

Glossary

STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

A Strategic Framework for Emergency
Management in Western Australia.

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

State Emergency Management
Committee Business Unit

APPROVED BY

State Emergency
Management Committee

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Amendment Table

Date	Details	Amended by
May 2016	Initial release of amalgamated EM polices with statement of fact amendments.	SEMC Secretariat
December 2016	Amendments approved by SEMC (Resolution Number 60/2016) as per amendments table v1.1 .	Office of Emergency Management
August 2017	Amendments approved by SEMC (Resolution Number 29/2017) as per amendments table v1.2 .	Office of Emergency Management
December 2017	Amendments approved by SEMC (Resolution Number 58/2017) as per amendments table v01.03 .	Office of Emergency Management
May 2018	Amendments approved by SEMC (Resolution Number 22/2018) as per amendments table v01.04 .	Office of Emergency Management
December 2018	Amendments approved by SEMC (Resolution Number 90/2018) as per amendments table v02.00 .	SEMC Business Unit
December 2020	Amendments approved by SEMC (Resolution Number 84/2020) as per amendments table v02.06 .	SEMC Business Unit
June 2021	Version 3.00 - Amendments approved by SEMC (Resolution Number 32/2021) as per amendments table May 2021 .	SEMC Business Unit
December 2022	Version 3.01 - Amendments approved by SEMC Executive Officer (Resolution Number 17/2021). Statement of fact changes and updated hyperlinks to new SEMC website as per amendments table December 2022 .	SEMC Business Unit

Date	Details	Amended by
October 2023	Version 3.02 – Consequential amendments approved by SEMC to reflect the change in terminology from ‘welfare’ to ‘emergency relief and support’ (resolution number 77/2023) and to reflect the change to SEMC Emergency Management Capability Framework terminology (resolution number 83/2023). SEMC Executive Officer approved (resolution number 17/2021) statement of fact and accessibility amendments. All amendments are as outlined in State EM documents amendments table October 2023 .	SEMC Business Unit
December 2023	Version 3.03 - Consequential amendments to reflect the Emergency Risk Management Guideline (resolution number 101/2023) approved by the SEMC Executive Officer (resolution number 17/2021). All amendments are as outlined in State EM documents amendments table December 2023	SEMC Business Unit
December 2025	Version 3.04 - Amendments approved by SEMC to reflect the comprehensive review of the State Recovery arrangements (resolution number 81/2025). Amendments are outlines in State EM documents amendments list - Recovery arrangements .	SEMC Business Unit

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The SEMC acknowledges the Aboriginal peoples throughout the state of Western Australia as the Traditional Custodians of the lands where we live, work and volunteer. We recognise Aboriginal peoples’ continued connection to land, waters and community, and pay our respects to Elders both past and present.

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All of the State emergency management legislation and documents can be accessed via the [State Emergency Management Framework page](#) of the State Emergency Management Committee website.

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Foreword

Western Australia's emergency management framework encompasses multiple agencies, organisations and people; many with their own, unique operational jargon.

Additionally, the emergency management field is ever-evolving; aligning processes to current best practice and adapting to a changing environment.

As such, confusion can arise, within the emergency management community, where a specific term has different meanings, or connotations, to different people.

This glossary aims to provide agreed definitions, drawn from multiple sources, for emergency management terms likely to be encountered by personnel operating within the emergency management sector.

Background

This State Emergency Management (EM) Glossary has been produced by compiling the contents of a range of documents from the emergency management sector across Australia.

Where terminology differs between definitions contained within the *Emergency Management Act 2005* and other documents, the definition contained in the *Emergency Management Act 2005* takes precedence and is contained in this document.

It is recognised that other definitions will exist for some terms shown in this glossary; however, agencies are encouraged to use this document in the first instance to ensure consistency of terminology across agencies within Western Australia.

Principles for Developing this Glossary

The following principles were used in developing this Glossary.

- Prescriptive versus descriptive – some dictionaries are 'prescriptive', in that they only include the so-called 'correct' terms and definitions and exclude others. Other dictionaries, such as the Oxford English Dictionary and Macquarie Dictionary, are 'descriptive' in that they attempt to list and define most terms in common usage. This glossary combines both approaches; it is descriptive in that it includes the most common terms but it is prescriptive in that it suggests preferred terms and definitions, i.e. the first definition is usually the preferred definition.
- Selection of definitions – definitions were selected using the following documents:
 - the *Emergency Management Act 2005*;
 - Australian Emergency Management Glossary;
 - Australasian Fire Authorities Council Glossary of Rural Fire Terminology; and the
 - Western Australia Emergency Risk Management Guide.



Alphabetical List of Terms and Definitions

A

Term	Definition
accident	a sudden event in which harm is caused to people, property or the built or natural environment <i>see also</i> incident and emergency
agency operations centre	a facility from which a particular agency's resources are commanded, controlled, coordinated and assigned to an incident. <i>see also</i> emergency operations centre
agency representative	an individual allocated to an incident from an assisting agency who has been delegated full authority to make decisions on all matters affecting that agency's participation at the incident <i>synonym:</i> liaison officer
aid	free material or financial assistance or other support given to an organisation, community or country
AIIMS	<i>see</i> Australasian Interservice Incident Management System
AIIMS structure	the combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures and communications operating within a common organizational structure with responsibility for the management of allocated resources to effectively accomplish stated objectives relating to an incident (AIIMS)
alert	that period when it is believed that resources may be required which enables an increased level of preparedness <i>see also</i> warning
alert phase	a situation wherein apprehension exists as to the safety of a vessel or aircraft and of the persons on board
all agencies coordinated and integrated approach	the 'all agencies coordinated and integrated' approach recognises that no one agency can address all of the impacts of a particular hazard. It is necessary for a lead agency to coordinate the activities of the large number of organisations and agencies that are involved. These can be drawn from across all levels of government, non-government, volunteer organisations and the private sector

Term	Definition
all hazards approach	the 'all hazards' approach assumes the functions and activities applicable to one hazard are often applicable to a range of hazards. The all hazards approach increases efficiency by recognising and integrating common emergency management elements across all hazard types. It does not, however, prevent the development of specific plans and arrangements for hazards that require a specialised approach
assembly area	a designated location used for the assembly of emergency-affected persons. The area may also incorporate an emergency relief centre. A prearranged, strategically placed area, where support response personnel, vehicles and other equipment can be held in readiness for use during an emergency
assessment	survey of a real or potential disaster to estimate the actual or expected damages and to make recommendations of prevention, preparedness, and response <i>see also</i> damage classification
assets	anything valued by people which includes houses, crops, forests and in many cases the environment
at risk persons	anyone who may have difficulty either receiving or responding to emergency public information, e.g. may include people with access or information needs, people with disabilities (intellectual, cognitive, with decision making impairments) or other health related issues, children, the aged, tourists/travellers, those who are homeless, those who are socially isolated and those from remote or culturally and linguistically diverse communities
Australasian Fire Authorities Council (AFAC)	the body representing urban and rural fire services and land management agencies in Australia and New Zealand with responsibility for the protection of life and property from fire and other emergencies
Australasian Interservice Incident Management System (AIIMS)	a nationally adopted structure to formalise a coordinated approach to emergency incident management

Term	Definition
Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA)	a Commonwealth regulatory safety agency having as its charter the efficient delivery of safety and other services to the Australian maritime industry and provision of search and rescue services to the aviation and maritime sectors
Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO)	the Commonwealth agency responsible for advising the Australian Government on risks to Australia's security
Authorised Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• the State Emergency Coordinator and• a person authorised under section 61 of the <i>Emergency Management Act 2005</i>
authorised person	a person authorised by legislation to utilise a range of powers conferred by that legislation
available resources	resources at an incident and available for allocation at short notice <i>see also</i> resources

B

Term	Definition
biological disaster	disaster caused by the exposure of living organisms to germs and toxic substances.
briefing	the process of advising personnel of the details of the incident or event with which they will deal <i>see also</i> debriefing
Bureau of Meteorology (BOM)	the overall mission of the Bureau is to observe and understand Australian weather and climate and provide meteorological, hydrological and oceanographic services in support of Australia's national needs and international obligations. This overall mission involves four separate basic missions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • monitoring – observation and data collection to meet the needs of future generations for reliable homogeneous national climatological data; • research – research directed to the advancement of meteorological science and the development of a comprehensive description and scientific understanding of Australia's weather and climate; • services – provision of meteorological and related data, information, forecast, warning, investigation and advisory services on a national basis; and • international – coordination of Australia's involvement in international meteorology.
bushfire	a fire involving grass, scrub or forest <i>synonym:</i> wildfire
bushfire danger period	a period of the year, either established by legislation or declared by the relevant agency, when restrictions are placed on the used of fire due to dry vegetation and the existence of conditions conducive to the spread of fire
bushfire management	all those activities directed to prevention, detection, damage mitigation and suppression of bushfires. Includes bushfire legislation, policy, administration, law enforcement, community education, training of fire fighters, planning, communications systems, equipment research and the multitude of field operations undertaken by land managers and emergency services personnel relating to bushfire control

C

Term	Definition
call out	the executive command to deploy resources
capability	collective ability to undertake prevention, preparedness, response and recovery activities to reduce the impact of emergencies and to create a better prepared, more resilient and safer state
Civil Aviation Safety Authority	an independent statutory authority responsible for conducting the safety regulation of civil air operations in Australia and the operation of Australian registered aircraft overseas
civil disorder	a riot, violent protest, demonstration, or illegal assembly, that may affect public safety
combat	to take steps to eliminate or reduce the effects of an incident upon the community
Combat Agency	a Combat Agency prescribed under section 6(1) of the <i>Emergency Management Act 2005</i> is to be a public authority or other person who or which, because of the agency's functions under any written law or specialised knowledge, expertise and resources, is responsible for performing an emergency management activity prescribed by the regulations in relation to that agency
combat zone	<i>see also</i> hot zone
command	the direction of members and resources of an organisation in the performance of the organisation's roles and tasks. Authority to command is established in legislation or by agreement with an organisation. Command relates to organisations and operates vertically within an organisation <i>see also</i> control and coordinate
commander	a single-agency term. A commander has authority only within that agency. Responsibilities include the direction and coordination of the activities of that agency. A commander operates vertically within that agency and cannot command members of another agency
command post	<i>see</i> forward control centre

Term	Definition
command post exercise	<p>an indoor (within a headquarters, emergency operations centre, or emergency coordination centre) exercise to test and practice various aspects of a plan and the emergency management system. It may include actual tests of critical processes in the emergency management system such as emergency operations centre procedures, communications arrangements and coordination/liaison methods. Its aim is to realistically simulate an operational situation, using prepared messages and operational reports, without the requirement of using actual resources (people, vehicles, etc.) in the field</p> <p><i>see also</i> exercise</p>
communicable disease	<p>a disease caused by germs such as bacteria and viruses that can be spread from one person to another</p> <p><i>synonym:</i> infectious disease</p>
communications plan	<p>details the methods and systems for people to communicate with each other, the incident management structure, including the actual radio channels/mobile phone numbers (AIIMS)</p>
community	<p>a group with a commonality of association and generally defined by location, shared experience, or function. A social group which has a number of things in common, such as shared experience, locality, culture, heritage, language, ethnicity, pastimes, occupation, workplace etc</p>
community alert	<p>a community alert is issued to warn the community of a period of danger and provide safety advice on what to do relative to the risks</p>
community function	<p>refers to the essential systems, services, and activities that support the wellbeing, safety, and livelihoods of individuals and groups within a community. This includes infrastructure, health and education services, governance, economic activity, social networks, and cultural practices that contribute to the community's ability to operate effectively and cohesively.</p>
community warning	<p>a community warning provides information to the public so people can take appropriate action to reduce losses during an actual or developing emergency situation</p>

Term	Definition
consequence	the outcome of an event or situation expressed qualitatively or quantitatively, being a loss, injury, disadvantage or gain. In the emergency risk management context, consequences are generally described as the effects on people, social setting, public administration, and the environment and the economy
consequence analysis	the estimation of the effect of potential hazardous events
contamination	invasion of a person or animal by pathogenic germs (contaminants). Presence of an infectious agent or inanimate articles such as clothes, surgical instruments, dressings, water, milk or food. Transfer and propagation of a contaminant
contingency plan	see emergency plan
continuity of government	the continuation of essential functions of government
contributions in kind	non-cash assistance in materials or services offered or provided in case of disaster
control	the overall direction of emergency management activities in an emergency situation. Authority for control is established in legislation or in an emergency plan, and carries with it the responsibility for tasking and coordinating other organisations in accordance with the needs of the situation. Control relates to situations and operates horizontally across organisations see also command and coordination
Controlling Agency	an agency nominated to control the response activities to a specified type of emergency. The responsibility for being a Controlling Agency stems from either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • legislation other than the <i>Emergency Management Act 2005</i>; or • by agreement between the relevant Hazard Management Agency and one or more agencies
control centre	see emergency operations centre

Term	Definition
coordination	<p>the bringing together of organisations and elements to ensure an effective response, primarily concerned with the systematic acquisition and application of resources (organisation, manpower and equipment) in accordance with the requirements imposed by the threat or impact of an emergency. Coordination relates primarily to resources, and operates, vertically, within an organisation, as a function of the authority to command, and horizontally, across organisations, as a function of the authority to control</p> <p><i>see also</i> control and command</p>
counter disaster	a term based on the letters 'CD', for civil defence, invented in Australia to describe the area now known as emergency management
cyclone	a large-scale, closed circulation system in the atmosphere with low barometric pressure and strong winds that rotate counterclockwise in the northern hemisphere and clockwise in the southern hemisphere. The system is referred to as a 'cyclone' in the Indian Ocean and South Pacific, 'hurricane' in the western Atlantic and eastern Pacific and 'typhoon' in the western Pacific
cyclone severity categories	a series of categories with descriptions that provide information concerning effects due to winds typical of cyclones
cyclone warning	a message released by a tropical cyclone warning centre (TCWC) when the existence of a cyclone or a developing disturbance with potential to develop into a cyclone exists and is expected to cause at least gale force winds in coastal areas within 24 hours
cyclone watch	<p>a message released by a tropical cyclone warning centre (TCWC) when a cyclone or a disturbance with potential to develop into a cyclone exists and is likely to cause coastal gales within 48 hours but not within 24 hours</p> <p><i>see also</i> cyclone warning</p>

D

Term	Definition
dam	an artificial barrier, together with appurtenant works, constructed for storage, control or diversion of water, other liquids, silt, debris or other liquid-borne material
damage assessment	a report on the extend of damage caused by an event
damage classification	evaluation and recording of damage to structures, facilities, or objects according to three (or more) categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'severe damage' which precludes further use of the structure, facility, or object for its intended purposes; • 'moderate damage' or the degree of damage of principal members, which precludes effective use of the structure, facility, or object for its intended purposes, unless major repairs are made short of complete reconstruction; and • 'light damage' such as broken windows, slight damage to roofing and siding, interior partitions blown down, and cracked walls; the damage is not sever enough to preclude use of the installation of the purpose for which was intended
dam failure	the uncontrolled release of the contents of a dam through collapse of the dam or some part of it, or the inability of a dam to perform functions such as water supply, prevention of excessive seepage or containment of hazardous substances
debrief (operational debrief)	a meeting at the end of an operation with the purpose of assessing the conduct or results of an operation
debriefing	the process of sharing the good and bad points of the response to an incident as a means to improving any future planning and responses
Defence Assistance to the Civil Community (DACC)	assistance to the community provided by the Department of Defence personnel in the event of natural disaster or civil emergency
demobilisation	the orderly release of resources no longer required at an incident

Term	Definition
desk top exercise	an umbrella term for some types of indoor discussion exercise. They may feature a model of the area on which a prepared scenario is played out, or simply using a projected map, not in real time. The model or map is used to illustrate the deployment of resources, but no resources are actually deployed. Additionally, responses may be prepared in syndicate, in plenary, or under the guidance of a facilitator who maintains the pace and asks questions. A cost-effective and highly-efficient exercise method that should be conducted as a prelude to a field exercise as part of a graduated series <i>see also</i> exercise
directing staff	personnel appointed to assist the exercise director in the control and coordination of an exercise. They are usually allocated specific functions to oversight, and may include such appointments as umpires, function coordinators, observers, damage control, safety officers, etc
disaster	<i>see</i> emergency
disaster area	a geographical part of the State or Territory in which a state of emergency or disaster exists
disaster management	the body of policy and administrative decisions and operational activities which pertain to the various stages of a disaster at all levels <i>see also</i> emergency management
Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)	is a joint Australian Government-State cost sharing arrangement to alleviate the financial burden on the states and to facilitate the early provision of assistance to disaster affected communities
Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Western Australia (DRFAWA)	is based on the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements and includes additional support measures the State government deems necessary to best support communities and business within Western Australia. However, Western Australia does not offer some measures available under Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements offered by other states.
disaster victim identification (DVI)	procedures used to positively identify deceased victims of multiple casualty event
disaster victim identification (DVI) team	a police team responsible for identification of deceased disaster victims

Term	Definition
discussion exercise	<p>a discussion exercise is an indoor exercise employing a carefully prepared scenario to test and practice various aspects of emergency management planning, procedures or training</p> <p><i>synonym:</i> tabletop exercise, model exercise or syndicate exercise</p> <p><i>see also</i> exercise</p>
disease control	all policies, precautions and measures taken to prevent the outbreak or spread of communicable diseases
disease surveillance	health system used to monitor, observe and evaluate on a continuing basis the progress of disease with the view of preventing or curing it
distress signal	a pyrotechnic device intended for signalling, warning, or rescue
District Emergency Coordinator (DEC)	the person appointed by the State Emergency Coordinator to provide advice and support to their District Emergency Management Committee in the development and maintenance of emergency management arrangements and carry out other emergency management functions under the direction of the State Emergency Coordinator
District Emergency Management Committee	a District Emergency Management Committee established under section 31(1) of the <i>Emergency Management Act 2005</i>
DVI	<i>see</i> disaster victim identification
DVR disaster victim registration	<i>see</i> registration and disaster victim identification

E

Term	Definition
emergency	the occurrence or imminent occurrence of a hazard which is of such a nature or magnitude that it requires a significant and coordinated response
emergency accommodation	the provision of temporary shelter for persons requiring shelter during an emergency, or due to evacuation from an emergency, ranging from short to medium term accommodation, coordinated by the Department of Communities
emergency area	the area to which an emergency situation declaration or a state of emergency declaration applies
emergency coordination centre (ECC)	a facility established to coordinate and organise emergency provision of services <i>see also</i> emergency operations centre
emergency management	the management of the adverse effects of an emergency including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prevention - the mitigation or preventing of the probability of the occurrence of, and the potential adverse effects of, an emergency; • preparedness - preparation for response to an emergency; • response - the combating of the effects of an emergency, provision of emergency assistance for casualties, reduction of further damage, and help to speed recovery; and • recovery - the support of emergency affected communities in the reconstruction and restoration of physical infrastructure, the environment and community, psychosocial and economic wellbeing (as defined in section 3 of the EM Act).
emergency management agency	a Hazard Management Agency, a Combat Agency or a Support Organisation
emergency management district	an emergency management district established under section 28 <i>Emergency Management Act 2005</i>
emergency management liaison officer	<i>see</i> liaison officer

Term	Definition
emergency operations centre	<p>a facility, either static or mobile, from which the total operation or aspect of the operation are managed. A facility established to control and coordinate the response and support to an incident or emergency</p> <p><i>synonym:</i> incident control centre</p> <p><i>see also</i> agency operations centre and forward control centre</p>
emergency plan	a documented scheme of assigned responsibilities, actions and procedures, required in the event of an emergency
emergency public information	information provided to the community during emergency situations with instructions on how to get assistance or to protect personal health, safety and property
emergency relief and support	<p>the provision of immediate and ongoing social services to alleviate, as far as practicable, the effects on individuals impacted by an emergency. Communities has the primary responsibility for coordinating the provision of ERS services across six functional domains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • emergency accommodation • emergency food • emergency clothing and personal requisites • personal support services • registration and reunification • financial assistance
emergency relief and support partner agency	an organisation to provide all reasonable emergency relief and support aid and services to people in need due to an emergency disaster. Such measures include coordination, control and provision of services to be instituted before, during and after the impact of an emergency or disaster
emergency response plan	<p>a plan which sets out the roles and responsibilities of agencies in emergency response and the coordination arrangements which are to be utilised</p> <p><i>see also</i> emergency plan</p>
emergency risk management	a systematic process which contributes to the wellbeing of communities and the environment (Australian Disaster Resilience Glossary).

Term	Definition
emergency service	<p>an agency responsible for the protection and preservation of life and property from harm resulting from incidents and emergencies</p> <p><i>synonym:</i> emergency services authority and emergency service organisation</p>
emergency situation	<p>a declaration made under section 50 of the <i>Emergency Management Act 2005</i>, by a Hazard Management Agency or the State Emergency Coordinator, which provides access to additional emergency management powers</p>
essential services network operators	<p>the public facilities and systems that provide basic life support services such as water, energy, sanitation, communications and transportation. Systems or networks that provide services on which the wellbeing of the community depends</p>
evacuation	<p>the planned relocation of persons from dangerous or potentially dangerous areas to safer areas and eventual return</p>
evacuation centre	<p>a centre that provides individuals impacted by an emergency with basic human needs which may include accommodation; food; personal support; clothing and personal requisites; registration and reunification; and financial assistance</p> <p><i>see also</i> assembly area</p>
evacuation point	<p>a predetermined place where patients, visitors and staff are taken or are assembled in the event of an evacuation</p> <p><i>synonym:</i> evacuation assembly area</p>
evacuee	<p>a person who has withdrawn or been removed from a place of danger</p>
evaluation	<p>post-disaster appraisal of all aspects of the disaster and its effects</p> <p><i>see also</i> assessment</p>
event	<p>an incident or situation, which occurs in a particular place during a particular interval of time</p>

Term	Definition
exercise	<p>simulation of emergency management events, through discussion or actual deployment of personnel, in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • train personnel; • review/test the planning process or other procedures; • identify needs and/or weaknesses; • demonstrate capabilities; and • practice people in working together <p><i>see also</i> discussion exercise, field exercise, table top exercise and tactical exercise without troops</p>
exercise control	<p>the group with the responsibility for monitoring the progress of an exercise to ensure objectives are achieved in line with the exercise plan, controlling role players, and all safety measure. In short, exercise control is responsible for the total conduct of the exercise and the staff must be separate from the personnel being exercised</p> <p><i>see also</i> directing staff</p>
exercise director	<p>the exercise director is the person with the overall responsibility to approve, initiate and terminate the exercise. In large scale exercises, they may be supported by a deputy and/or assistant exercise directors</p> <p><i>see also</i> directing staff</p>

F

Term	Definition
field commander (agency specific)	the officer responsible for commanding the activities of an agency in the field
field control centre	<i>see</i> forward control centre
field control point	a selected location at or near a fire which provides coordination, control and communication for the sectors at the fire ground
field exercise	an exercise activity in which emergency management organisations and agencies take action in a simulated situation, with deployment of personnel and other resources to achieve maximum realism. It is conducted actually on the ground, in real time but under controlled conditions, as though it were a real emergency <i>see also</i> exercise
formal debriefing	a clinical process conducted by a critical incident stress debriefing trained professionally qualified mental health practitioner <i>synonym:</i> clinical debriefing <i>see also</i> debriefing
forward control point	an area used as a location for administration and command by operations personnel combating a fire
forward control post	<i>see</i> forward control centre
forward control centre	a facility, where the controller is located, at or near the scene of an emergency to facilitate better control and management of a particular emergency. In emergencies where the impact is widespread there may be the need to locate more than one forward control centre in which case the title of each forward control centre should be preceded by the place name. The forward control centre may be located in an existing building or be a self-contained mobile unit. <i>synonym:</i> field control centre, forward command centre, forward command post, forward control point, and incident control point

Term	Definition
frequency	<p>a measure of likelihood expressed as the number of occurrences of an event in a given time</p> <p><i>see also</i> likelihood and probability</p>
functional area	<p>a category of services involved in preparations for an emergency, including: agriculture and animal services; emergency finance; emergency supply; engineering services; environmental services; health services; media services; emergency relief and support services; and Australian Defence Force</p>
functional plan	<p>a document describing roles and responsibilities and arrangements for the performance of a specific support function</p>

G

Term	Definition
geographic information system (GIS)	a computerised database for the capture, storage, analysis and display of locationally defined information. Commonly, a GIS portrays a portion of the earth's surface in the form of a map on which this information is overlaid
global positioning system (GPS)	a highly accurate navigation system based on a constellation of 24 satellites orbiting the earth at 20,000 kilometres that transmit back to a set of signal

H

Term	Definition
hazard	an event, situation or condition that is capable of causing or resulting in loss of life, prejudice to the safety, or harm to the health of persons or animals; or destruction of, or damage to property or any part of the environment and is defined in the <i>Emergency Management Act 2005</i> or prescribed in the <i>Emergency Management Regulations 2006</i>
hazard identification	the process of recognising that a hazard exists and defining its characteristics
hazard management	see mitigation
Hazard Management Agency (HMA)	a public authority, or other person, prescribed by the <i>Emergency Management Regulations 2006</i> to be a Hazard Management Agency for emergency management, or an aspect of emergency management, of a hazard
Hazard Management Officer (HMO)	a Hazard Management Agency may authorise officers or employees of the Hazard Management Agency, or other persons, to act as Hazard Management Officers during an emergency situation
hazard mapping	the process of establishing geographically where and to what extent particular phenomena are likely to pose a threat to people, property, infrastructure, and economic activities. Hazard mapping represents the result of hazard assessment on a map, showing the frequency/probability of occurrences of various magnitudes or durations
hazardous material	a substance or material which has been determined by appropriate authority to be capable of posing an unreasonable risk to health, safety and property see also hazardous substance
hazardous substance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a chemical, biological or radiological substance; or any other substance that is capable of causing loss of life, injury to a person or damage to the health of a person or to the environment see also hazardous material

Term	Definition
hazardous waste management	a program for controlling the generation, storage, collection, transportation, treatment, use, conversion or disposal of hazardous wastes; includes administrative, financial, legal and planning activities as well as operational aspects of hazardous waste handling, disposal and resource recovery systems
HAZCHEM emergency action code	a code system indicating the initial emergency actions for incidents involving hazardous materials, as specified in the Australian Dangerous Goods Code
HAZMAT	<i>see</i> hazardous material
hot zone	the area immediately surrounding a dangerous good incident which extends far enough to prevent adverse effects from dangerous goods releases to personnel outside the zone <i>synonym:</i> exclusion zone, combat zone or restricted zone

Term	Definition
impact	to have a noticeable or marked effect on
impact area	any area which is likely to bear, is bearing, or has borne the full impact of any disaster and in which major lifesaving operations are necessary
incident	the occurrence or imminent occurrence of a hazard <i>see also</i> accident and emergency
incident action plan	a statement of objectives and strategies to be taken to control or suppress an incident; approved by the Incident Controller. Describes the actions to be taken to control or suppress an incident
incident area	the area defined by the Incident Controller for which they have responsibility for the overall management and control of an incident
incident control	<i>see</i> incident management
incident control centre	the location where the Incident Controller and, where established, members of the incident management team provide overall direction of response activities in an emergency situation <i>synonym:</i> emergency operations centre
incident control system	a command structure to systematically and logically manage suppression of emergency incidents including wildfires, from small, simple incidents to large, difficult or multiple situations. It is designed to develop in a modular fashion from the top (incident controller) downwards. The combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications operating within a common organisational structure with responsibility for the management of allocated resources to effectively accomplish stated objectives relating to an incident <i>see also</i> Australasian Inter-Service Incident Management System
Incident Controller	the person designated person designated by the relevant Controlling Agency, to be responsible for the overall management and control of an incident within an incident area and the tasking of agencies in accordance with the needs of the situation [note: agencies may use different terminology, however, the function remains the same]

Term	Definition
incident management	the process of controlling the incident and coordinating resources
incident management system	a system that allows an Incident Controller and their team to control an incident and coordinate resources that is facilitated by information management and intelligence gathering
incident management team	a group of incident management personnel comprising the Incident Controller, and the personnel they appoints to be responsible for the functions of operations, planning and logistics. The team headed by the Incident Controller which is responsible for the overall control of the incident
incident manager	<i>see</i> Incident Controller
individual risk	the frequency at which an individual may be expected to sustain a given level of harm from the realisation of specified hazards
Incident Support Group (ISG)	a group of agency/organisation liaison officers convened by the Incident Controller to provide agency specific expert advice and support in relation to operational response to the emergency
informal debriefing	<p>a structured meeting of emergency worker, coordinated by a trained 'peer debriefer', conducted in an informal environment, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide an information briefing on the event, including a status report on the condition of victims, etc; • offer support; • provide an opportunity to express feelings and demystify reactions associated with response to the event; and • enable the team leader to monitor the reactions of their teams members; and • enable the opportunity to assess the need for formal debriefing
integrated approach	<i>see</i> all agencies coordinated and integrated approach
involuntary risk	a risk imposed on people by a controlling body without their consent

L

Term	Definition
legislation	a set of rules made by a State, Territory or Federal Government, and includes acts and regulations
level of risk (or risk level)	magnitude of a risk or a combination of risks, expressed in terms of the combination of consequences and their likelihood
liaison officer	a representative of an agency/organisation as part of an incident management/operations area management group. Liaison officers should have the capability to communicate with the agency they represent and the authority to commit their agencies' resources <i>see also</i> agency representative
likelihood	chance of something happening. It is used as a general description of probability and may be expressed qualitatively or quantitatively
Local Emergency Coordinator (LEC)	the person appointed by the State Emergency Coordinator to provide advice and support to their Local Emergency Management Committee in the development and maintenance of emergency management arrangements, assist hazard management agencies in the provision of a coordinated response during an emergency in the district to carry out other emergency management functions under the direction of the State Emergency Coordinator
Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC)	a Local Emergency Management Committee established under section 38 of the <i>Emergency Management Act 2005</i>
logistics	the range of operational activities concerned with supply, handling, transportation, and distribution of materials. Also applicable to the transportation of people

M

Term	Definition
major hazard facilities	the whole area under the control of an operator: upon or within which an activity takes place involving or likely to involve the processing, production, disposal, handling, use or storage, either temporarily or permanently, of a quantity of materials which exceeds the threshold or aggregate quantity, as determined in accordance with Schedule 1 of the National Standard for the Control of Major Hazard Facilities.
major incident	an event which requires response by police, emergency services and the community which may affect a wider area over a longer period of time but is not a declared emergency situation or state of emergency
management by objectives	a process of consultative management where the incident management team determine the desired outcomes of the incident. These outcomes or objectives are then communicated to the commander and crews involved in the operation
marine search and rescue incident	an imminent or actual incident when any of the following conditions exist: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a surface vessel has requested assistance; • a surface vessel has transmitted a distress signal; • it is apparent that a surface vessel is in distress; • a surface vessel is reported to be sinking or to have sunk; • the crew is reported to have abandoned ship or is about to do so; • reports indicate that the operating efficiency of the craft is so impaired that the craft may sink or the crew may be forced to abandon; and • the surface vessel is overdue or unreported.
media liaison officer	a liaison officer delegated the task of dealing with the media
medivac/medevac	medical evacuation
Minister	references to the Minister means the Minister responsible for the <i>Emergency Management Act 2005</i>

Term	Definition
mitigation	measures taken in advance of a disaster aimed at decreasing or eliminating its impact on society and environment <i>see also prevention</i>
Model for Recovery Coordination	sets out the recovery coordination arrangements between local and State governments through a four-tiered framework (R1 to R4), where the State's involvement increases with the complexity of recovery (State EM Policy statement 6.1.3 and Appendix E).
multi-agency response	an incident of high fire incidence over short periods of time in any administrative unit, usually overtaxing the normal initial attack capability of the unit
mutual aid emergency agreements	agreements established with appropriate agencies in the surrounding community, defining initial notification and response assignments

N

Term	Definition
National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)	the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) division of the Department of Home Affairs is responsible for preparing for emergencies and disasters through the development and maintenance of national plans, coordination of Australian Government crisis response and recovery efforts, and coordination of protective security arrangements (physical and personal) for Australian high office holders, visiting foreign dignitaries, at-risk foreign missions in Australia, as well as security arrangements for special events in Australian or overseas
National Situation Room	the operations centre for National Emergency Management Agency headquarters in Canberra. It is the focal point for the coordination of Commonwealth Government assistance during emergencies or disasters. The National Situation Room was previously known as the Australian Government Crisis Coordination Centre.
natural disaster	is one, or a combination of the following rapid onset events: bushfire, earthquake, flood, storm, cyclone, storm surge, landslide, tsunami, meteorite strike, tornado (Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements 2018)
natural hazard	geological, meteorological or biological hazard
negligible risks	risks that are so small that there is no cause for concern about them, and no reason to take action to reduce them
non-government organisations (NGO)	non-profit making organisation operating at the local, national, or international levels. Distinct from a governmental organisation, having no statutory ties with a national government

0

Term	Definition
objective	a goal statement of what is to be achieved
operating procedures	prescribed routine action to be followed by staff during operations
operational area	the area defined by the Operational Area Manager for which they have overall responsibility for the strategic management of an emergency. This area may include one or more incident areas
Operational Area Manager (OAM)	the person designated by the relevant HMA, responsible for the overall management of an operation within a defined operational area and the provision of strategic direction and operational coordination to agencies and Incident Controller(s) in accordance with the needs of the situation
Operational Area Support Group (OASG)	a group of agency/organisation liaison officers convened and Operational Area Manager to provide agency specific expert advice and support in relation to strategic management of the emergency
operations	the direction, supervision and implementation of tactics in accordance with the incident management plan
operations officer	the officer delegated by the Incident Controller for the direction, supervision and implementation of tactics in accordance with the incident action plan
operations point	the location from which the overall field operations are commanded by the operations officer
outer cordon	a physical area surrounding an incident which has been secured by some means to effectively control the entry or exit of persons and equipment from that area. The area boundary is established at a sufficient distance around the outside of the inner cordon to provide a safety zone around the incident site. Entry to the area between the outer cordon and the inner cordon is strictly controlled and the area usually contains combat and support units. The command post should be established in this area
outer perimeter	the area outside of the inner perimeter which is secured for immediate support operational requirements, free from unauthorised or uncontrolled interference

P

Term	Definition
PPRR	an abbreviation for prevention, preparedness, response and recovery <i>see</i> emergency management principles
pandemic	prevalent throughout an entire country, continent, or the whole world, as in a disease
perceived risk	the level of risk that is thought to exist by an individual or group of individuals
personal support service	the process of assisting the diverse, immediate as well as longer-term personal needs of people affected by a disaster. Such needs may encompass provision of information, practical advice on a range of issues and emotional support
plan	a formal record of agreed emergency management roles, responsibilities, strategies, systems, and arrangements <i>see also</i> emergency plan
planning meeting	a meeting to prepare the incident action plan, attended by the incident management team and others and held as required
planning process	the collective and collaborative efforts by which agreements are reached and documented between people and organisations to meet their communities' emergency management needs. It is a sequence of steps which allows emergency management planning to take place
plume	the column of non-combustible products emitted from a fire (smoke). A vapour cloud formation having shape and buoyancy. The airborne radioactive material released from a nuclear power plant and carried by the prevailing winds which may affect radiologically those downwind areas over which it passes
population at risk	a well-defined population whose lives, property, and livelihoods are threatened by given hazards. Used as a denominator. All those persons who would be directly exposed to floods within the dambreak affected zone if they took no action to evacuate

Term	Definition
preliminary flood warning	a warning issued by the Bureau of Meteorology when flood-producing rains are occurring or are expected over particular river catchments. The warning is normally of a general nature and is issued to the public. It includes advice on the current meteorological situation and expected developments, together with an assessment of the class of flooding that can be expected in a particular river basin
prepared community	a community which has developed effective emergency management arrangements at the local level, resulting in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an alert, informed and active community which supports its voluntary organisations; • an active and involved local government; and • agreed and coordinated arrangements for prevention, preparedness, response and recovery
preparedness	preparation for response to an emergency
prescription	a written statement defining the objectives to be attained during prescribed burning. This statement considers the condition of temperature, humidity, wind direction and speed, fuel moisture, and soil moisture under which the fire will be allowed to burn. This is generally described within acceptable ranges of the various indices, and the limit of the geographic area to be covered
prevention	the mitigation or prevention of the probability of the occurrence of, and the potential adverse effects of, an emergency
probability	the likelihood of a specific outcome, measured by the ratio of specific outcomes to the total number of possible outcomes. Probability is expressed as a number between 0 and 1, with 0 indicating an impossible outcome and 1 indicating an outcome is certain
probability analysis	the derivation of both the likelihood of incidents occurring and the likelihood of particular outcomes (or effects) should those events occur
procedures	pre-planned detailed directions for dealing with specific occurrences <i>see also</i> standing operating procedures

Term	Definition
public authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• an agency as defined in the <i>Public Sector Management Act 1994</i>;• a body, corporate or unincorporated that is established or continued for a public purpose by the State, regardless of the way it is established;• a local government or regional local government;• the Police Force of Western Australia;• a member or officer of a body referred to in one of the above; or• a person or body prescribed (or of a class prescribed) by the regulators as a public authority for the purposes of this definition
public awareness	the process of informing the community as to the nature of the hazard and actions needed to save lives and property prior to and in the event of disaster
public health	the discipline in health sciences that, at the level of the community or the public, aims at promoting prevention of disease, sanitary living, laws, practices and healthier environment

Q

Term	Definition
quantified risk assessment	a risk assessment that is based essentially on quantified inputs
quarantine	legal restrictions imposed on a place or tract of land by the serving of a notice and limiting access or egress of specified animals, persons or things

R

Term	Definition
reception centre	the evacuee processing centre set up at or nearby the reception point, providing services such as customs, immigration, health assistance, health screening, consular advice and assistance for approved foreign nations, temporary accommodation and transport as required
reception point	the first point or port within Australia at which evacuees arrive
recommended evacuation	an evacuation whereby a Controlling Agency provides advice to members of a community that they evacuate, when the Incident Controller believes this represents the best option to mitigate the effects of an emergency on a communities, based on the agency's risk assessment at that time, but where the risk is not perceived as extreme/imminent
reconnaissance	inspection of a fire area for the purpose of obtaining information about current and probable fire behaviour and fire suppression information
reconstruction	actions taken to reestablish a community after a period of rehabilitation subsequent to a disaster. Actions would include construction of permanent housing, full restoration of all services, and complete resumption of the pre-disaster state
recovery	<p>the restoring or improving of livelihoods and health, as well as economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets, systems and activities, of a disaster-affected community or society, aligning with the principles of sustainable development and 'build back better', to avoid or reduce future disaster risk" (Australian Disaster Recovery Framework (2022))(State EM Policy statement 1.1.1)</p> <p>See also emergency management</p>
recovery event	refers to an incident or emergency that results in disruption to community functioning and necessitates a coordinated recovery response
recovery hub	any centre established within or near the disaster area to meet the immediate needs of emergency affected persons which will be the focal point for the delivery of emergency relief and support services to the community but does not provide accommodation

Term	Definition
recovery information management	recovery information management develops timely, effective communication channels to gather, process and disseminate information relevant to the recovery of the affected community
recovery (phases of)	<p>The preparing for recovery phase builds recovery capability and capacity before emergencies through planning, training, exercising and community engagement.</p> <p>The early recovery phase starts during emergency response, focusing on understanding and meeting immediate needs and establishing governance structures for longer term recovery support.</p> <p>The recovery operations phase, guided by local and state recovery plans, delivers programs to meet recovery needs and restore community function.</p>
recovery (domains)	<p>Recovery domains used for organising recovery planning and activities are:</p> <p>The social domain focuses on the health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities, including safety, security and shelter, health and psychosocial wellbeing.</p> <p>The built domain focuses on physical infrastructure, including essential services, commercial and industrial facilities, public buildings, assets and housing.</p> <p>The environment domain focuses on land-based, aquatic, coastal and marine ecosystems, and environmental values that are of cultural, local and/or national significance. This area includes the management and disposal of waste and management of environmental health issues.</p> <p>The economic domain focuses on the economy (local and state-level), including jobs, businesses and industries.</p>
refuge site	a place where the community may take shelter within the community that is suitable to the hazard that presents. This may be an open space, building or other suitable place of shelter. It may be determined at the time of the emergency
register	a listing of all hazardous substances which are used or produced in the workplace and the available material safety data sheets
Register.Find.Reunite	an Australian Red Cross service that registers, finds and reunites, friends and loved ones after an emergency

Term	Definition
registration	<p>the process of accurately recording onto disaster registration cards details of all persons affected by disaster whether they are evacuated or remain in the disaster area</p> <p><i>see also</i> Register.Find.Reunite</p>
rehabilitation	<p>the operations and decisions taken after a disaster with a view to restoring a stricken community to its former living conditions, whilst encouraging and facilitating the necessary adjustments to the changes caused by the disaster. Alternatively, the process of adjustment to circumstances prevailing in the aftermath of an exotic animal disease outbreak</p> <p><i>see also</i> reconstruction</p>
relief	<p>the provision of immediate shelter, life support and human needs to persons affected by, or responding to, an emergency. It includes the establishment, management and provision of services to emergency relief centres</p>
relocation	<p>a term sometimes used in place of self-evacuation. It can also be used to refer to an individual's choice to move to a location of reduced risk of an emergency occurring under certain conditions even before an emergency has occurred (e.g. on a day where a catastrophic fire weather danger rating has been issued)</p>
remote area	<p>an area where, because of distance or circumstance, the medical resources required to adequately manage the event are delayed to the potential detriment of the casualties</p>
rescue	<p>the safe removal of persons or animals from actual or threatened danger of physical harm</p>
residual risk	<p>risk remaining after risk treatment. Following implementation of risk treatment, residual risk can also be referred to as retained risk</p>
resettlement	<p>actions necessary for the permanent settlement of persons dislocated or otherwise affected by a disaster to an area other than their last place of habitation</p>

Term	Definition
resilience	the ability of a system, community or society, exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate to and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structure and functions. This is determined by the degree to which the community has the necessary resources and is capable or organising itself both prior to and during times of need
resources	all personnel and equipment available, or potentially available, for incident tasks
response	the combatting of the effects of an emergency, provision of emergency assistance for casualties, reduction of further damage, and help to speed recovery
response time	the time taken between the report of an incident and arrival of responders at the scene. It includes both reaction time and travel time
restricted area	a declared area in which defined rigorous conditions apply to the movement into, out of, and within, of specified animals, persons or things
Richter scale	an open-ended logarithmic scale used to express the magnitude or total energy of a seismic disturbance (or earthquake). In this scale an increase of 1 indicates a thirty-fold increase in energy
risk	<p>a concept used to describe the likelihood of harmful consequences arising from the interaction of hazards, communities and the environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the chance of something happening that will have an impact upon objectives. It is measured in terms of consequence and likelihood; a measure of harm, taking into account the consequences of an event and its likelihood. For example, it may be expressed as the likelihood of death to an exposed individual over a given period; and expected losses (of lives, persons injured, property damaged, and economic activity disrupted) due to a particular hazard for a given area and reference period. Based on mathematical calculations, risk is the product of hazard and vulnerability
risk acceptance	an informed decision to accept the likelihood and the consequences of a particular risk
risk analysis	process to comprehend the nature of risk and to determine the level of risk

Term	Definition
risk assessment	the overall process of risk identification, risk analysis and risk evaluation
risk criteria	the State's endorsed risk criteria and associated tools and guidelines which form the minimum required level of analysis/reporting
risk evaluation	process of comparing the results of risk analysis with risk criteria to determine whether the risk and/or its magnitude are/is acceptable or tolerable
risk identification	the process of finding, recognising and describing risks
risk management	coordinated activities of an organisation or a government to direct and control risk
risk management process	the systematic application of management of policies, procedures and practices to the tasks of communicating, consulting, establishing the context, and identifying, analysing, evaluating, treating, monitoring and reviewing risk
risk reduction	actions taken to lessen the likelihood, negative consequences, or both, associated with a risk
risk tolerance	an organisation's or stakeholder's readiness to bear the risk after risk treatment to achieve its objectives
risk treatment	process of selection and implementation of measure to modify risk. The term 'risk treatment' is sometimes used for the controls themselves
risk treatment options	measures which modify the characteristics of hazards, communities, or environments
road block	road check point or barricade to maintain compliance with movement control restrictions

S

Term	Definition
safest corridor	the route that evacuees take that presents the safest egress from the threat to the place of safety
safer place	a nearby location where members of the community can relocate or evacuate to quickly that is safer than the location being threatened by the hazard
self evacuation	the voluntary evacuation of community members who have assessed their risk and have decided to move to a safer place; either a place established for the hazard or a place of their choosing
shelter in place	the advice to community to remain in their location, this may be an open space, building, indoors or other suitable place of shelter, usually with additional advice from emergency services as to how to take actions to reduce their exposure to the hazard
search and rescue	the process of locating and recovering disaster victims and the application of first aid and basic medical assistance as may be required
search and rescue incident	the specific situation that causes the search and rescue system to be activated
search and rescue operation	in whole or in part the action taken during the currency of a search and rescue incident
secondary hazard	a hazard that occurs as a result of another hazard or disaster, i.e. fires or landslides following earthquakes, epidemics following famines, food shortages following drought or floods
section	that organisation level having functional responsibility for primary segments of incident operations such as: operations, planning, logistics
simulation exercise	decision making exercise and disaster drills within threatened communities in order to represent disaster situations to promote more effective coordination of response from relevant authorities and the population

Term	Definition
situational analysis	a deliberate process where the current incident situation, the factors that are relevant to the incident, the courses open and their consequences are reviewed and alternative strategies are assessed and an incident action plan is recommended
situation report (SITREP)	a brief report that is published and updated periodically during an emergency which outlines the details of the emergency, the needs generated, and the responses undertaken as they become known
span of control	a concept which relates to the number of groups or individuals controlled by one person – a factor of 1:5 is recommended
specialist facilities	may be required when evacuees are unable to care for themselves or require additional care (e.g. hospitals, aged care or similar facilities, and disability care)
St John Ambulance Australia	a national charitable organisation dedicated to the relief of persons in sickness, distress, suffering or danger. In all States it provides first aid training and volunteer first aid and community care services, and in Western Australia and the Northern Territory it also runs the public ambulance service
staging area	a prearranged, strategically placed area where support response personnel, vehicles and other equipment can be held in readiness for use during an emergency
stand-by	the period normally following an alert when deployment of resources is imminent. Personnel are placed on stand-by being ready to respond immediately
stand-down	that phase where an agency's response is no longer required, and services are wound back. Site teams are returned to base, and additional staff called in are released from duty
Standard Emergency Warning Signal (SEWS)	a distinct sound approved by the State Emergency Management Committee to indicate an emergency announcement follows
standard operating procedures (SOP)	a set of directions detailing what actions could be taken, as well as how, when, by whom and why, for specific events or tasks

Term	Definition
State Disaster Council	a group established, under section 63 of the <i>Emergency Management Act 2005</i> , during at a state of emergency to liaise with, advise and support the State Government and the State Emergency Coordination Group, and liaise with the Australian Government as required, in relation to the state of emergency
State Emergency Coordination Group (SECG)	a group that is established, under section 26 of the <i>Emergency Management Act 2005</i> during a state of emergency, or may be established where an emergency occurs or is imminent, to ensure the provision of a strategic, coordinated multi-agency response to and recovery from the emergency and report to the Minister
State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC)	committee established under section 13 of the <i>Emergency Management Act 2005</i>
State emergency management plan	a plan prepared under section 18 of the <i>Emergency Management Act 2005</i> to outline the State arrangements for the emergency management of hazards and support functions
State emergency management policies	a set of policies prepared under section 17 of the <i>Emergency Management Act 2005</i> that provides for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a strategic framework for emergency management in the State; • the roles and responsibilities of emergency management organisations; and • other matters that are prescribed by the regulations
State Emergency Public Information Coordinator (SEPIC)	the State Emergency Public Information Coordinator, appointed by the State Emergency Coordinator, is the Director Media and Corporate Communications, Western Australia Police Force
state of emergency	a declaration made under section 56 of the <i>Emergency Management Act 2005</i> , by the Minister, which provides access to further emergency management powers
State Public Information Line (SPIL)	a telephone call centre facility that may be established by the State Emergency Public Information Coordinator to receive and respond to general inquiries from the public regarding an emergency

Term	Definition
State Strategic Recovery Priorities	<p>In WA, the governance, planning and delivery of recovery is underpinned by the State Strategic Recovery Priorities:</p> <p>Community-centred and place-based Engage communities in shaping their own recovery through planning, decision-making and governance processes that are inclusive and encompass diverse culture and lived experience.</p> <p>Timely, responsive and accessible Deliver timely and appropriate recovery support to meet the unique recovery needs of individuals, businesses, and organisations, using person-centred approaches to reach those in greatest need and ensure access for all.</p> <p>Restore and build back better Repair and rebuild social, built, environmental, and economic systems to restore community function and wellbeing and build preparedness and resilience for future shocks and risks.</p> <p>Value First Nations Voice Enable leadership and self-determination for First Nations people and ensure recovery recognises intergenerational trauma and Closing the Gap priorities.</p> <p>(defined in State EM Policy statement 6.1.8)</p>
storm surge	the difference between the actual water level under influence of a meteorological disturbance (storm tide) and the level which would have been attained in the absence of the meteorological disturbance (i.e. astronomical tide)
storm tide	the combination of a storm surge, tidal peaks, a shallow coastal gradient, and on – shore winds. A storm tide effect may be increased by funnelling due to coastal terrain
strategy	a statement detailing how an objective will be achieved
strike teams	a set number of resources of the same type that have an established minimum number of personnel. Strike teams always have a leader (usually in a separate vehicle), and have a common communications system. Strike teams are usually made up of five resources of the same type such as: vehicles, crews, earth moving machinery, etc

Term	Definition
support organisation	a public authority or other person who or which, because of the agency's functions under any written law or specialized knowledge, expertise and resources is responsible for providing support functions in relation to that agency
sustainable development	development in the present that does not destroy the resources needed for future development

T

Term	Definition
table top exercise	<p>an umbrella term for some types of indoor discussion exercise. They may feature a model of the area on which a prepared scenario is played out, or simply using a projected map, not in real time. The model or map is used to illustrate the deployment of resources, but, no resources are actually deployed. Additionally, responses may be prepared in syndicate, in plenary, or under the guidance of a facilitator who maintains the pace and asks probing questions. A cost effective, and highly efficient, exercise method that should be conducted as a prelude to a field exercise as part of a graduated series</p> <p><i>see also</i> exercise</p>
tactical exercise without troops (TEWT)	<p>tactical exercise without troops is used to relate to theory and/or emergency management arrangements to a simulated operational situation on the ground. This allows controllers, operations officers, etc. to be practiced and tested in problem solving and decision making techniques as well as applying operational procedures without actually deploying their resources to a field situation</p> <p><i>see also</i> exercise</p>
tactics	<p>these are the tasking of personnel and resources to implement the incident strategies. Incident control tactics are accomplished in accordance with appropriate agency procedures and safety directives. Tactics are normally determined at division/ sector level with a corresponding allocation of resources and personnel</p>
task	<p>a job given to any firefighting force or unit</p>
temporary accommodation	<p>accommodation provided over an extended period of days, weeks or months, for individuals or families affected by an emergency. It is different from emergency shelter</p>
temporary sheltering	<p>includes family, friends or commercial accommodation outside the impact zone, refuge sites, evacuation centres and specialist facilities</p>
terrorist act	<p>is defined in section 100.1 of the Commonwealth <i>Criminal Code Act 1995</i> and is adopted by the Western Australian <i>Emergency Management Act 2005</i> and <i>Emergency Management Regulations 2006</i> to prescribe the hazard of terrorist act</p>

Term	Definition
tolerable risk	a risk which the exposed people are expected to bear without undue concern, once all reasonable practicable reduction measures have been adopted. 'Tolerable' is sometimes used interchangeably with 'acceptable', but its more negative connotations make it more appropriate for risks which are reluctantly accepted
tolerated risk	a risk which is borne without people actively campaigning to reduce it. This may be because it's tolerable, but it may also be because its true levels are unknown. It is possible that a risk which is at present tolerated would, given better information, be judged intolerable
traffic management point	a point established to control and limit access to a fire area. It provides a means of managing the entry of residents of the fire affected area so that they can secure their property and extinguish fires caused by the ember attack after the passage of the fire front
trauma	injury of any nature
triage	the process by which casualties are sorted, prioritised and distributed according to their need for first aid, resuscitation, emergency transportation and definitive care
triage area	an area which may be set aside at the entrance to the patient treatment post specifically for triage of casualties as they are brought to the area
tropical cyclone	generic term for a non – frontal synoptic scale cyclone originating over tropical or sub-tropical waters with organised convection and definite cyclonic surface wind circulation
tsunami	a Japanese word for 'harbour wave'. It is used to define a water wave generated by a sudden change in the sea bed resulting from an earthquake, volcanic eruption or landslide

U

Term	Definition
unified command	a method for all agencies or individuals who have jurisdictional responsibility, or in some cases who have functional responsibilities at the incident, to contribute to: determination of overall objectives for the incident, and selection of strategies to achieve the objectives
unlisted hazard	any occurrence or imminent occurrence of a hazard which is of such a nature or magnitude that it requires a significant and coordinated response but is not readily identified as a hazard within the <i>Emergency Management Act 2005</i>
urban	area in which residences and other human developments form an essentially contiguous covering of the landscape, includes most area within cities and towns, subdivisions, commercial and industrial parks and similar development whether inside city limits or not
urban/rural interface	the line, area or zone where structures and other human development adjoin or overlaps with undeveloped bushland

V

Term	Definition
volunteer emergency worker	a volunteer worker who engages in emergency activity at the request (whether directly or indirectly) or with the express or implied consent of the chief executive (however designated), or of a person acting with the authority of the chief executive, of an agency to which either the State emergency response or recovery plan applies
vulnerability¹	the characteristics and circumstances of a community, system or asset that make it susceptible to the damaging effects of a hazard. There are many aspects of vulnerability, arising from various physical, social, economic, and environmental factors that vary within a community and over time

Notes

1 UNISDR - Terminology on Disaster Risk Reduction

W

Term	Definition
warm zone	<p>the area where personnel and equipment decontamination and hot zone support takes place. It includes control points for the access corridor and thus assists in reducing the spread of contamination</p> <p><i>synonym:</i> decontamination zone, contamination reduction zone, or limited access zone</p>
warning	<p>information provided to people at risk before or during an incident/emergencies advising them to take appropriate action to reduce losses</p>
warning system	<p>a suite of procedures and protocols established to inform individuals and communities about emerging or current threats and how to respond to reduce risk of death, injury, property loss and damage</p>
weather alert	<p>a warning broadcast on radio or television of an approaching storm or gale, or of an impending cold change</p>
welfare assembly centre	<p>the initial point, within or just outside the disaster area, to which and from which emergency affected persons shall be directed as appropriate</p>

