

Year 2000

EMA continues to work with the States, Territories, Commonwealth agencies and key utilities in planning to deal with Year 2000 service failures and meet national information needs. The focus has now moved to managing the event and, to meet this requirement, States, Territories and the Commonwealth have agreed to establish Government Response/Coordination Centres embracing emergency response, policy advice and media elements. These centres will monitor Year 2000 related events, provide information to government and, through the media, to the public, and coordinate other action as necessary.

The Commonwealth Centre to be known as the National Coordination Centre (NCC) is being established by EMA and the Office for Government Online. The NCC will gather information from the equivalent State and Territory centres, Commonwealth agencies, and key national organisations to provide a national picture of the impact of the Year 2000. Operation of the Centre will be complemented by the Commonwealth Government Year 2000 Event Management Plan.

For further information contact Barry Stanton, ph: (02) 6266 5505, or email: bstanton@ema.gov.au.

Taiwan Earthquake

Following the earthquake in Taiwan on 21 September 1999, the Australian Government sought to provide a physical rather than monetary response to the disaster relief effort. The Minister for Foreign Affairs Five highly-trained senior officers from the fire services of the Australian Capital Territory, Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia deployed on 23 September for seven days. While in Taiwan, they were employed primarily on debriefing rescuers completing their search and rescue duties.

For further information contact Trevor Haines, ph: (02) 6266 5169, or email: thaines@ema.gov.au

Sydney Harbour Oil Spill

Following a request from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority on 4 August 1999, EMA tasked the Australian Defence Force to move two Marco Oil Skimming Vessels and supporting stores by air from Brisbane to Sydney and subsequently by road to Sydney Harbour.

For further information contact Trevor Haines, ph: (02) 6266 5169, or email: thaines@ema.gov.au
Communications in Times of Crisis

As was reported in the Autumn edition of the AJEM (Volume 14 No 1), the National Communications and Information Systems Advisory Group has developed a draft Strategic Plan aimed at resolving a number of issues surrounding communications in times of crisis. The National Emergency Management Executive Group

approved the Plan at its August meeting and work is commencing on its implementation.

A working party met in October to consider the provision of telecommunications services during disasters and, under the provisions of the Telecommunications Act 1977, the need for a National Disaster Communications Plan. Participants were drawn from States and Territories, the Australian Communications Authority, the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, the Australian Communications Industry Forum and EMA. For further information contact Barry Stanton, p: (02) 6266 5505, or email: bstanton@ema.gov.au.

National Framework for Prevention and Mitigation

In order to promote and market the National Framework for Prevention and Mitigation, the Mitigation Working Party, through EMA, is seeking a more publicly acceptable title which preferably excludes the word, 'mitigation'. While the assistance of marketing professionals and students is being sought, all comments are welcome.

For further information contact David Winterburn, ph: (02) 6266 5009, or email: dwinterburn@ema.gov.au.

Mitigation Working Party Update

Membership of the Mitigation Working Party (MWP) has been broadened to include representatives from the NSW State Emergency Planning Committee, ACT Emergency Services Bureau, Royal Australian Planning Institute, the Insurance Council of Australia, Bureau of Meteorology and the Australian Geological Survey Organisation. The Commonwealth Departments of Transport and Regional Services and Finance and Administration are also showing interest in the work of the committee.

A major outcome of the last meeting was the establishment of working groups to develop a strategic plan for the Mitigation Working Party and Terms of Reference for research into national risk assessment, the costs of disasters (with cost measured in economic, social, environmental and psychological terms); and the cost-benefit of mitigation. The latter proposal will be considered by the National Emergency Management Committee at its November 1999 Meeting.

For further information contact David Winterburn, ph: (02) 6266 5009, or email: dwinterburn@ema.gov.au.

Submission to include Flood in the Building Code of Australia

EMA recently submitted a proposal to the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) to have flood and storm surge included in the Building Code of Australia. The proposal aims to enhance safety from building failure during flood, ensure safe evacuation routes at times of flood and to highlight the need for designs and the use

of flood compatible building materials to reduce flood damage.

For further information contact David Winterburn, ph: (02) 6266 5009 or email: dwinterburn@ema.gov.au.

Search for Missing Snowboarders

In a last ditch effort to locate four snowboarders missing in the Mount Kosciuszko National Park in south-eastern Australia and, at the request of the New South Wales Government, in early August EMA tasked the Australian Defence Force to provide a specialist aircraft to assist with the search. The aircraft was fitted with thermal imaging equipment which was part of a surveillance trial focused on locating land-cruiser sized vehicles in northern Australia. The aircraft located some 'hot spots' on the snow surface but, consistent with the characteristics of thermal imaging, which does not penetrate water, the equipment was unsuccessful.

For further information contact Rod McKinnon, ph: (02) 6266 5328, or email: rmckinnon@ema.gov.au

East Timor Crisis

In September and October, EMA was heavily involved in the East Timor Operation. Commitments included: activation of the Commonwealth Government Reception Plan (COMRECEPLAN) for the coordination of Commonwealth agency involvement in the reception in Australia of Internally Displaced Persons (IDP); activation of the Commonwealth Government Disaster Response Plan (COMDISPLAN) for the sourcing and movement of tents, stretchers and bedding by the Australian Defence Force from Southern Australia to Darwin to enable the Northern Territory Government to establish a Temporary Accommodation Facility; and, at the request of the Australian Agency for International Development, activation of the Australian Government Overseas Disaster Assistance Plan (AUSASSISTPLAN) for the air dropping of food in East Timor.

Other Commonwealth agencies involved included the Departments of Foreign Affairs, Health and Aged Care and Immigration and Multicultural Affairs. From a Northern Territory perspective, it was truly a whole-of-Government effort.

For further information contact Rod McKinnon, ph: (02) 6266 5328, or email: rmckinnon@ema.gov.au

Disaster Prevention for the 21st Century

The Australian Disaster Conference 1999 was held on 1-3 November 1999 in Canberra. Printed copies of the proceedings are available from EMA at a cost of \$100. Contact EMA on ph: (02) 6266 5402, fax: (02) 6266 5029 or by email to: ema@ema.gov.au to order a copy of the proceedings. Copies are also available for loan through the AEMI library.

Later issues of AJEM are expected to contain a detailed report on the conference, the directions and priorities identified for the future and a selection of the presented papers.

Spatial Data in Emergency Management Workshop

A Spatial Data in Emergency Management Workshop was

held on the day following the conference, Thursday 4 November. It was planned and organised by the ACT Emergency Services Bureau and the Australian Geological Survey Organisation (AGSO), in cooperation with the Australian Disaster Conference 1999.

This workshop forms part of a series that began with the 1994 workshop *Hazard Management: Better Information for the 21st Century*, held at AEMI and sponsored by EMA and AURISA. The series aims to facilitate the effective use of spatial data across the whole spectrum of emergency management in Australia and the region.

The workshop provided a forum for discussion between practitioners, including data analysts, GIS professionals and information users, and others interested in the use of spatial data for emergency management. Other workshops are also being planned over the next two years.

For further information contact Rick McRae on ph: (02) 6207 8607 or Greg Scott on (02) 6249 9132.

New IDNDR projects funded in FY 1999/2000

- Australian Emergency Management Forum - web site including virtual chat forums (3/99), *Dr John Field, Charles Sturt Uni, Bathurst, NSW.*
- Message Sticks - Natural Hazard Warning and Action Devices for Aboriginal Communities (4/99), *Dr Allan Skertchly and Ms Kristen Skertchly, Success Management International Learning Enterprises (SMILE), Casuarina, NT.*
- Public Education and Awareness - Natural Disaster in the Republic of Palau (5/99), *Mr Hazime Telei, National Emergency Management Office (NEMO), Republic of Palau.*
- Flood Data Books - A Low Cost Alternative to Floodplain Mapping in Rural Areas (6/99), *David Fuller, Department Primary Industries Water and Environment, Hobart, Tas.*
- Effective Behaviour Change Programs for Natural Hazard Reduction in Rural Communities (7/99), *David Bridge, Deakin University, Geelong, Vic.*
- Cyclone Vulnerability/ Awareness and Preparedness in Remote and Aboriginal Communities of the Gulf of Carpentaria (9/99), *Dr David King, James Cook University (JCU), Townsville, Qld and Linda Berry, JCU, Cairns, Qld.*
- Study into the Factors Which Contribute to the Effectiveness of Sprinklers for Property Protection During Bushfires (10/99), *Mr Troy Williams, Fire Protection Association Australia (FPA Australia), Box Hill, Vic.*
- Review of Bushfire Safety for People with Special Needs Pilot Project (11/99), *Annette Dodson, Knox City Council, Wantirna South, Vic.*
- Disaster Information on the Web - An Index to Prompt and Reliable Information (12/99), *Edmund Bernard Joyce, School of Earth Sciences, University of Melbourne, Parkville, Vic.*
- Workshop on Volcanic Hazards/Operations Support Plans and Awareness Programs for Savo Volcano - Solomon Islands (13/99), *Russell Howorth, South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) Secretariat, Suva, Fiji.*

- Reducing Natural Disasters – Special Feature Articles in CSIRO's *The Helix Magazine* (14/99), *Dr Simon Torok, Editor, The Helix, Canberra.*
- Development of Handbook – Designing Landscapes and Building for Bushfire Areas for the Australian Community (15/99), *Mr Lisle Rudolph, Mt Waverley, Vic & Dr G Caird Ramsay, Scientific Services Laboratory, Port Melbourne.*
- *Wet Winds and Dry Earth* - Working Title for an Educational Resource on Drought and Tropical Cyclones (16/99), *Denise Miles, Geography Teachers' Association of Victoria (GTAV), Camberwell West, Vic.*
- Development of a Standard Module on Disaster Recovery in Remote Aboriginal Communities, Northern Territory (17/99), *Nicola Slavin, Environmental Health Officer, Public Health Unit, Territory Health Services, Katherine, NT.*
- *Awareness/ Endurance/ Recovery* – A Kit for Coping with the Psychological Effects of Natural Disaster (18/99), *Kareen Pillar, Cairns City Council, Cairns, Qld, in cooperation with JCU Department of Psychology.*
- Production of an Awareness Community Theatre Training Manual and Video to Enhance Pacific Cyclone Preparedness and Awareness (19/99), *Dr Kevin Vang, Australian Foundation for the Peoples of Asia and the Pacific (AFAP), Crows Nest, NSW.*
- Provision of Equipment to support Public Education and Awareness Programs, Fiji (20/99), *A Tuifagalele, National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), Suva, Fiji.*
- Public Awareness and Education Booklet and Video on Cyclone and Severe Storm Mitigation, Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery for the Norfolk Island Community (21/99), *Mr I F Buffett, Emergency Management Norfolk Island Committee (EMNIC), Norfolk Island.*
- Flood Help – An Online System for Providing Guidance to House Owners in Flood-Prone Areas (22/99), *Dr I S Cole, CSIRO Division of Building Construction and Engineering, Highett, Vic.*
- Automated Processing and Distribution of Remote Sensing Visualisations for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness in Local Government Areas (23/99), *Rick McRae, ACT Emergency Services Bureau, Curtin, ACT.*
- Development and Distribution of Educational Resources to Support Hazards, Disasters and Survival TV & Video Series (24/99), *Jeanne Kriewaldt, Australian Geography Teachers' Association (AGTA), Balwyn, Vic.*
- Development and National Distribution of an All-hazard Emergency Awareness Teachers' Guide for Secondary Schools (25/99), *Lyndall Horton-James, West Education Centre, West Footscray, Vic.*

IDNDR Education 2000

The Unexpected Catastrophe: 1989 Newcastle Earthquake Information Resources is a CD ROM produced by the Newcastle Region Library with funding from the Australian IDNDR Program and Newcastle City Council. It contains a wealth of information resources about the events of the 1989 Newcastle earthquake and its aftermath. They are presented in a searchable database format and are linked to full text documents, photographs and excerpts of sound and video recordings.

Resources in the collection include: seismology; economic aspects; earthquake engineering; seismic history; emergency management; heritage issues; social impact; health and psychology; insurance; and recovery and renewal. The CDs are available for sale from the Newcastle Region Library. ph: (02) 4974 5300 or fax: (02) 4974 5396 for information about CD sales.

Water Water Everywhere is a valuable new IDNDR-funded secondary school resource dealing with hazards, water and farming communities. This 60-page workbook for Levels 6 and 7 in Studies of Society and Environment (SOSE) uses inquiry-based learning activities to help students develop skills and enhance their understanding of flooding. This covers natural and human causes, flood behaviour, and management options to maximise benefits while reducing negative impacts on people and the environment. Case studies throughout Australia are used to highlight different aspects. Simulations allow students to participate in decision-making processes. Contact Geography Teachers' Association of Victoria for details. ph: (03) 9824 8355, Fax: (03) 9824 8295, email: gtav@netspace.net.au.

What's on at AEMI

National Studies Program

14 – 18 February 2000

Dambreak Emergency Planning

The aim of this workshop is to provide generic national guidelines for emergency response by dam owners and emergency management agencies for extreme floods downstream of dams, including dam failure situations.

Courses

Introduction to Emergency Risk Management (IERM)

IERM is the prerequisite for the emergency risk management courses at AEMI. As part of the extension program in the latter half of 1999, each State and Territory has conducted IERM courses and approximately 600 people across Australia have attended this course. These courses will now continue to be run 'in situ' by the States and Territories and will be a powerful tool to 'spread the word' about Risk Management to the broader emergency management community.

Emergency Risk Management

AEMI staff are currently developing and delivering a new suite of training and education products. The new Emergency Risk Management courses to be offered by AEMI in the first half of 2000 are aimed at personnel involved in risk management at a community level. The courses are designed to provide participants with an understanding of the process of emergency risk management as described in the EMA Emergency Risk Management Manual (derived from AS/NZS Risk Management 4360:1999) and with practical guidance in the application of the process.

The syllabuses are based on emergency risk management competencies (Public Safety Training Package, 1999) and will be delivered through a combination of residential

activity at Mount Macedon (two 4-day periods) and workplace learning projects.

Course 1 (including 4 day residential) –

Understanding Emergency Risk Management

This course will offer participants the opportunity to examine the emergency risk management process in detail. Subjects examined will include:

- the risk management process, including an examination of all steps in the process;
- the management of a community risk study, and
- Issues likely to emerge during a risk management project within a community.

Course 2 (including 4 day residential) –

Implementing Emergency Risk Management

This course will focus on how to undertake a community risk management process. There will be a strong emphasis on the processes needed to apply risk management within a community. Participants will examine a range of concepts and principles applicable to working with communities within an emergency risk management context. These will include:

- working at local government level (what is a community and how does it work?),
- communication skills, decision making in the public arena and document management,
- process facilitation within community groups (including roles of the facilitator and facilitator ethics),
- public education and social marketing.

Emergency Risk Management Manuals

In addition to course development a number of manuals are being developed to support the emergency risk management process and to complement the two parts of the Emergency Risk Management course. They are:

1. **Applications Guide:** This guide passed through the final consultation process with the States and Territories and will be published soon.
2. **Social Processes Guide:** The development work is underway and should be finished in the first half of 2000.

National Emergency Management Education and Training Advisory Group

At its April 1999 meeting, the National Emergency Management Executive Group (NEMEG) approved the establishment of the National Emergency Management Education and Training Advisory Group (NEMETAG) in response to a recommendation from the 'Report Into the Role of the Australian Emergency Management Institute in the Development and Delivery of Emergency Management Education and Training Post 2000' (E & T 2000). The first meeting of the NEMETAG was held at AEMI on 17 September 1999.

The purpose of the NEMETAG as defined by the NEMEG is to:

- Provide strategic advice to the NEMC on the current and future professional development of persons who have disaster/emergency management functions within the community.

- Support AEMI in implementing strategic advice from the NEMC on education and training matters.

The membership of the NEMETAG is:

Dudley McArdle	DAEMI; Chairman
Joe Paul	SES; NEMEG
Bruce Esplin	NEMEG
Barry Hamilton	NEMEG
Ray Fogolyan	VET Sector
Barry Grear	Institution of Engineers
Stephen Gough	Convention of Ambulance Authorities
Sandra Lunardi	AFAC
Morrie Bradley	EMA representative
Insp. Doug Hocking	Australasian Police Education Standards Council
Prof. Patrick Griffin	Tertiary Education Sector
Tony Bisdee	Australian Local Government Association
Barry McPhee	Recovery Sector

The next meeting of the NEMETAG will be in April 2000.

EMA publication news

New and revised publications now available (as noted below in each category):

Community Awareness and Education:

Natural Hazard Awareness for the Northern Territory (colourful, B2 size, community awareness poster). This new poster map texturally and photographically depicts the history and details of major natural hazard impacts and disasters in the NT. It was funded by IDNDR and produced by EMA as part of a series to cover all States and Territories. It is available (free) through Northern Territory Emergency Services, PO Box 39764, Winnelle NT 0821.

Severe Storms: Facts, Warning and Protection (A5 fold out colour pamphlet). This joint EMA/Bureau of Meteorology publication has been revised and features new photographs and updated information on the dangers of severe storms. It also covers the warning system and information on personal and property protection. (Copies available through all State/Territory Emergency Services.)

Australian Emergency Manual Series:

Part III – Emergency Management Practice
Volume 1 – Service Provision
Manual 2 – Disaster Medicine (2nd Edition)
(Copies available through your State/Territory departments of health)

Part V – The Management of Training
Manual 1 – Small Group Training Management (2nd Edition)
(Copies distributed to relevant emergency agencies through State/Territory Emergency Services. [Training Sections maintain distribution/amendment registers])

EMA addresses for publications orders (first check above for appropriate EMA Office or S/T authority):

Emergency Management Australia, PO Box 1020, Dickson ACT 2602, Australia.

Australian Institute of Emergency Management, Main Rd, Mt. Macedon VIC 3441, Australia.