	Emergency management efforts must be integrated across sectors, not progressed in silos, ensuring the engagement of the whole of governments, all relevant organisations and agencies, the business sector and the community.
CONTINUAL IMPROVEMENT	All sectors continuously learn and innovate to improve practices and share lessons, data and knowledge so that future emergency management is better and the overall cost of impact of emergencies and disasters is reduced. Continuous monitoring, review and evaluation should examine the processes, timelines and outcomes of plans. Review informs communities and displays transparency and accountability. Review also enables facilitation of the adaptive change process with communities.

Australian Institute for
Disaster Resilience