

State Emergency Response Plan

Part 3: Emergency Management Manual Victoria

Contents

3.1 Introduction	3-1
Emergency Management Act — Authority	3-1
Purposes and Scope of the State Emergency Response Plan	3-1
Principles of Response Planning and Operational Management	3-1
3.2 Response Management Arrangements	3-2
Command	3-2
Control 3-2	3-2
Co-ordination	3-2
Control and Support Agencies	3-3
Incident Controller	3-4
Emergency Management Team (EMT)	3-4
Incident Management System (IMS)	3-5
Co-ordination Role of the Victoria Police	3-5
Emergency Operations Centres	3-8
Emergency Response Co-ordination Centres	3-8
State Emergency Response Co-ordination Centre (SERCC)	3-9
Emergency Service Liaison Officer	3-9
Major Emergency Strategy Team	3-9
3.3 Response Preparedness	3-10
3.4 Operational Arrangements	3-10
Warning Arrangements	3-10
Step-up Arrangements	3-10
Information Management	3-12
Post-operational Debriefing	3-12
Media Liaison	3-12
3.5 Evacuation	3-13
Definition	3-13
Legal and Operational Considerations	3-13
Evacuation Process	3-13
3.6 Emergency Area	3-14
Purpose	3-14
Procedure	3-14
Powers 3-14	3-14
Pecuniary Interest	3-14
Offences	3-16
3.7 Police Powers to Detain for Decontamination	3-16
3.8 Termination of Response Activities	3-17
Handover of Facilities and Goods	3-17

3.1 Introduction

Emergency Management Act — Authority

Emergencies of varying magnitude are a common occurrence in Victoria, necessitating deployment of resources to counter the effects of or threat from the emergency. Many emergencies have significant personal, social, economic and environmental consequences for communities and ultimately for the State.

The *Emergency Management Act* 1986 provides a legislative basis for integrated and comprehensive prevention, response and recovery planning, involving preparedness, operational co-ordination and community participation, in relation to all hazards. The Act defines response as the combating of emergencies and the provision of rescue and immediate relief services. (s. 4A)

The State Emergency Response Plan is prepared under s. 10(1) in which it is referred to as DISPLAN. The word 'DISPLAN' was originally the short title for the State Disaster Plan. The 1994 amendments to the *Emergency Management Act* 1986 generally replaced the term disaster' with 'emergency'. Accordingly in this manual the phrase 'emergency response' is used when referring to this emergency response plan as a document, or the emergency response arrangements, or to emergency response co-ordinators.

As Co-ordinator in Chief of Emergency Management under the Act, the Minister for Police and Emergency Services must arrange for the preparation and review of the State Emergency Response Plan. This responsibility is delegated to the Chief Commissioner of Police, who is also the State Co-ordinator of Emergency Response.

Purposes and Scope of the State Emergency Response Plan

The State Emergency Response Plan identifies the organisational arrangements for managing the response to emergencies within, or with the potential to affect, the State of Victoria, and applies to all agencies having roles or responsibilities in response to those emergencies.

Part 7 of this manual describes the response roles and responsibilities of government and non-government agencies and should be read in conjunction with this part.

This plan, together with the State Emergency Recovery Plan (see Part 4), provides the framework within which specific agency or multi-agency response and recovery plans are developed and operate.

Principles of Response Planning and Operational Management

The Victorian Government's approach to the management of any emergency, consistent with the philosophy adopted Australia-wide, is to ensure that those agencies which are trained and equipped to provide a particular emergency response service respond and are co-ordinated in their activities to counter the effects of the emergency and to meet the immediate needs of affected, or potentially affected, people.

The same management arrangements are used whenever more than one agency is involved in the response to an emergency, regardless of the size of the emergency. As the needs caused by an incident escalate, the response expands accordingly, in accordance with the plans of participating agencies, and any other specialist plans which apply to the situation.

Responsibility for response in the first instance rests at the municipal level. If the need for resources to respond to an emergency exceeds those available at the municipal level, support is sought from elsewhere, in the following order:

- Division
- State
- Commonwealth, other States and Territories

Because emergency management arrangements are in effect at all times, formal implementation, or 'activation' is not required. Actions take place in response to the needs of the presenting situation.

When necessary, recovery agencies should be notified by responders as soon as possible, to ensure they are activated.

3.2 Response Management Arrangements

The response management task is to bring together in an integrated organisational network the resources of the many agencies and individuals who can take appropriate and timely action. Response management is based on the three key management tasks of command, control and co-ordination. These roles and responsibilities are defined as follows:

Command

Command involves the direction of members and resources of an agency in the performance of that organisation's role and tasks. Authority to command is established in legislation or by agreement within an agency. Command relates to agencies and operates vertically within an agency.

Control

Control involves the overall direction of response activities in an emergency situation. Authority for control is established in legislation or in an emergency response plan, and carries with it the responsibility for tasking other agencies in accordance with the needs of the situation. Control relates to situations and operates horizontally across agencies.

Co-ordination

Co-ordination involves the bringing together of agencies and elements to ensure effective response to emergencies. It is primarily concerned with the systematic acquisition and application of resources (agencies, personnel and equipment) in accordance with the requirements imposed by emergencies. Co-ordination relates primarily to resources and operates throughout the management of response or recovery activities. The command, control and co-ordination functions are demonstrated in Figure 3.1.

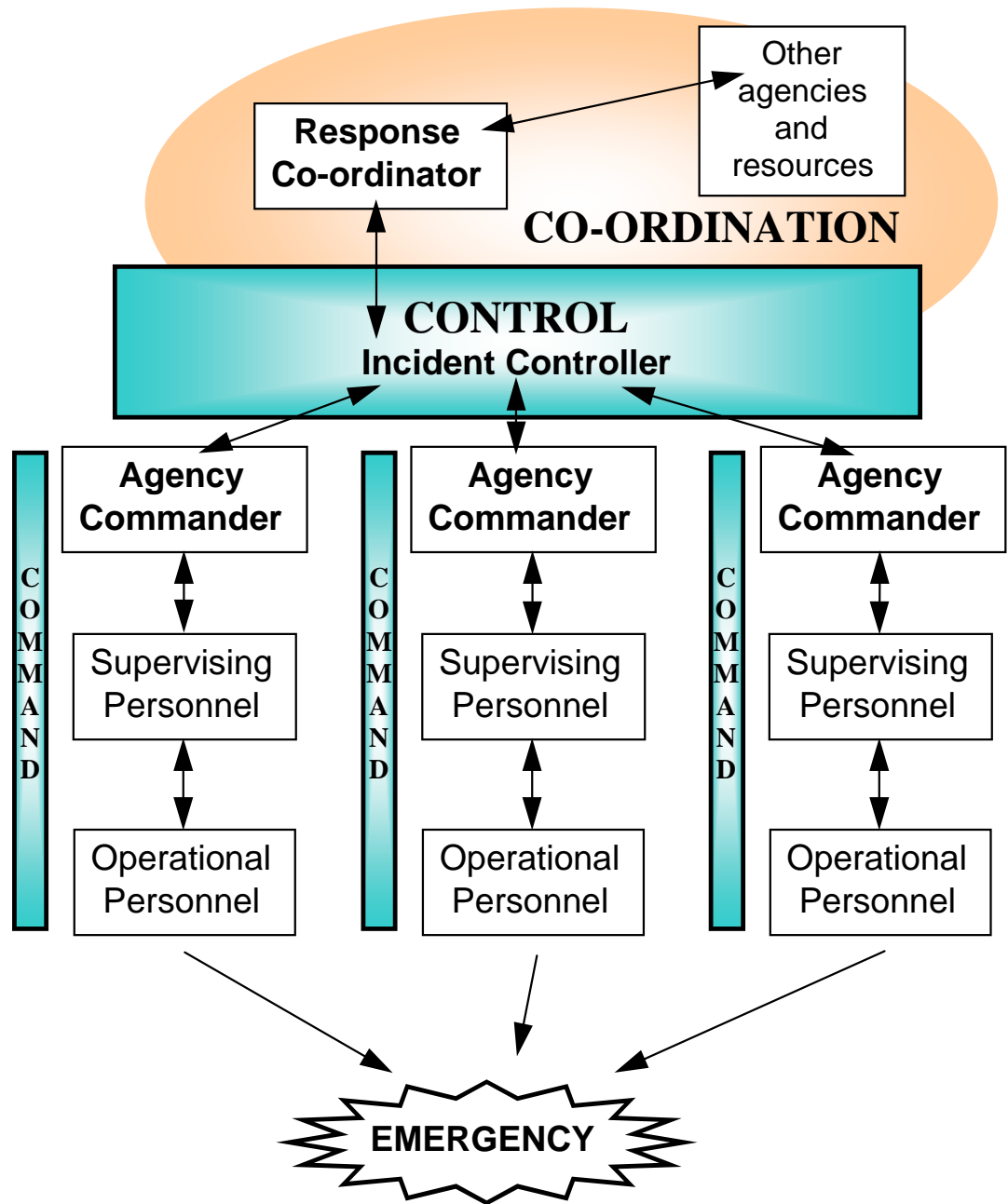


Figure 3.1 Emergency Response Management Arrangements Demonstrating the Tasks of Command, Control and Co-ordination

Control and Support Agencies

Emergency response agencies are designated, in respect of particular types of emergencies, as either control or support agencies. An agency may be either a control agency or a support agency, depending upon the circumstances.

Control Agency

A control agency is defined as the agency nominated to control the response activities for a specified type of emergency. During the course

of response to an emergency the control agency may change according to the needs at the time.

Part 7 of the manual contains a table of control agencies for various types of emergencies. In the event of uncertainty as to which response agency should be the control agency at any particular time or place, the emergency response co-ordinator has the authority to nominate one of the response agencies to assume that responsibility. (ss. 16 and 16A.)

If an essential (or other) service disruptions is not being resolved effectively by support/other agencies under plans and procedures for dealing with such situations, the specified control agency will take ultimate responsibility, within the powers available to it, to resolve the situation.

Support Agency

A support agency is defined as a government or non-government agency which provides essential services, personnel, or material to support or assist a control or another support agency or persons affected by an emergency. Part 7 of the manual contains a table of support agencies for various support services.

For essential (or other) service disruptions, support agencies may effectively deal with the situation without the active involvement of the control agency. For significant/large scale disruptions, notification of and consultation with the control agency should always be undertaken.

Incident Controller

The officer with overall responsibility for emergency response operations. The incident controller is normally appointed by the control agency, but can also be appointed by an emergency response co-ordinator in circumstances where s. 16 or 16A of the Act apply.

Emergency Management Team (EMT)

The emergency management team consists of the incident controller, the support agency commanders (or their representatives) and the emergency response co-ordinator (or representative). The EMT should be formed when two or more agencies combine or work in co-operation to respond to an emergency.

Once the control strategy has been determined by the incident controller (in consultation with support agency commanders), the commanders implement the strategy through their respective command structures. The emergency response co-ordinator's role in the team is to ensure a co-ordinated multi-agency response, and to provide for the systematic acquisition of the required resources.

The importance of an effective emergency management team to the success of an emergency response cannot be overstated.

Each response agency also has its own internal operational management system to assist in carrying out its role. The important aspect is that they all provide an effective interface between co-operating agencies, when necessary.

Incident Management System (IMS)

This is a system used by organisations/agencies in the EMT in fulfilling their roles. An IMS is not a fixed set of rules, but rather a flexible and dynamic methodology which can cater for an escalation or change in the severity of any emergency. The system is established by a response agency and will involve use of personnel for the various functions which may need to be individually managed in dealing with the event, such as operations, planning, logistics (in conjunction with the emergency response co-ordinator), finance and administration.

Co-ordination Role of the Victoria Police

In addition to its role as control or support agency in certain emergencies, the Victoria Police has the responsibility under the *Emergency Management Act 1986* for emergency response co-ordination. Emergency response co-ordinators are responsible for ensuring the co-ordination of the activities of agencies having roles or responsibilities in response to emergencies, with the exception of emergencies involving defence force vessels or aircraft.

Principal Role of Emergency Response Co-ordinators

The principal role of emergency response co-ordinators is to:

- Ensure that the appropriate control and support agencies are in attendance or have been notified and are responding to an emergency;
- Ensure that effective control has been established in responding to an emergency;
- Ensure the effective co-ordination of resources and services having regard to the provisions of s.13(2) of the *Emergency Management Act 1986* (refer also Reserve Powers of Emergency Response Coordinators, page 3-8);
- In the event of uncertainty, determine which agency is to perform its statutory response role within a region or other specified area, where more than one agency is empowered to perform that role;
- Arrange for the provision of resources requested by control and support agencies;
- Review and dispatch situation reports;
- Ensure that consideration has been given to:
 - Alerting the public to existing and potential dangers arising from a serious emergency direct or through the media; and
 - Any need for evacuation.
- Advise recovery agencies of the emergency.
- Consider the additional objectives shown below (on page 3-8).

Field Emergency Response Co-ordinator

The field emergency response co-ordinator is usually the senior member of the Victoria Police at the scene of an emergency. The response roles, responsibilities and duties of the field emergency response co-ordinator are to:

- Ensure that the necessary control and support agencies are in attendance or have been notified of the emergency and are responding.
- Liaise with all agencies at scene.
- Ensure an incident controller has been identified, and liaise directly with that person, in order to be satisfied that the emergency is being responded to efficiently and effectively.
- Arrange for the satisfaction of requests for provision of resources to the control/support agencies by:
 - Ensuring provision of available resources from within the municipal district; or
 - Requesting additional resources through the municipal/Divisional emergency response co-ordinators.
- Provide briefings to municipal/divisional emergency response co-ordinators.
- Ensure that consideration has been given to:
 - Alerting the public to existing and potential dangers arising from a serious emergency;
 - The need for evacuation;
 - Public information; (refer also Media Liaison on page 3-12)
 - Traffic management, including access/egress for emergency response and recovery vehicles.
- Make necessary arrangements at the scene for media in accordance with direction from the incident controller. (refer Media Liaison on page 3-12)
- Advise recovery agencies of the emergency situation.
- Consider the additional objectives shown below (on page 3-8).

Municipal Emergency Response Co-ordinator

The State Emergency Response Co-ordinator appoints, for each municipal district, a member of the Victoria Police as municipal emergency response co-ordinator. They are listed in Appendix 8, Part 8. The response roles, responsibilities and duties of a municipal emergency response co-ordinator (MERC) are to:

- Ensure the municipal emergency resource officer (MERO) is activated to provide access to municipal resources.
- Attend at the municipal emergency co-ordination centre, if activated.
- Obtain and forward regular advice to the Divisional emergency response co-ordinator regarding the potential of an emergency which is not under substantial control by the control agency.
- Advise recovery agencies of the emergency.

Divisional Emergency Response Co-ordinator

The State Emergency Response Co-ordinator appoints, for each emergency response division, a commissioned officer of police as divisional emergency response co-ordinator (listed in Appendix 8, Part

8). The response roles, responsibilities and duties of the divisional emergency response co-ordinator (DERC) are:

- Responsible to the State Emergency Response Co-ordinator for the effective co-ordination of resources or services within the Division, having regard to the provisions of s. 13(2) of the *Emergency Management Act 1986*.
- In the event of uncertainty, determine, after consultation, which agency is to perform its statutory response role within the Division or within a specified area of the Division, where more than one agency is empowered to perform that role (see ss. 16 & 16A).
- Ensure that an effective control structure has been established by the control agency in responding to an emergency.
- Obtain and forward regular advice regarding the potential of an emergency which is not under substantial control by the control agency.
- In an emergency, arrange to provide requested resources to the control/ support agencies from:
 - within the Division; or
 - outside the Division through the State Emergency Response Co-ordinator.
- Monitor the provision of emergency relief and supply.
- Review and dispatch situation reports to the State Emergency Response Co-ordinator.
- Ensure that consideration has been given to:
 - alerting the public to existing and potential dangers arising from a serious emergency;
 - the need for evacuation;
 - other public information. (refer Media Liaison page 3-12)
- Advise recovery agencies of the emergency.
- Consider the additional objectives shown below.

Additional Objectives for Emergency Response Co-ordinators

To ensure that the role of emergency response co-ordinator is effectively performed, the following objectives should also be considered:

- Provision of medical treatment or first aid.
- Notification of hospital(s).
- Registration of persons evacuated or otherwise affected.
- Provision of relief needs of evacuees, control and support agencies where necessary.
- In consultation with the control agency, assess need for declaration of an emergency area.
- Maintenance of order around the emergency site.
- Fact gathering for inquests or judicial inquiries.
- Notification of relevant government and non-government agencies.
- Co-operation with all participating departments/agencies and authorities.
- Maintenance of proper records.
- Bringing relevant matters to the notice of the appropriate agencies for action.

Reserve Powers of Emergency Response Co-ordinators

Section 13(2) of the *Emergency Management Act* 1986 provides for control of all resources during an emergency to be under the direction of the relevant response co-ordinator (municipal, divisional or State) under circumstances in which it becomes necessary. Such circumstances include the failure or incapacity of the nominated control agency to properly manage the emergency response (see also ss. 16 & 16A).

Emergency Operations Centres

An emergency operations centre (EOC) is established:

- by a response agency to conduct the command function within that agency; or
- by the control agency to conduct the control function for the emergency, e.g. the police operations centre (POC), or a fire control centre (FCC).

Emergency Response Co-ordination Centres

State and divisional emergency response co-ordination centres (SERCC and DERCC) and municipal emergency co-ordination centres (MECC) are the locations where emergency response co-ordinators and liaison officers of control and support agencies receive, collate and disseminate intelligence, and co-ordinate the provision of resources. An ERCC/ECC is established to co-ordinate the provision of resources and conduct operations ancillary to an emergency operations centre. The ERCC/ECC has no command nor control functions.

State Emergency Response Co-ordination Centre (SERCC)

Location

The SERCC, located at the Victoria Police Centre, has the necessary staff and communication facilities to co-ordinate State resources, seek Commonwealth support, and provide media reports. Liaison officers from the control and support agencies attend the SERCC as required.

Functions

When activated, the SERCC is responsible for:

- Information collection, analysis of, and dissemination of intelligence to emergency response agencies;
- Co-ordination of the provision of resources required by Divisional emergency response co-ordinators;
- Allocation of resources on a priority basis;
- Requesting Commonwealth physical resources (see Appendix 4, Part 8);
- Briefing the Co-ordinator in Chief via the State Emergency Response Co-ordinator;
- Dissemination of information to the media and general public.

Emergency Service Liaison Officer

An emergency service liaison officer (ESLO) is an officer appointed by a response agency, who:

- represents his/her agency in another agency's emergency operations centre; or
- in an emergency co-ordination centre, is empowered to commit, or to arrange the commitment, of resources of the agency to the response to an emergency.

Every response agency should maintain preparedness to deploy an ESLO, with a link to the agency's communications system, to any location a co-ordinator or incident controller may request.

An ESLO may be requested from, or be placed in the operations/control centre of a private-sector utility provider, or similar organisation. This would typically occur during a disruption to an essential service.

Major Emergency Strategy Team

In the event of a major emergency, the State Emergency Response Co-ordinator may, of his/her own volition, or at the request of the head of the control agency, require appropriate senior agency representatives to attend at the SERCC to comprise the Major Emergency Strategy Team to assess and advise on the strategic direction, and to oversee the response operations of the emergency or emergencies. This team would be formed should a state of disaster be considered or declared.

3.3 Response Preparedness

Preparedness involves the establishment of structures, the development of systems and the testing and evaluation by organisations of their capacity to perform their allotted roles. Municipal and divisional emergency response plans should be frequently exercised, amended and re-tested to ensure an effective inter-agency response to emergencies.

Each agency involved in a response plan is responsible for ensuring the availability of resources (whether owned or obtained under contractual or other arrangement) and maintenance of systems to discharge its role.

3.4 Operational Arrangements

Warning Arrangements

Warnings should be used under specific circumstances where community action is necessary to protect lives, property or the environment. Upon the request of a control agency to issue a warning, it is the responsibility of the emergency response co-ordinator to ensure that it is issued both to agencies and the potentially affected community. The content and format of the warning must be simple, arresting, brief, suited to the needs of the affected community and be worded in accordance with advice from the control agency (refer Media Liaison page 3-12).

Warning methods could include loud hailers, telephones, door knocks, radio or television announcements, or local community networks.

For emergencies of major community significance, the warning should be authorised by an emergency response co-ordinator in consultation with the control agency.

Step-up Arrangements

Resourcing

A three-tiered framework (municipal, divisional and State) exists for implementing response to emergencies. Response arrangements are designed to assess an emergency, and to provide for the graduated marshalling and utilisation of the resources required to deal with it in accordance with the emergency response plan and the plans of participating agencies. At the municipal level, resources owned or under the control of the municipal council are used to supplement those of the control and support agencies. As the needs and effects of the emergency escalate, or the resource requirements outstrip what is available locally, divisional, State and Commonwealth resources may be requested.

Co-ordination

At divisional level, the inter-agency response management structure involves the co-ordination of resources to support operations which cannot be resourced locally, or which extend over more than one municipal district. The highest level of operational co-ordination and support takes place at State level. It is at this level that resource support from other States and/or the Commonwealth is assessed and requested (as per Appendix 4 in Part 8).

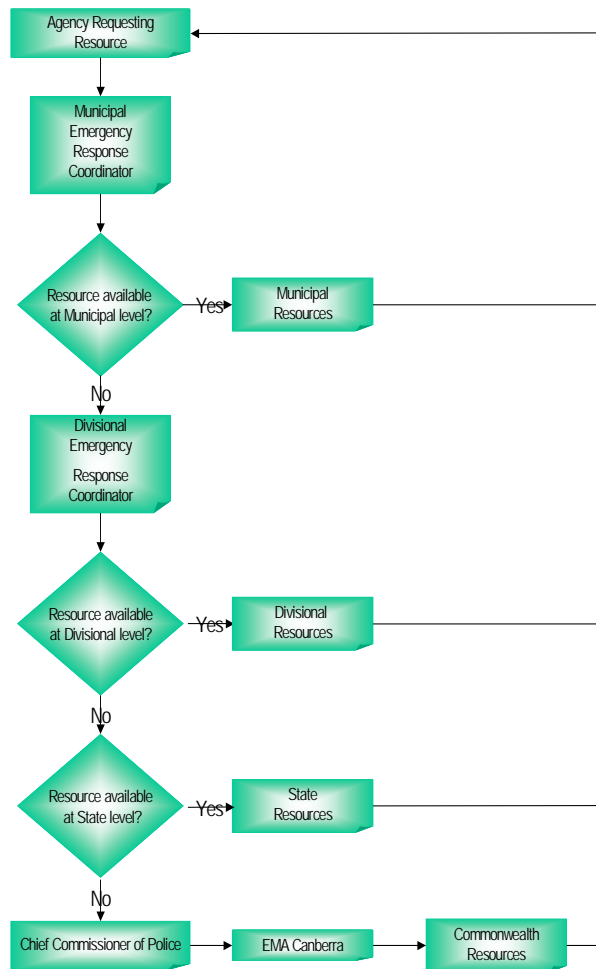


Figure 3.2 Flow Chart for Resource Supplementation

Procedures

Where an agency requires resources beyond its own capacity to satisfactorily complete a task, it should request assistance as appropriate:

- If at local level, from the Municipal Emergency Response Coordinator (MERC).
- If the request cannot be satisfied at the local level, then via the MERC to the Divisional Emergency Response Coordinator (DERC).
- If the request cannot be satisfied at Divisional level, then to the State Emergency Response Coordination Centre who will advise the requesting agency of possible suppliers.
- If a request cannot be satisfied from resources within Victoria it will be referred to the Chief Commissioner of Police as the State Emergency Response Coordinator to seek Commonwealth Assistance through Emergency Management Australia or assistance from other States. (See also Appendix 4, Part 8)

In all instances, the requesting agency should make appropriate arrangements for delivery of supplementary resources. Requests for

resources should be provided in hard copy and include the name and position of the person requesting the resources and comprehensive details of the task to be undertaken. (See Appendix 1, Part 8 for details about the responsibility for costs).

Information Management

During emergency response activities information is needed by all participating agencies, persons affected and the wider community. The following list summarises the principles which should be kept in mind by those responsible for managing the flow of information.

- get information to the people who need it
- get the right information to the right people
- make sure it is timely, user-friendly, accurate, compatible and useful

Post-operational Debriefing

The municipal or divisional emergency response co-ordinator is responsible for convening a debriefing conference as soon as practicable after cessation of response activities. All agencies who participated in those activities should be represented with a view to assessing the adequacy of the response and to recommend any changes to the relevant plan(s).

Media Liaison

Media management at any incident, including access and safety for media representatives, is the responsibility of the control agency. The incident controller should ensure that current and accurate information is available.

A clearly defined area, as close as practicable to the incident, should be established as a media area. Media representatives should be directed to this area. Some agencies may undertake to escort media representatives to suitable vantage points in near proximity to the incident site. Incident controllers should liaise with the police commander to arrange access through traffic and crowd-control points.

If the control agency is not equipped, or is otherwise unable to deal directly with the media, the assistance of the Victoria Police Media Liaison Unit may be requested.

Warnings, or release of other public information which the response co-ordinator deems necessary, must be cleared by the incident controller prior to dissemination (refer Warning Arrangements page 3-10).

3.5 Evacuation

Definition

Evacuation is the planned relocation of persons from dangerous or potentially dangerous areas to safer areas and eventual return. It is a safety strategy which uses distance to separate the people from the danger created by the emergency.

Legal and Operational Considerations

Except in specific circumstances described below, the decision to evacuate is made by the person who leaves the dangerous area. The role of the response agencies is to recommend evacuation and to assist affected people through a safe and efficient evacuation process.

The decision to recommend that people evacuate rests with the control agency, in conjunction with police and other expert advice, unless time constraints prevent this consultation. Once the decision is made, police are responsible for carrying out the evacuation process.

Both the *Metropolitan Fire Brigades Act 1958* and the *Country Fire Authority Act 1958* contain provisions which empower firefighters and police to remove persons from buildings on fire or threatened by fire. However, a person with a pecuniary interest in the land, buildings or goods or valuables therein cannot legally be removed. The state of disaster provisions of the *Emergency Management Act 1986* also contain a power to require evacuation from the disaster area. Again, this power may not be exercised where there is a pecuniary interest.

Refer to page 3-14 for a discussion of evacuation powers in the context of a declared emergency area.

There are instances when evacuation may not be the best strategy to adopt. For advice on evacuation in wildfire emergencies see Appendix 5 in Part 8.

Evacuation Process

Evacuated people are taken or directed to a place of relative safety, usually an emergency relief centre identified in the relevant municipal emergency management plan, such as a hall or similar community facility. The municipal council, assisted by other organisations, is responsible for managing emergency relief centres.

While police are responsible to ensure the registration of evacuated people, this role may be assumed by Red Cross personnel. Emergency relief is provided to evacuees as needed. They remain at the centre or in other emergency shelter until the danger is over and it is safe for them to return home. The evacuation process includes the returning of evacuees to their homes. In situations when evacuated persons must remain away from home for an extended period, temporary accommodation may be necessary. This, and other aspects of support for affected people, is managed under the recovery arrangements.

3.6 Emergency Area

Purpose

The *Emergency Management Act 1986* makes provision for the declaration by police of an emergency area if normal community activities and freedom of movement must be restricted because of the size, nature or location of an emergency, and when the extreme powers available under a declared state of disaster are not needed or would take too long to implement.

The provisions give police the ability to restrain people from participating in their normal activities in some emergency situations where the proximity of the public is not desirable and may be dangerous, in particular where the hazard, such as a chemical spill or a gas leak, may not be evident to the untrained person.

Procedure

The Act authorises a commissioned Officer of the police force, after consultation with the control agency, to declare an area to be an emergency area. The Officer must consider the size, nature and location of the emergency and believe it necessary to exclude persons to ensure the safety of the public, protection of evacuated premises, safety of the emergency workers or to prevent obstruction, hindrance or interference to emergency workers. (See also final paragraph of Appendix 5, Part 8.)

Any declaration, variation or revocation must be in writing and a copy of the declaration or a prescribed sign is to be posted at points of access to the emergency area during the period of the declaration. The declaration must be revoked immediately the reasons for its enactment cease and will automatically cease at the expiration of 24 hours. The State Co-ordinator may extend the declaration for a further 24 hours.

Powers

The declaration authorises police to close roads, footpaths or open spaces which provide access to the declared area. People and vehicles may be prevented from entering into or passing through the area. People who are already on a road, footpath or open space within the area can be ordered to leave immediately by the safest and shortest route. Police also have power to impose conditions on people entering or remaining in the declared area. The conditions may require a person to undertake or refrain from certain acts. For example the person may be authorised to enter to remove personal property or to enter provided they remain in a specified location and do not interfere with the response to the emergency.

Prohibitions or directions can be communicated in person, or via radio, television or other means.

Pecuniary Interest

A person who claims a pecuniary interest in property, or goods or valuables within that property within the emergency area but is not in that property can be directed to leave the emergency area, prevented from entering it, or be permitted to enter subject to conditions imposed

by police. A person claiming pecuniary interest in property or goods or valuables on property within the emergency area and who is on that property cannot be required to leave. However, conditions can be placed on that person's behaviour (see s. 36B of the Act).

Offences

There are two offences in relation to emergency areas. The first is that of disobeying a direction, prohibition or authorisation. Police have power to remove a person from the emergency area if they suspect that an offence against the Act is being or is about to be committed. The second offence is that of entering or attempting to enter the emergency area after having previously been removed or specifically prevented from entering.

3.7 Police Powers to Detain for Decontamination

The *Terrorism (Community Protection) Act 2003* provides specific powers to police for the purpose of protecting people from chemical, biological or radiological contamination. Part 3 of the Act provides that a senior officer of police, if suspecting that an area has, or people in that area may have, been exposed to such contamination by a terrorist act, may authorise a member of the force to:

- direct a person or group of people to enter, not to enter or to leave any particular premises or area; and
- detain a person whether alone or with others; and
- direct a person to submit to decontamination procedures by either the CFA, MFB, equivalent Commonwealth or interstate agency, or other prescribed agency.

These powers may be exercised for the purpose of preventing or limiting the spread of contamination caused by the terrorist act or suspected terrorist act, and authorised police may give any direction necessary in connection with the exercise of any such power. The police may use reasonable and necessary force to ensure compliance with any authorised direction.

The authorisation lapses:

- when the senior officer of police who made the initial authorisation notifies the Chief Commissioner that it is no longer believed to be needed;
- when the control agency for the suspected contamination notifies the Chief Commissioner that it should lapse;
- after the expiry of 8 hours, or up to 16 hours total duration if extended by a Commissioner of Police, with the agreement of the control agency, to protect public health.

The Act also states that it is the intention of Parliament that no unnecessary restrictions on personal liberty or privacy should be imposed in giving authorisations or exercise of powers under this Part.

3.8 Termination of Response Activities

Recovery activities (if required) begin as soon as possible after impact and are co-ordinated according to the regional recovery plan. In large or prolonged emergencies, it may be necessary to continue providing relief services to individuals and families under recovery management arrangements after other response activities have finished. This transition should be seamless, as the municipal council will continue to assume the responsibility for the management of emergency relief centres.

When it appears to the emergency response coordinator, after consultation with the relevant agencies, that response activities are nearing completion, he/she should convene a meeting of relevant response and recovery agencies, including VICSES, DHS and municipal council(s) to establish whether:

- the emergency response has, or will soon be, concluded;
- the immediate needs of the affected persons are being managed;
- the relevant agencies are ready to start, or continue, providing and/or managing recovery services.

The Emergency Response Coordinator is responsible for advising all agencies involved in the emergency of the time at which response terminates. Following the conclusion of response activities, the effects of the emergency may continue, and recovery activities will often go on for some time.

Co-ordination responsibility is passed to the Department of Human Services as the recovery co-ordination agency. While termination of response implies the cessation of the responsibilities of Victoria Police as response co-ordinators they, and other response agencies, may have a previously agreed role to play in recovery activities.

Handover of Facilities and Goods

In some situations, there may be an actual handover to the recovery coordinator or agency of response facilities and/or goods to be utilised in recovery activities. This handover will occur only after agreement has been reached, and after any necessary documentation has been completed to the mutual satisfaction of the response and recovery coordinators.

Resources acquired for the response, which are not required for recovery, remain under the control of the requesting response agency. That agency is responsible for their return or disposal.