

# EMA Update

Emergency Management Australia provides national leadership in the development of measures to reduce risk to communities and manage the consequences of disasters. EMA Update keeps AJEM readers abreast of the courses and activities that assist in this aim.

## KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT & BUSINESS

### Community Awareness

*The Shore Safety* – A3 fold out colour pamphlet – developed by Geoscience Australia in partnership with EMA, has been revised. It features a complete new look comprising layout, images, and a focus on coastal hazards such as cliffs and overhangs. Copies of this pamphlet are available from State and Territory emergency services.

The review of the *Action Guide* series in conjunction with States and Territories is now complete. The series contains five guides including cyclones, floods, earthquakes and storms while a new guide titled *Pets in Emergencies* is the fifth guide. This contains handy information on how to keep pets safe during an emergency.

Each guide is DL (1/3 A4) size and printed on self-adhesive card. Copies of the guides are available from State and Territory emergency services.

*For further information contact: Cate Moore  
Phone: 03 54 21 5296; email: cate.moore@ema.gov.au*

### Library

EMA library staff have developed a separate collection within the library from each of the winning submissions to the annual EMA Safer Communities' Awards. Copies of the winning submissions are available for loan.

To provide support to the new Graduate Certificate in Emergency Management the library has purchased a substantial amount of new material relating to management and leadership. In addition new material has recently been purchased on critical infrastructure, sustainable communities and community consultation. Please contact library staff for further details and assistance in borrowing this material.

EMA library staff now number three with Troy Watson joining the team as Information Services Librarian. Troy will be happy to assist with reference or research tasks.

*For further information contact the library.  
Phone: 03 54 215 246; email ema.library@ema.gov.au*

### Websites

EMA's website continues to grow and has a daily average of 12,000 hits. Approximately 40% of all visits come from overseas, including 30% from USA and Canada. This indicates that the EMA website continues to strongly represent Australian emergency management to the world.

### Disasters Database

EMA has enhanced and upgraded the EMA Disasters Database to include report generating and advanced search functions. Usage has increased over the year to an average of 40,000 hits and 450 reports generated per month. Schools, researchers and emergency management professionals use the site extensively.

### Australian Disasters Information Network (AusDIN)

KM&B has worked effectively with Information and Knowledge Services to progress the development of the AusDIN Portal through the Portal Group with significant results.

In conjunction with the Attorney-General's Department, KM&B has successfully managed the AusDIN *QuickPlace* forum. Groups using this facility include AusDIN Working Group, AusDIN Portal Group, Emergency Management Spatial Information Network Australia, National Community Safety Working Group, and Australasian Libraries in the Emergency Sector. It is used for out-of-session work, discussions, posting of documents, and group emails.

John Laurie recently presented on emergency management issues to the Human Factors & Ergonomics Society.

*For further information contact: John Laurie  
Phone: 03 54 21 5280; email: john.laurie@ema.gov.au*

## EDUCATION & TRAINING

### Review of the ERM Applications Guide

The Risk Management Standard AS/NZS 4360 is currently under review by Standards Australia is scheduled for release in September 2004. To ensure that the *ERM Applications Guide* is up to date a review has been underway since late 2003 and will reflect changes to AS/NZS 4360 and experience gained in the use of the ERM process over the past five years. A draft for consultation is nearing completion by a national committee representing the States and Territories. The draft will be circulated by States and Territories to their stakeholders and placed on the EMA website. Comments will be consolidated and reviewed by the national committee.

### Competencies for working with CBR incidents and emergencies

To ensure nationally recognised training is available for those working in CBR incidents and emergencies in Australia, EMA is working with stakeholders to identify relevant competency standards. Evidence to date is that the competencies required for managing CBR incidents and emergencies are consistent with the national all-hazards approach to emergency management. A range of appropriate competency standards is already in the *Public Safety Training Package* but require amendments to the range of variables to accommodate the CBR context. An extensive mapping project is currently underway to identify the full range of appropriate national competency standards available in the *Public Safety Training Package* and other relevant industry training packages (for example health and laboratory operations). EMA is currently developing CBR scenarios

for programs to support achievement of the following units of competency:

- Undertake emergency planning, and
- Co-ordinate resources within a multi-agency emergency response.

The need for a CBR awareness program suitable for delivery in face-to-face and distance mode was also identified through this project. EMA is currently developing a proposal to work with stakeholders on this program.

### IERM CDROM

The EMA Introduction to Emergency Risk Management CDROM developed earlier this year is currently being reviewed and enhanced. The new version will include video clips featuring three leading ERM experts discussing projects they have been involved with, examples of ERM tools, and a facilitator's guide.

### Emergency management for local Government

The EMA Program Emergency Management for local government has been well received and successfully delivered for some time. The course will shortly be assessed for accreditation through the Victorian Qualifications Authority to achieve national recognition. Graduates will be eligible to receive a nationally recognised statement of attainment.

## DEVELOPMENT

### 2004 Australian Safer Communities Awards

The Australian Safer Communities Awards recognise best practice and innovation by organisations and individuals that help to build safer communities across Australia. The Awards work on two levels. State and Territory winners are decided first and become finalists for the national awards.

State and Territory brochures containing information and entry forms have been distributed by State and Territory co-ordinators. The brochures have also been posted to EMA's website.

Awards entries for projects undertaken between January 2003 and the end of April 2004 have been received. The closing date for entries was 20 August 2004. State and Territory winners will be announced in September 2004 and the National Awards will be announced on 10 November 2004 at a ceremony in Parliament House, Canberra.

*For further information contact Li Peng Monroe or Alastair Wilson Phone: 02 6256 4610 or 6256 4630; email: lipeng.monroe@ema.gov.au or alastair.wilson@ema.gov.au website: <http://www.ema.gov.au>*

## DEVELOPMENT CONT

### **Emergency Management Volunteers Summit 2005**

Planning is well underway for the *Emergency Management Volunteers Summit 2005* to be held 6 and 7 April 2005 at the National Convention Centre in Canberra. The Steering Committee established to assist with planning for the Summit, met again in August 2004. Letters have been sent to organisations requesting liaison officers to assist in the nomination process. The major change from the 2001 Summit format is that the participants will not be attending on a self-registered basis. They will need to attend as nominees of their organisation. The registration form must be submitted by their agency and include approval from their agency head, along with a reason for the nomination.

A graphic designer has been chosen and has commenced work on the required products for the Summit material. EMA will use an online learning facility for Summit attendees to participate in the various sessions. Paul Mitchell has been chosen to facilitate the Summit.

The objectives and themes chosen for the Summit are:

1. Developing or managing your community, government and business support into the future; and
2. Developing or managing cultural changes into the future.

Regular updates on the Summit will be provided through the AJEM.

*For further information contact: Justine Rixon  
Phone: 02 6256 4612; email: justine.rixon@ema.gov.au*

### **Emergency Management 'Volunteers in Action' Photographic Competition**

Based on the adage that a "picture is worth a thousand words", EMA is searching for the very best photographs to recognise emergency management volunteers in action. This unique photographic competition for professional photographers and emergency management volunteers is focusing on photographs taken between 1 July 2003 and 31 January 2005. The competition will run from August 2004 with entries closing in February 2005. The winning entries will be announced at the Awards Presentation at *Emergency Management Volunteers Summit 2005* in Canberra 6–7 April 2005.

The competition has two streams:

- The first stream is for professional photographers either employed by media organisations or who contribute on a freelance (paid) basis to publications; and
- The second is for emergency management volunteer organisations and/or individual volunteers who have taken photographs that have (1) been published, or (2) are unpublished.

*For further information contact: Susan Stevens  
Phone: 02 6256 4611; email: susan.stevens@ema.gov.au*

## PLANNING & OPERATIONS

### **Emergency Services Sector Infrastructure Assurance Advisory Group (ES IAAG)**

The Emergency Services Sector Infrastructure Assurance Advisory Group (ES IAAG), part of the national critical infrastructure protection Trusted Information Sharing Network (TISN), met in Melbourne on 28 May 2004. Emergency services representatives from States and Territories, emergency services peak bodies, the Australian Red Cross and relevant Australian Government representatives attended the meeting.

The focus of the group's activity centred on issues to ensure continuity of service provision by emergency services, which constitute an important element of critical infrastructure

Member agencies shared information on a range of issues including identification of critical emergency services infrastructure, risk assessment tools and methodologies, threats and vulnerabilities, mitigation strategies, treatment options and interdependencies with other industry sectors. A work program aimed at furthering these issues was agreed. An important initiative recommended by the group was the establishment of an emergency management expert advisory group (EAG) to co-ordinate the provision of specialist emergency management advice to other industry sectors and the Critical Infrastructure Advisory Council (CIAC).

The next meeting of the ES IAAG is in Adelaide in September 2004.

*For further information contact: David Morton  
Phone: 02 6256 4617; email: david.morton@ema.gov.au*

## PLANNING & OPERATIONS CONT

### **Tropical Cyclone Ivy in Vanuatu**

In February 2004 Tropical Cyclone Ivy impacted on several islands in Vanuatu. Damage was widespread and varied from light damage to total destruction. In response to this emergency the Government of Vanuatu requested assistance from Australia in the form of basic relief stores (tarpaulins, water containers and water purification tablets) and technical assistance to develop an information management system.

EMA despatched two officers within 24 hours to work within the Vanuatu National Disaster Management Office and develop a system that would manage the influx of damage assessments from affected provinces, allowing the big picture to be captured and priorities set. The system was developed by the second day and the officers then assisted by inputting and collating information and providing policy development advice.

*For further information contact: Joanne Laurence  
Phone: 02 6256 4621; email: joanne.laurence@ema.gov.au*

### **Pacific Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Stakeholders Workshop**

In June EMA contributed funding to and participated in a workshop held in Fiji which brought together National Disaster Management Officers, Pacific Government representatives, donor agencies, international and regional organisations and technical specialists to develop an action plan for risk reduction in the Pacific over the next ten years. The workshop was put together by the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission in Fiji, which has been given the mandate for disaster management issues by the Pacific Forum. The Action Plan will be presented at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe, Japan in January 2005.

*For further information contact: Joanne Laurence  
Phone: 02 6256 4621; email: joanne.laurence@ema.gov.au*

### **South Pacific Tsunami Awareness Workshop**

The South Pacific Tsunami Awareness Workshop held on 1–3 July 2004 was co-sponsored by the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) and the International Tsunami Information Centre of UNESCO/IOC.

The objective of the workshop was to raise awareness on tsunami hazards and the needs of users of tsunami information. The workshop brought together Pacific Island users to present their needs, learn and hear about operational tsunami warning systems and successful tsunami mitigation projects around the Pacific. They also discussed and developed appropriate tsunami mitigation plans for their countries and the region.

EMA played a significant role in the workshop, presenting current emergency management arrangements and standing operating procedures that exist within Australia and the region with emphasis on how they relate to tsunami hazards. EMA also chaired a working group focused on education and awareness programmes.

Some of the outcomes of the workshop can be included immediately into the workplan of the SOPAC Community Risk Programme and there will be an effort to develop, on a regional basis, awareness materials for distribution at the next SOAPC Disaster Managers Meeting in Papua New Guinea in 2005. Another expected outcome is the development of a framework for national tsunami response plans for South Pacific islands.

*For further information contact: Matthew Smith  
Phone: 02 6256 4627; email: matthew.smith@ema.gov.au*

### **National Registration and Inquiry System (NRIS)**

The policy manual for the National Registration and Inquiry System (NRIS) has been published and distributed to State Red Cross agencies. The manual reflects the collaborative work of the NRIS Committee over the last two years and outlines NRIS policies and procedures. It makes provision for inclusion of procedural manuals for local and national systems.

Updates for the manual will be available from the NRIS password protected web site. Arrangements are underway for the transfer of the NRIS server from Department of Health and Ageing to the Australian Red Cross. This process is likely to take 15–18 months to complete. NRIS users should note that the current system will be maintained by Department of Health and Ageing until the new installation has been tested and 'bedded in' with Australian Red Cross.

*For further information contact: Don Patterson  
Phone: 02 6256 4625; email: don.patterson@ema.gov.au*

### **National response plan for Mass Casualty Incidents involving Australians Overseas (OSMASSCASPLAN)**

EMA has been co-ordinating development of a national planning framework for response to mass casualty incidents overseas. The current draft of the plan has been circulated to relevant Australian, State and Territory agencies, and to the Australian Red Cross. EMA plans to hold a two-day discussion exercise later this year to test, refine and finalise the plan.

*For further information contact: Rob Cameron  
Phone: 02 6256 4616; email: robert.cameron@ema.gov.au*

# CONFERENCE DIARY

## INTERNATIONAL 2004 October

### 4-5 October

Location	Oakland, California
Title	Pacific Homeland Security and Natural Disaster Conference.
Details	Conference topics and exhibits will address bioterrorism and the healthcare system, shipping and transportation security, infrastructure vulnerability, corporate programs and business recovery, role of local governments and special districts, the tools of technology, legislation, funding and insurance, natural hazard mitigation, effective disaster response, and preparing and coordinating the players.
Enquiries	Complete information is available from ABAG, P.O. Box 2050, Oakland, CA 94604. tel: (650) 494-1613; email: exhibits@pacificsecurityexpo.com; web: <a href="http://www.pacificsecurityexpo.com/">http://www.pacificsecurityexpo.com/</a> .
Sponsor	Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and Bay Area Economic Forum.

### 13-16 October

Location	Calgary, Canada
Title	SARSCENE 2004.
Details	SARSCENE attracts about 700 participants including federal government representatives (Canadian Coast Guard, Canadian Forces, Meteorological Service of Canada, Parks Canada, RCMP and Transport Canada); provincial and municipal police force members; volunteers from ground, air and marine search and rescue; international search and rescue providers; canine handlers; weather specialists; and related emergency services personnel.
Enquiries	Web: <a href="http://www.nss.gc.ca/site/ss/workshop/2004/index_e.asp">http://www.nss.gc.ca/site/ss/workshop/2004/index_e.asp</a> .

### 14-15 October

Location	Moreton-in-Marsh, England
Title	Fifth Annual International Disaster and Emergency Readiness Forum (IDER).
Details	With the increasing concern over national and international security due to the heightened threats of global terrorism, as well as natural and human-made disasters, it is essential for the international community to work together to share information and good practices and integrate disaster response.
Enquiries	Conference details can be obtained from Simon Langdon, Insight Consulting Ltd., Churchfield House, 5 The Quintet, Churchfield Road, Walton-on Thames, Surrey KT12 2TZ UK. tel: +44 1932 241000; email: <a href="mailto:simon.langdon@insight.co.uk">simon.langdon@insight.co.uk</a> ; web: <a href="http://www.andrich.com/ider/">http://www.andrich.com/ider/</a> .
Sponsors	United Nations, International Aviation Transport Association, International Training and Simulation Association, Institute for Civil Defense and Disaster Studies.

### 25-27 October

Location	Southbank University London, UK
Title	Tunnel Fires Fifth International Conference.
Details	This fifth Tunnel Fires conference looks at what has been achieved, in practical terms, during recent years. It is designed to share knowledge and exchange information on the commonalities and specifics in all types of tunnels including road, rail and metro, small transport, water, power, cable and service tunnels. It will especially highlight human behaviour and responses in a dedicated one-day seminar on the last day of the conference.
Enquiries	For further information, or if you wish to submit an abstract, please contact: Stephanie Whitham, Tunnel Management International Ltd. PO Box 452, Kempston, Bedford, MK43 9PL, UK. tel: +44 (0)1234 764630; fax: +44 (0)1234 764784; email: <a href="mailto:info@itc-conferences.com">info@itc-conferences.com</a> web: <a href="http://www.tmi-intelligence.com/conferences.asp">http://www.tmi-intelligence.com/conferences.asp</a> .
Sponsor	Organised and Sponsored by Tunnel Management International

## 2004 November

### 13–17 November

Location	Miami Beach, Florida
Title	NFPA Fall Education Conference.
Details	This conference focuses on fire and life line safety through accredited training and other sessions.
Enquiries	Complete information can be obtained from Linda Baily, NFPA, One Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169. tel: (617) 984-7030; email: lbaily@nfpa.org; web: <a href="http://www.nfpa.org">http://www.nfpa.org</a> .
Sponsor	National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

### 15–17 November

Location	Warsaw, Poland
Title	Ninth International Conference of Directors of Civil Protection Schools.
Details	The changes in the area of safety since 2001 put more responsibility for educational activities on civil protection schools at the same time proving the necessity to organise the next conferences as platforms for sharing experiences. The working language of the conference will be English and French (interpretation will be provided).
Enquiries	More detailed information is available at <a href="http://www.sgsp.edu.pl">http://www.sgsp.edu.pl</a> .
Sponsor	Hosted by the Main School of Fire Service.

### 16–19 November

Location	Mesa, Arizona
Title	ASFPM Arid Regions Flood and River Restoration Conference.
Details	The focus of this year's conference will be on river management and restoration techniques for arid watercourses, and on technical, administrative and political floodplain management issues.
Enquiries	Conference details are available from Tom Loomis, Arizona Floodplain Management Association, P.O. Box 18102, Phoenix, Arizona 85005. tel: (602) 506-4767; email: trl@mail.maricopa.gov; web: <a href="http://www.azfma.org/main.php3?primNavIndex=4&amp;">http://www.azfma.org/main.php3?primNavIndex=4&amp;</a>
Sponsor	Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM).

### 24–25 November

Location	Moreton-in-Marsh, UK
Title	Fire Related Research and Developments: Annual Conference.
Details	This conference will be held at the National Training Center and will include a special session on emergency management.
Enquiries	For further information contact Anne Eyre, Trauma Training, P O Box 2590, Leamington Spa, Warks CV31 1GQ, UK. tel:+44(0)1926-427939; email: <a href="mailto:anne.eyre@traumatraining.com">anne.eyre@traumatraining.com</a> ; web: <a href="http://www.fireservicecollege.ac.uk/">http://www.fireservicecollege.ac.uk/</a> .
Sponsor	Fire Service College.

### 28 November – 3 December

Location	Ascona, Switzerland
Title	Coping with Risks Due to Natural Hazards in the 21st Century.
Details	Risks due to natural hazards have continuously increased during the last decades. To address this situation there is a prioritized need for integrated risk management strategies including prevention, intervention, recovery, and insurance measures. This workshop also focuses on those aspects in risk management related to understanding risk perception, risk aversion, acceptable levels of risk and risk dialog.
Enquiries	Information is available from Centro Stefano Franscini, Monte Verità, Via Collina, CH-6612 Ascona, Switzerland. web: <a href="http://www.cenat.ch/index.php?userhash=1300501&amp;nav=672,814,814,814&amp;l=e">http://www.cenat.ch/index.php?userhash=1300501&amp;nav=672,814,814,814&amp;l=e</a>
Sponsor	Swiss Natural Hazards Competence Center.

## AUSTRALIA 2004 October

### 7–9 October

Location	Perth
Title	Australasian Fire Authorities Council (AFAC) 11th Annual Conference.
Details	The theme of the AFAC Conference "Are we Prepared for Future Challenges" will examine a wide range of key issues related to fire and emergency services and land management agencies, all within a prevention, preparedness, response and recovery context. We are also pleased to announce that the 11th Annual AFAC Conference will be run in conjunction with the Inaugural Bushfire CRC Conference. (Please note: the CRC Conference will be developed through nomination of speakers directly related to the specific programs, not through a call for papers). Both conferences aim to challenge delegates through a high quality program and to ensure continued communication between AFAC and CRC stakeholders.
Enquiries	Lisa King, 11th Annual AFAC Conference and Exhibition, Congress West Pty Ltd PO Box 1248, West Perth WA 6872, Australia. tel: +61 8 9322 6906; fax: +61 8 9322 1734; email: AFAC@congresswest.com.au; web: <a href="http://www.congresswest.com.au/AFAC/">http://www.congresswest.com.au/AFAC/</a> .

### 11–15 October

Location	Perth, Australia
Title	International network for Fire Information and Reference Exchange – A safe community: the information network.
Details	This conference will bring together information professionals from around the world to provide a forum for sharing current information on fire and emergency services. It will look at the impact the information network has on the wider community, through technical presentations and workshops. This forum will also strengthen the information networks between information professionals working in the field. This annual international workshop will present the most recent innovations relating to information in the fire and emergency community.
Enquiries	Please contact Jill Don, Department of Emergency Services, GPO Box 1425, Brisbane, Queensland 4001. fax: 07) 3247 8668 email: <a href="mailto:jdon@emergency.qld.gov.au">jdon@emergency.qld.gov.au</a> web: <a href="http://www.infire.org/Conferences/2004/">http://www.infire.org/Conferences/2004/</a> .

### 15–17 October

Location	Darling Harbour, Sydney
Title	TraumaCare 2004.
Details	A joint meeting between the Australasian Trauma Society (ATS) and Trauma Care International (ITACCS).
Enquiries	For more information please contact Ms Emma Waygood, TraumaCare 2004 Secretariat, Conference Action Pty Ltd, PO Box 576, Crows Nest NSW 1585 Australia. Tel: +61 2 9437 9333; fax: +61 2 9901 4586; email: <a href="mailto:emma@conferenceaction.com.au">emma@conferenceaction.com.au</a> ; web: <a href="http://www.traumacare2004.com">www.traumacare2004.com</a> .

## 2004 November

### 1–5 November

Location	Adelaide
Title	International Policing Conference 2004– Safety and Security in a Hi-Tech World
Details	The conference aims to attract between 600-800 delegates world-wide from police services, the military, corrections, emergency services, the IT industry, law and policy makers. The conference is the first of its kind in Australasia and has guest speakers from the FBI, ex-Whitehouse advisors, the UK and several high profile locations. The conference will include one of the largest industry exhibitions held in this country. The conference also includes a less than lethal resolution and tactics forum, specifically aimed at tactical officers and para-military organisations.
Enquiries	South Australia Police, GPO Box 1539, Adelaide, South Australia 5001. tel: +61 8 8463 3726; fax: +61 8 463 3722; email: <a href="mailto:sapol.ipc2004@police.sa.gov.au">sapol.ipc2004@police.sa.gov.au</a> ; web: <a href="http://www.ipc2004.com">www.ipc2004.com</a>
Sponsor	The South Australian Police Service (SAPOL).

# interesting websites



## National Pest and Disease Outbreaks

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

A national website to keep Australians informed in the event of a pest or disease emergency. This user-friendly website provides users with access to local, state and national information including specific information for producers, travellers, non-English speakers and details for media. It also features a subscription list for those who want to be kept in the know as information becomes available.



## Animal Health Australia

<http://www.aahc.com.au>

Animal Health Australia is an organisation dedicated to advancing issues of collective interest to stakeholders associated with the health of livestock. Their mission is to ensure that Australia's national animal health system delivers competitive advantage for Australia's livestock industries.



## Plant Health Australia

<http://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au>

Plant Health Australia is a peak body responsible for working with industry, government and associate partners to manage projects and coordinate development of national plant health policy and capability in Australia.



## Fisheries Research and Development Corporation

<http://www.frdc.com.au>

The FRDC's mission is to increase economic and social benefits for the fishing industry and the people of Australia, through planned investment in research and development, in an ecologically sustainable framework.