

# 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 Activities

The new Action Guide (Pets in Emergencies) is being distributed with the kind assistance of the Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) to its members through the AVA website. The guide aims to provide helpful tips to pet owners on managing their pets in emergencies. A limited number of print copies are available from EMA. The Action Guide is also accessible via the EMA website.

### Australian Emergency Manual Series

The structure of the Australian Emergency Manual series has been revised in response to client feedback. The new structure is published on page 85. The series no longer comprises five parts. The skills set manuals (formerly parts 4 and 5) which are available from State and Territory training managers, are listed separately. The manuals are filed in alphabetical order for ease of location. They are available for free download from the EMA website at [www.ema.gov.au](http://www.ema.gov.au). A CD with full hyperlinks is available from EMA. There are a limited number of print copies also available.

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

### Library

The staff in the EMA library continue to provide a high level of support to the emergency management sector by ensuring the library collection reflects client information requirements. Client information needs reflect ongoing changes in emergency management and the EMA library is always at the forefront in ensuring material that reflects current issues and trends is available to clients.

Recent new book topics include disaster recovery, planning and thinking skills, critical infrastructure protection and the new *Risk Management Standards*. As lifelong learning and continuing personal development are important concepts in the workplace, the library has recently purchased a series of training videos covering topics such as active listening, decision-making, problem solving, delegation, and skills in conducting meetings. These can be used in small groups or individually with the help of the accompanying training guides. Library staff ensure that current information and new purchases are reflected in the library catalogue which is accessible from the EMA website.

The next workshop for the Australasian Libraries in the Emergency Sector (ALIES) will be held at Mt Macedon from 21–24 March 2005. The theme is Partnerships in Practice. Enquiries relating to ALIES or this forthcoming workshop can be directed to the EMA Library Manager.

*For further information contact Linda Hansen  
Phone 03 5421 5224; email [linda.hansen@ema.gov.au](mailto:linda.hansen@ema.gov.au)*

### Website

The website has continued to give EMA a strong web presence with a daily average of 11,000 hits. Approximately 40% of all visits came from outside Australia, including 30% from USA and Canada.

### Disasters Database

The upgrade to the EMA Disasters Database has seen usage increase to an average of 50,000 hits per month, approximately 15% of all hits. This site is used extensively by schools, researchers and emergency management professionals.

### Australian Disasters Information Network (AusDIN)

The numbers of AusDIN users has grown considerably. 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 Emergency Sector. New sub groups in this forum are the Australian Government Community Safety Working Group, and the Volunteer Research Group.

### Development of Emergency Planning Resources CD for Local Government

Together with Australian Local Government Association (ALGA), EMA has begun the development of a resource CD to help local governments meet the emergency planning requirements recommended by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) report. The material contained on the CD aligns with EMA's Emergency Planning for Local government course.

*For further information contact John Haydock  
Phone 03 54215297; email [john.haydock@ema.gov.au](mailto:john.haydock@ema.gov.au)*

## EDUCATION & TRAINING

### Advanced Diploma of Public Safety (Emergency Management)

The Advanced Diploma of Public Safety (Emergency Management) will be piloted in 2005/6. The program will be delivered flexibly requiring off campus study, a residential component at EMA and work based learning. The inbuilt flexibility in the Public Safety Training Package means that many people may already have units of competency that form part of this qualification. For more information see Education and Training Bulletin Number 3 at [www.ema.gov.au](http://www.ema.gov.au).

### Recovery Management

The National Recovery Coordinators' Network and the Emergency Management Sector Working Group will cooperate in a project to identify competency standards for recovery management for inclusion in the *Public Safety Training Package*. The project commenced in October and will conclude in mid 2005. Consultations will take place in every State and Territory. Information will be available at [www.ema.gov.au](http://www.ema.gov.au) as the project progresses.

### Emergency Management for Local Government

The course in Emergency Management for Local Government has now been accredited by the Victorian Qualifications Authority for national recognition. The program is currently delivered by EMA and by the Emergency Management Services Division of the Fire and Emergency Services Authority in Western Australia. For entry to EMA's risk management programs candidates must have completed either the

Course in Introduction to Emergency Risk Management or the Course in Emergency Management for Local Government.

Contact Margery Webster Phone 03 5421 5283; email [margery.webster@ema.gov.au](mailto:margery.webster@ema.gov.au)

### Business Continuity Management

EMA is developing a new program designed to build skills in managing business continuity in the emergency management sector. The program is based on the *Handbook for Business Continuity Management* published by Standards Australia (HB:221) and will be available in 2005.

### Training for Chemical Biological and Radiological (CBR) Incidents and Emergencies

The National CBR Working Group and other stakeholders have participated in the development of a range of competency profiles for managing and responding to CBR incidents. EMA has used this work to identify CBR scenarios for a number of programs aligned to relevant national competency standards. The EMA program of activities includes Emergency Planning and Emergency Coordination Centre programs with a CBR context. The working group also identified the need for a national CBR awareness program. This is being developed by EMA in consultation with stakeholders nationally and will be available in CD-ROM format.

For more information contact Margery Webster Phone 03 5421 5283; email [margery.webster@ema.gov.au](mailto:margery.webster@ema.gov.au)

## DEVELOPMENT

### 2004 Australian Safer Communities Awards

The 2004 Australian Safer Communities Awards ceremony was held in the Mural Hall at Parliament House, Canberra in early December 2004.

The Awards recognise the best practices and innovations that help to build safer communities. They cover organisations and individuals working in risk assessment, research, education and training, information and knowledge management, prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. Details of the awards including information on past years' winners are available on the EMA website at [www.ema.gov.au](http://www.ema.gov.au).

For more information contact Li Peng Monroe Phone: 02 6256 4610; email: [lipeng.monroe@ema.gov.au](mailto:lipeng.monroe@ema.gov.au)

### Emergency Management Volunteers Summit 2005

Planning continues for the *Emergency Management Volunteers Summit 2005* to be held in Canberra from 6-7 April 2005. Themes have been further refined and are as follows:

#### THEME 1 – Drivers for change

Change is a way of life that the emergency management volunteer sector needs to continually assess to maintain relevance, growth and sustainability.

There needs recognition that:

- social and demographic changes are affecting the pool of potential volunteers that the emergency management sector draws from;

## DEVELOPMENT CONT

- changes in attitude, both within and outside the volunteer sector, are required to attract and retain a diverse range of volunteers
- changes in legislative arrangements must be accommodated, and
- the operational tempo within the sector will continue to increase.

### THEME 2 – Enhancing links to further benefit volunteers and their communities

Members of the emergency management volunteer sector, as individuals, groups and organisations, need to enhance existing links between communities and their volunteers for greater recognition and support.

- How do we improve the interface between governments at all levels, the private sector and the community as a whole?
- What do volunteer organisations need to focus on to improve member benefits?
- Can the perceived needs of volunteer organisations and their members be mutually accommodated?
- How can we further improve the recognition of volunteers by government and the community?
- Should sponsorship opportunities be lifted to a commercial level?

Registration forms have been sent to organisations for dissemination to nominated representatives. For more information about your organisation's nominations please contact your volunteer organisation directly.

*For more information contact Justine Rixon  
Phone: 02 6266 5616 email: justine.rixon@ema.gov.au*

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

During 2002 EMA conducted a photographic competition showcasing emergency management volunteers in action. To recognise the work and value of volunteers in Australia's emergency management and service organisations EMA is conducting another nation-wide photographic competition in 2004 with the prizes being awarded at the Emergency Management Volunteers Summit 2005 to be held 6–7 April 2005 in Canberra. Full details are provided on the back cover of this issue of AJEM.

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

## PLANNING & OPERATIONS

### Emergency Services Sector Infrastructure Assurance Advisory Group

A further meeting of the Emergency Services Sector Infrastructure Assurance Advisory Group (ES IAAG) was conducted on 9 September in Adelaide.

The meeting was attended by emergency services representatives from States and Territories, emergency services peak bodies, the Australian Red Cross, relevant Australian Government agency representatives and representatives from other industry sector IAAGs.

The group's activity continues to focus on issues aimed at ensuring continuity of provision of emergency services in response to the impact of all hazards, including those that may result from acts of terrorism.

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 and treatment options. A brief discussion exercise was conducted aimed at more accurately identifying the dependencies that the emergency services have on other industry sectors. The outcomes

of this discussion will be raised formally with the relevant industry sectors e.g. "communications" "energy" and "health".

Other issues discussed included consideration of a draft set of emergency services specific measures that may be appropriate to implement in response to increased threat and Counter Terrorism (CT) Alert Levels and progression of the plan to establish an Emergency Management Expert Advisory Group.

A teleconference meeting of the ES IAAG is scheduled for November with the next formal meeting early in the New Year.

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

### World Conference on Disaster Reduction

In January 2005 the United Nations will hold its World Conference on Disaster Reduction, hosted by the Japanese Government in Kobe. EMA has been involved in a number of activities in preparation for the conference. In May an EMA staff member participated in an international meeting to determine

## PLANNING & OPERATIONS CONT

the objectives, format and guidelines of the conference. In June EMA provided funding to the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) for a regional workshop. This workshop brought together stakeholders to develop a Pacific Plan of Action addressing issues to be raised at the conference. In September EMA representatives met with delegates from Tonga, Fiji and SOPAC to determine a strategy for using the conference to bring important Pacific issues to a wider audience. EMA is now taking the lead among Australian Government departments in co-ordinating the Australian delegation and input into the remaining preparatory meetings and the conference itself.

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

### **National Casualty Transport Study**

EMA has engaged Mr Frank Cox AO (Air-Vice Marshall Ret'd) to conduct a study into Australia's casualty transport capability. The Australian Health Disaster Management and Policy Committee (AHDMP) identified through an audit of capability in 2003, that the transport of casualties was an area of potential vulnerability. The study will compliment work done by other agencies such as the ADF and the Department of Health and Ageing.

The study will:

- Determine a sustainable statement of the national casualty transport requirement based on current and credible threat assessments.
- Analyse the gap between current capability and the desired requirement.
- Identify a way forward to redress any shortfall, including consideration of optimising and/or expanding the ADF and other Commonwealth assets, private sector involvement or other means. This will include consideration of resourcing issues.

During the course of the study Frank Cox will consult widely with Australian Government departments, State and Territory Governments and non-government transport providers. A scenario based questionnaire has been circulated to all jurisdictions and responses will form the basis of discussions during consultations.

*For further information contact Tracy Hicks  
Phone: 02 6256 4680; email: tracy.hicks@ema.gov.au*

### **CBR Crime Scene Investigation**

EMA piloted a Chemical Biological and Radiological Crime Scene Investigation course at its training facility at Mount Macedon on 28 June–2 July. All State and Territories were represented on the 24-course panel. Criminal investigations involving the use of CBR materials require the use of appropriate sampling, collection, transportation, and chain of custody techniques. Participants conducted a number of investigative activities operating in Level A and Level C protective clothing. The course was conducted to meet a training need identified by the National CBR Working Group. It is envisaged the next course will be held in mid to late 2005.

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

### **National Registration and Inquiry System–Exercise Murphy 04**

EMA and Department of Health and Ageing facilitated the annual National Registration and Inquiry System (NRIS) Exercise Murphy 04 on 14 October 2004. The activity involved State Inquiry Centres from all the eight States and Territories. The exercise tested the importation of registration and inquiry data onto the NRIS database with over 2000 registrations and 1700 inquiries being entered over the six hours of the exercise. NRIS provides a valuable tool to emergency managers for the recording of displaced persons during an emergency and has been utilised during a number of recent disaster events in Australia including the 2003 ACT bushfires where several thousand registrations were recorded. While NRIS is utilised regularly at State level, the national exercise is conducted annually to ensure functionality by loading a high volume of data on the system, and to provide a training opportunity for Australian Red Cross personnel who staff State Inquiry Centres.

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

# CONFERENCE DIARY

Conference details are sourced from the EMA website.  
For more information about these and future conferences, visit [www.ema.gov.au](http://www.ema.gov.au)

## INTERNATIONAL 2004 December

### 2-4 December 2004

**Location** Hyderabad, India

**Title** Hazards 2004: The Tenth International Symposium on Natural and Human-induced Hazards and Third Workshop of the IUGG Commission on Geophysical Risk and Sustainability.

**Details** Topics covered will encompass the entire spectrum of natural and human-induced hazards, their causes, risks, and management. All aspects of these phenomena from disaster prevention, mitigation, and management through public education and preparedness will be covered.

**Enquiries** Hazards 2004, National Geophysical Research Institute, Hyderabad - 500007 India.  
tel: 0091-40-23434700;  
email: [sec-loc@hazards2004.org](mailto:sec-loc@hazards2004.org)  
web: <http://www.hazards2004.org/>

**Sponsor** National Geophysical Research Institute

### 5-8 December 2004

**Location** Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**Title** Partners in Preserving Liberty: U.S. EPA Region III Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Conference.

**Details** This conference is geared toward emergency responders, environmental health and safety workers, those who deal with hazardous materials, maritime security, first responders, transportation and shipping, emergency medicine, and others.

**Enquiries** EPA Region III, 1650 Arch Street (3PM52), Philadelphia, PA 19103.  
email: [ConferenceAdministrator@2004conference.org](mailto:ConferenceAdministrator@2004conference.org)  
web: <http://www.2004conference.org>

**Sponsor** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

### 8-20 December 2004

**Location** Nanjing, China

**Title** 4th International Conference on Dam Engineering

**Details** With the rapid economic and industrial growth of many regions in Asia, the development of water resources is a vital element of the infrastructure to satisfy the ever increasing demand for power, irrigation, and drinking water supply. This development includes both the construction of new facilities and the rehabilitation of existing older plants. Dams are usually the key element in such facilities and their economic construction and safety are of paramount importance. This conference will provide a forum for the exchange of experiences among dam designers, constructors, and operators on the behavior of dams.

**Enquiries** Qingwen Ren, College of Civil and Engineering, Hohai University, Xi Kang Road 1, Nanjing 210098 P. R. China.  
email: [qingwenren@yeah.net](mailto:qingwenren@yeah.net)  
web: <http://www.dam04.com>

**Sponsor** Hohai University

### 13-14 December 2004

**Location** London, Ontario

**Title** International Workshop on Water and Disasters

**Details** The conference aims to bring together researchers in academia and industry as well as land use planners and technology network managers, who are concerned with the study of MIS problems and its applications. The meeting will act as an interdisciplinary forum for the discussion of problems of common interest.

**Enquiries** ICLR, 1389 Western Road, London, ON, Canada N6A 5B9.  
tel: (519) 661-3234  
email: [sdoyle@uwo.ca](mailto:sdoyle@uwo.ca)  
web: [http://www.iclr.org/pdf/First\\_Announcement\\_2004.pdf](http://www.iclr.org/pdf/First_Announcement_2004.pdf)

**Sponsors** Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction (ICLR), Environment Canada, United Nations University, International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

## INTERNATIONAL

### 2005 January

#### 18–22 January 2005

Location	Kobe, Japan
Title	World Conference on Disaster Reduction: A Safer World for All
Details	This conference will provide extensive discussion, related sessions, and networking opportunities, while assessing progress on the "Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action" from 1994 with the international goal of raising awareness of vulnerability, disasters, policy development, and action.
Enquiries	UN/ISDR, Palais des Nations, CH 1211 Geneva, Switzerland. tel: 41-22-917-2103 email: isdr@un.org web: <a href="http://www.unisdr.org/eng/wcdr/First-Announcement-WCDR-eng.pdf">http://www.unisdr.org/eng/wcdr/First-Announcement-WCDR-eng.pdf</a> .
Sponsor	United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR).

#### 9–11 February 2005

Location	Las Vegas, Nevada
Title	Sixth Annual Aviation Security Summit and Expo
Details	The aviation security community is faced with implementing rapidly changing security measures and equipment while ensuring continued effective operations. Airports and airlines are striving to keep up with the latest security trends and regulations without compromising efficiency.
Enquiries	Summit details are available at <a href="http://www.worldrg.com/AW500/index">http://www.worldrg.com/AW500/index</a> .
Sponsors	Honeywell, Object Video

## AUSTRALIA

### 22–25 February 2005

Location	Narooma, New South Wales
Title	45th annual conference of the Floodplain Management Authorities of NSW
Details	The 45th annual conference of the Floodplain Management Authorities of NSW will be hosted by the Eurobodalla Shire Council. Papers presented always range widely across the flood risk management field and include emergency management themes relating to warning system development, evacuation planning, response management and the conduct of community education campaigns about the flood threat. Legal, environmental and engineering considerations relating to the management of flood liable land are also examined.
Enquiries	tel: (02) 4474 1085, <a href="http://www.floods.org.au">www.floods.org.au</a> . email: <a href="mailto:kathryn.stonestreet@eurocoast.nsw.gov.au">kathryn.stonestreet@eurocoast.nsw.gov.au</a>
Sponsor	Floodplain Management Authorities of NSW.

### 17–18 March 2005

Location	Perth, Western Australia
Title	2005 West Australian Emergency Management Conference: Bridging the Gap Between Crisis and Consequence Management.
Details	The conference seeks to explore the relationship between crisis and consequence management as it applies to the field of emergency management. It provides new ideas and approaches to problem solving in emergency management; leading edge and topical presentations from international and local speakers; and opportunities to network with key individuals and organisations across the emergency management industry.
Enquiries	Management Conference FESA Emergency Management Services PO Box P1174 PERTH WA 6844. Tel: +61 8 9323 9418 Fax: +61 8 9323 9462 email: <a href="mailto:ssmith@fesa.wa.gov.au">ssmith@fesa.wa.gov.au</a> web: <a href="http://www.ems.fesa.wa.gov.au">http://www.ems.fesa.wa.gov.au</a>
Sponsor	Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia, Government of Western Australia.

# interesting websites



**Disaster Recovery Management Unit, Qld**  
<http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/community/disaster/>

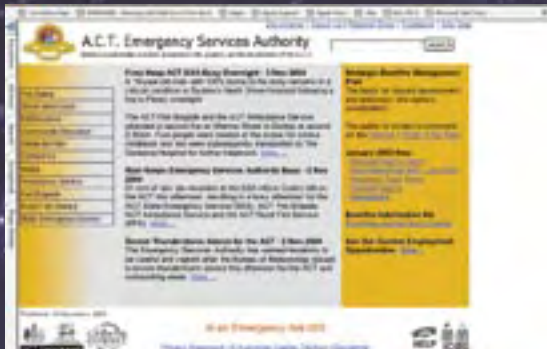
The Queensland Government has a Disaster Recovery Management Unit that manages the co-ordination of all community recovery services for a particular event. The Unit's web site provides guidelines to assist individuals, families and communities in the restoration of emotional, social, economic and physical wellbeing following a disaster event.



**Department of Community Services (DoCS), NSW**  
<http://www.community.nsw.gov.au/html/disaster/disaster.htm>

The NSW Department of Community Services (DoCS) has responsibility for all disaster recovery services across NSW under the Government's State Disaster Plan (DISPLAN).

Information in the site includes drought relief, bushfire and flood recovery, financial assistance, replacing documents and disaster checklists. It provides details on recovery and evacuation centres and reports on recent disaster relief work.



**The Emergency Services Authority, ACT**  
<http://www.esa.act.gov.au/>

The Emergency Services Authority in the ACT provides a wealth of information for flood, fire and earthquake both pre and post disaster. It is a one-stop shop for disaster preparedness, safety and emergency contacts.



**The Department of Human Services, Vic**  
<http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/emergency/recman/index.htm>

The Department of Human Services in Victoria provides a comprehensive access point to a wide variety of emergency management and recovery information. This includes emergency recovery management and services, human response and services, local government emergency management as well as publications and emergency contacts.

# Want to advertise in the Australian Journal of Emergency Management?

Emergency Management Australia now offers you the opportunity to communicate to over 5,000 members of the emergency management community by placing either a half page or full page advertisement in the Australian Journal of Emergency Management (AJEM).

AJEM is published in February, May, August and November each year and is professionally distributed to a wide cross-section of the emergency management industry.

The deadline for advertising submissions is eight weeks before each respective issue. AJEM will accept print-ready artwork (most professional design programs) or will provide in-house graphic design with associated costs billed to the advertiser.

Please note the AJEM Editorial Board reserves the right not to publish advertisements it deems inappropriate to the goals of the Journal. Should this occur, the decision of the Board is final.

For rate card and details please contact Cate Moore, email [cate.moore@ema.gov.au](mailto:cate.moore@ema.gov.au) or tel:+61 (03) 5421 5296.





## Photographic Competition Emergency Management Volunteers in Action

A unique national photographic competition is being conducted by Emergency Management Australia to recognise the work and value of emergency service volunteers and their organisations. It will be for photographs taken between 1 July 2003 and 31 January 2005, and winners will be announced and awards presented during the Emergency Management Volunteers Summit 2005, in Canberra 6-7 April 2005.

### The Volunteer Story

The competition aims to attract a range of photographs that depict volunteers at work in all types of situations, and tell the volunteer story of dedication, commitment and sacrifice in times of disasters and emergencies.

The photographs will recognise the work and value of volunteers in Australia's emergency management sector.

### Competition Streams

The first stream is for professional photographers either employed by media organisations or who work on a freelance (paid) basis.

The second is for photographs taken by emergency management volunteer organisations and/or individual volunteers. They may have been published, or are unpublished.

### Awards

The photographer/organisation/volunteer judged to be the outright winner in each stream will receive photographic equipment of their choice to the value of \$2500 and a certificate. Highly Commended entrants in each stream will receive photographic equipment of their choice to the value of \$1000 and a certificate. The judging panel may make Commended Awards, with the entrant receiving a certificate.

### More information and Entry Form

Please contact Susan Stevens, phone 02 6256 4611 or email [susan.stevens@ema.gov.au](mailto:susan.stevens@ema.gov.au), or go to the EMA website, [www.ema.gov.au](http://www.ema.gov.au)

**Entries close 14 February 2005**