

interesting websites



Natural Hazards Online

www.ga.gov.au/hazards

Natural Hazards Online is a new resource available to emergency managers, researchers and the general public. It is a website that presents information about natural hazards including bushfire, cyclone, earthquake, flood, landslide, severe weather, tsunami, and volcano.

Natural Hazards Online is a joint initiative of Geoscience Australia and Emergency Management Australia, and was established as a contribution to the Disaster Mitigation Australia package. The website was developed in response to the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Report on reforming mitigation, relief and recovery arrangements for natural disasters in Australia which identified the need 'to ensure a sound knowledge base on natural disasters and disaster mitigation'.

This is the first time in Australia that a single website has been created to consolidate the broad range of information, data, maps, models and decision-support tools available about natural hazards. The site provides users with a one-stop-shop for natural hazards information ensuring that available content is easy to find and access.

The website provides details about each hazard, the processes behind their occurrence, where they occur in Australia and how they impact on communities. A selection of previous natural hazard events is described and a series of links are available for those who would like to find out more about a particular event.

Photographs and images are available for each type of hazard as well as reports published by Geoscience Australia that can be downloaded from the site. Guidelines and reports published by other agencies as well as a series of maps and databases can also be accessed.

A number of key emergency response tools are easily accessible through Natural Hazards Online, including the Joint Australian Tsunami Warning Centre, the Sentinel bushfire monitoring system, the Bureau of Meteorology's tropical cyclone warning service and national weather warnings summary.

Users can also access the Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System, the Australian Disaster Information Network and the new report Natural Hazards in Australia: Identifying Risk Analysis Requirements. The website includes databases detailing riverine flood studies, recent and historic earthquakes, and landslides, as well as a link to an online risk prevention game.

The website also presents information about risk modelling, emergency management, and natural hazard policy as well as information about expert committees working to reduce the impact of natural hazards in Australia.

Natural Hazards Online is currently receiving approximately 17 000 hits per month. Eighty percent of these hits are from new visitors to the site, and the website presently holds the number one ranking on 'Google' for a natural hazards search on Australian pages.

New information and tools are being added to the website as they become available, to provide emergency managers and other decision makers involved in disaster risk reduction with important resources which will help them to assess the hazard, vulnerability and risk posed by natural disasters and make informed decisions about their management.

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Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department
Emergency Management Australia

National Emergency Volunteer Support Fund

There is general acceptance that climate change is likely to result in an increased frequency and severity of emergencies including heatwave, severe storms, floods, tropical cyclones and, indirectly, serious bushfire. These events have significant economic consequences but also impact adversely on the lives of individuals, families and communities, particularly the vulnerable members of our communities.

Of vital importance in protecting communities from the effects of emergencies is our national pool of volunteers who represent a critical element of Australia's national emergency management capability. Those volunteers play a significant role in assisting communities in responding to and recovering from the impact of emergencies. Some 500,000 people in Australia volunteer their services in some emergency management capacity and 350,000 of those are directly involved in emergency first response, principally through the various rural fire services and the State Emergency Services.

To ensure ongoing protection of communities it is critical that all volunteer agencies maintain their current levels of staffing and training.

The Australian Government is offering funding in 2009/10 through the **National Emergency Volunteer Support Fund** for projects which specifically address the recruitment, retention and training of

volunteers. The Fund is managed by Emergency Management Australia (EMA), a Division within the Attorney-General's Department.

The Attorney-General, Robert McClelland, will soon be seeking grant applications from eligible organisations.

How to Apply

Applications will be invited from late November 2008. Guidelines, application forms and details on how to apply will be available on the EMA website or by contacting the Community Engagement team at EMA after that date.

Email: cd@ema.gov.au

Phone: 02 6256 4608

Fax: 02 6256 4653

Website: www.ema.gov.au/communityengagement

The closing date for applications is **Friday 6 March 2009.**



EMA

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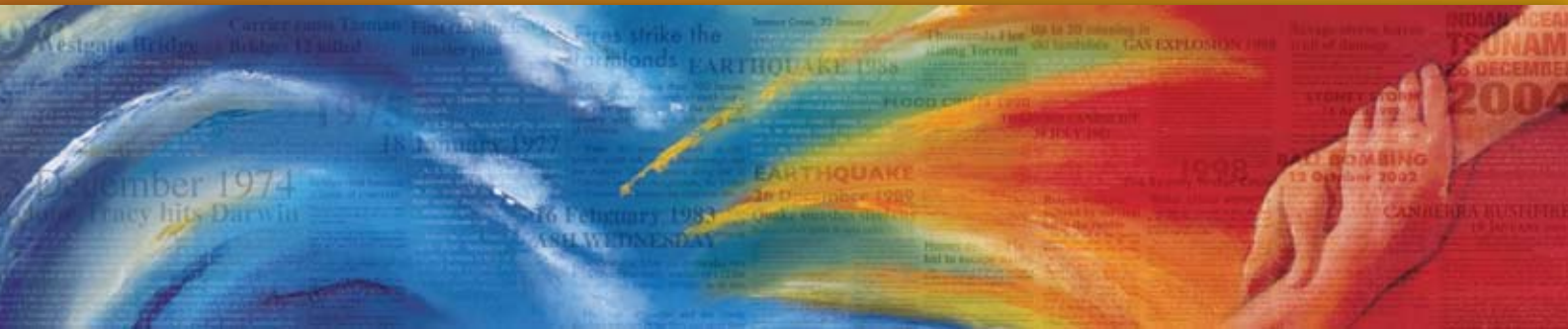
Australian Government
 Attorney-General's Department
 Emergency Management Australia

EARLY BIRD
 REGISTRATIONS
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AUSTRALIAN DISASTERS CONFERENCE 2009

Surviving Future Risks

National Convention Centre, Canberra | 10-13 February 2009



EMA invites you to help shape the future of Australian emergency management.

The traditional emergencies for which we have planned in the past may not adequately cover the real risks that Australia may face in the future.

The Australian Disasters Conference 2009 – *Surviving Future Risks* – is a major national conference, endorsed by Government, to explore the future disaster risk environment for Australia. The conference outcome is to recommend future ways to enhance mitigation and preparedness measures and build community resilience to meet these new challenges.

Expert speakers have been invited to address the four key conference sub-themes:

- **the changing face of crisis management** – a convergence of consequence management and crisis management
- **global warming** – potential impact and consequences
- **the catastrophic event** – identifying risk and mitigation strategies, and
- **recovery** – surviving the impact and consequences of a major disaster event.

This conference is designed for key stakeholders at the local, state and national level who have a role in emergency management, including government agencies, volunteers, business and industry, non-government organisations, research and professional bodies, and community organisations.

For further information or to register on-line, visit the EMA website at: www.ema.gov.au

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