



COMMUNITY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of Australia as the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters on which we meet and work.

We pay respect to Elders past and present, recognising their important and ongoing role and connection to this ancient and beautiful land.

We are committed to working together on our reconciliation journey.



Artwork created by Ngarrindjeri artist Ngrakani (Harley Hall)

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Overview

Introduction

The Community Emergency Management Plan has been developed for the townships in the Mid Murray Council region on behalf of local communities.

This is a guide only to help communities be safer and more resilient during times of natural disaster.

While every effort has been made to ensure the information in this guide is up to date at the time of printing, changes after the time of publication may impact on the accuracy of the information.

Aim

The aim of this plan is to assist the community to prepare for and respond to emergencies, extreme weather events and other disasters.

Information in this plan will assist by:

- Giving examples of emergency risks
- Understanding local hazards
- Links to make a plan for individual households
- Being prepared
- Kit Preparation
- How to stay informed
- Where to go when your plan fails

**Supporting the local
community to become safer
and more resilient**



What does Council do in an Emergency

In an emergency local councils collaborate with government organisations, businesses and the community. They work closely with the South Australian Police, State Government and Emergency Services.

Emergencies are challenging and councils must be ready to respond and to deliver throughout each stage of recovery.

This might include:

- Removal of public infrastructure
- Managing traffic and trees, clearing roads or closing roads
- Communicating with communities about local impacts
- Coordinating council staff to respond where needed
- Providing equipment and manpower to emergency services
- Preparing for recovery after the impact
- Advocate for the community for disaster relief
- Support to rebuild public infrastructure

Councils are guided by the state government's State Emergency Management Plan. They also follow the Local Government Emergency Management Framework. This plan sets out everyone's roles and responsibilities in an emergency, including local government. There are 11 Emergency Management Zones in South Australia. Mid Murray Council is in the Murray and Mallee Zone. You can learn about the risks of natural disasters and hazards specific to the Murray and Mallee Zone here - [SASES - Zone Emergency Management Plans](#).

The National Strategy for Disaster Resilience is the collective responsibility of all sectors of society, including all levels of government, business, the non-government sector including communities and individuals, to work together to share a sense of responsibility. Disaster resilience of people and households is significantly increased by active planning and preparation for protecting life and property, based on awareness of the threats relevant to the locality of where you live.

Emergency Risk

Bushfire Risk



- Throughout the Mid Murray Region the Fire Risk Register rating is very high to extreme therefore the likelihood of fire threatening people and properties is always present.

Flooding/Storm



- History of flash flooding in Sedan Township, Mannum Township, Ridley Road, between Cambrai and Sedan.
- Risk of trees falling causing injury by hitting homes or moving vehicles.
- Loss of power supply.
- Road access restricted due to fallen trees or flooding.
- Increase in vehicle accidents on local roads and freeways.

Extreme Weather and Heat



- Extreme heat may affect both people and animals.
- Climate change is expected to bring more days of extreme heat risk.
- With extreme heat, people also have increased anxiety due to the risk of fire in the area.
- Many homes are not built to stand extreme heat without air conditioning. Power supply often fails on days of extreme heat.

Associated Instances

Transport Incidents



- Access to Stott Highway and Sturt Highway and surrounding roads.
- Transport of dangerous goods via Sturt Highway and Ridley Road.
- Road access may be affected including hazards caused by chemical spills or release of chemical gasses.

Power Outages



- Power outages can occur during an emergency. Expect and plan for disruption.
- Have a back up plan ready if you rely on life support equipment or need electrical items to care for babies, the disabled, elderly or pets.
- Plan to keep food safe. Set your fridge to 5 degrees (5°C) or below. An unopened fridge will keep food for about four hours.
- Have plenty of drinking water available if your supply relies on power.
- Consider alternatives to running water pumps if on tank water.
- Charge mobile phones, laptops and portable back up batteries.
- If you have a rooftop solar system or a battery, check that it can operate in a power outage.
- If you plan to use a generator, make sure it is fuelled, operational and you know how to safely operate it.
- Have a battery powered radio available for real time news updates.
- Keep battery powered lamps or torches handy.

Local Hazards and Understanding of Emergency Risk

Community Information

The Mid Murray Region consists of townships and settlements along the Murray River, townships that support farming communities and townships in the hills area. Many residents do not have a personal emergency plan and don't know where to get information to create an emergency plan. Click here to complete a plan - www.cfs.sa.gov.au/plan-prepare/before-a-fire-be-prepared/make-a-plan/



Vulnerabilities in Community

- There may be limited landline, mobile phone and internet coverage.
- Emergency Services may be unable to reach you in a disaster.
- Communications fail with power failures during emergencies.
- Transmission towers and telephone exchanges can fail during fires and storms.
- Distance from main town services for safer places or refuge.
- Roads inaccessible due to fire or flood or trees down over roads.
- Late evacuation - people can be trapped.
- Water and fuel may not be accessible.
- Children, the elderly or disabled may require assistance.
- Households without regular access to a motor vehicle.

Isolation (limited access and egress options)

- Potential closure of main arterial roads during or after an emergency could pose difficulties in leaving or returning to homes, premises/properties.

Information – Disability and Language

Disability

Co-designed and tested with people with disabilities, Person-Centered Emergency Preparedness (P-CEP) enables people to self-assess their preparedness, capabilities and support needs and develop a personal emergency plan. For more information and to create an emergency plan specific to your needs, go to - <https://collaborating4inclusion.org/pcep-old/>

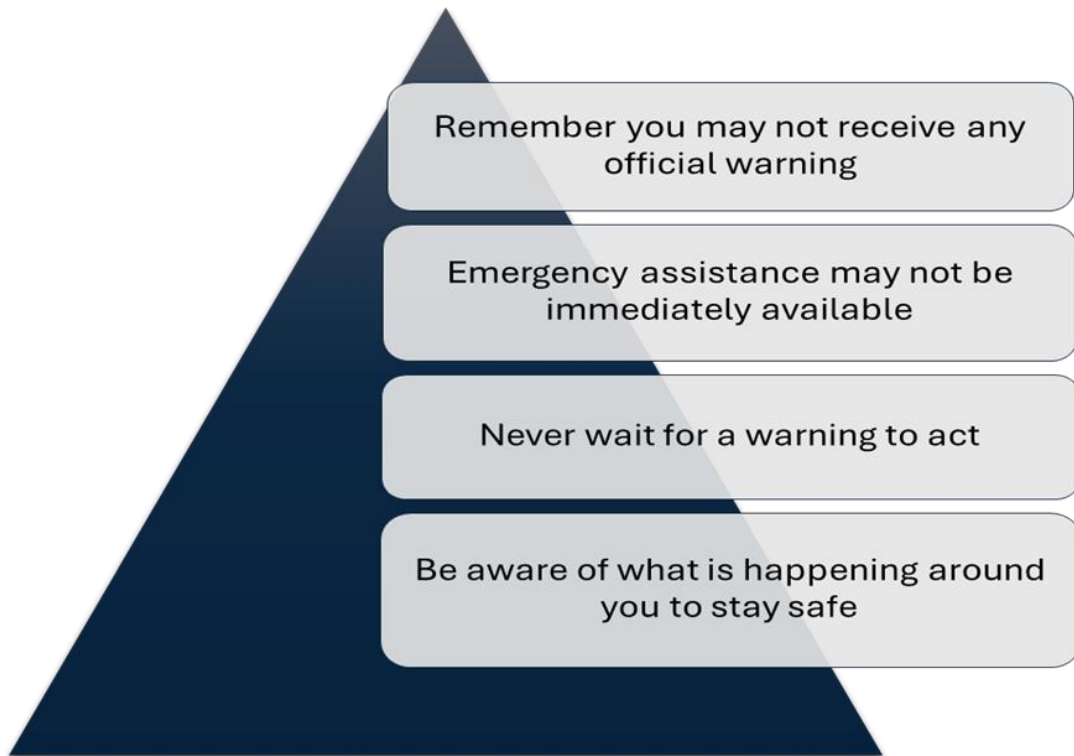
Language Barriers

Language barriers can create life-threatening situations for those who are not competent in the dominant languages used in disaster communication within a society as it can compromise understanding of things such as, disaster risks and hazards. Those with a language barrier can still plan by going to Ready.gov where there are many languages to assist - <https://www.ready.gov/plan>

Contacts

- In an emergency if you have a hearing or speech impairment - **Call 106** to make a *text emergency call*.
- If English is not your first language and you require translation or Interpretation in an emergency - **Call 131 450** - *Translating and Interpreting Service*.
- If you have any questions or want to find out more about support and services available to you, please **Call 1800 643 787** - *Disability Gateway*.

Be Prepared



**BE
PREPARED**

Emergency Kit Items



EMERGENCY PREPARATION STARTS WITH YOU!

Emergency management is a shared responsibility between individuals, communities, Council and agencies. Preparation is key to reducing impacts and to supporting emergency services. Emergency services will have high demand in an emergency event. As a part of your emergency plan, households should be prepared for up to 72 hours of isolation. Prepare a household emergency kit.



What to do with Pets

Whatever you do, do not forget to take your pets with you if you need to evacuate. Just like you, your pets should have a plan where you can accommodate them if necessary. Someone who knows your pet is a good option but if you cannot relocate them and you need to keep them with you then you will need the following:

- Pet food, bowl and treats in cans or waterproof containers
- Drinkable water in plastic bottles
- Can opener for canned food
- Pet medications and medical records in a waterproof container
- Sturdy leashes, harnesses and/or carriers so you can move your pets safely and they can't escape, remember they may be scared and may act different than usual
- Current photos of your pet in case they get lost
- The name of your veterinarian
- Pet beds and toys, if there is room

ALL PETS SHOULD HAVE AN IDENTIFICATION TAG AND COLLAR IF POSSIBLE



What to do with Livestock

All animal owners and carers have a duty to provide food, water, shelter and necessary treatment, even in an emergency. It is important to understand how to handle each type of natural disaster when preparing your animal emergency plan. You may need to adapt to different limitations during bushfires, storms and floods to keep your livestock and pets safe. Some handy tips:

- Emergency trigger - what will trigger you to enact your plan, and can you be easily contacted, especially if you are not on your property.
- Animal Locations - If you intend to evacuate your property and cannot take animals with you, where is the safest place to leave them.
- Emergency Kit - which items will you need to pack in an emergency kit to support your animals.
- Identification - can you identify your animals if they are separated from you (NLIS devices, microchips, brands and name tags). Take paperwork with you in case you need to identify your livestock.

For more information go to the Department of Primary Industries website - <https://pir.sa.gov.au/> or call for assistance immediately following an emergency event: Free call 1800 255 556. This number is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



Government of South Australia

Department of Primary Industries
and Regions

Tips for preparing your property for Storms

Storms can be severe, and they can happen at any time and cause major damage. Keep your property prepared for storms to reduce the risk of damage and loss.

- Trim trees and branches that could fall on your home or property
- Make repairs to your roof
- Check your insurance policy is current and adequate
- Secure all the loose items around your house
- Clear your gutters, downpipes and drains

For further advice and resources in other languages visit the
State Emergency Service - www.ses.sa.gov.au

STORM WARNING LEVELS

Warning levels change to reflect
the risk to your life or property.



Tips for preparing your property for Floods

Floods impact more than just your property, they also impact roads, workplaces and essential services. All these issues should be considered in your emergency plan.

- Unplug appliances to prevent electrical shock when power returns
- Raise belongings by placing them on tables, beds and benches, or move them to higher ground
- Tie down or bring outdoor items inside
- Monitor conditions
- Ensure everyone knows where, how and when to turn off mains power, water and gas in case of emergency evacuation.

Flood waters can be deadly. Never attempt to drive, ride, walk, play or swim in floodwaters.

For emergency assistance due to a flood call the State Emergency Service for help on 132 500 - <https://www.ses.sa.gov.au/home/>



Tips for preparing your property for Fire

A well-prepared property is essential to ensure you survive a bushfire. Even if you plan to leave early, there is a greater chance that your home will survive if you have undertaken precautions.

- Prevent Embers from entering your house by sealing gaps, vents and roof spaces
- Keep grass and undergrowth trimmed - below 200mm
- Ensure underfloor areas are enclosed or screened
- Rake up and reduce leaf litter and overgrown shrubs
- Store fuels and chemicals away from your house
- Remove branches overhanging buildings and leaf litter from roof and gutters
- Move wood piles away from the house

For further information on preparing your property for a fire, go to -
<https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/plan-prepare/before-a-fire-be-prepared/preparing-your-home-property.jsp>



Fire Danger Rating System



Fire Danger Ratings tell you how dangerous a fire could be. Fire danger ratings feature in weather forecasts during the fire danger season

MODERATE	HIGH	EXTREME	CATASTROPHIC
<p>Plan and prepare</p> <p>Most fires can be controlled</p>	<p>Be ready to act</p> <p>Fires can be dangerous</p>	<p>Take action now to protect your life and property</p> <p>Fires will spread quickly and be extremely dangerous</p>	<p>For your survival, Leave bushfire risk areas</p> <p>If a fire starts and takes hold, lives are likely to be lost</p>
<p>Stay up to date and be ready to act if there is a fire.</p>	<p>There's a heightened risk. Be alert for fires in your area.</p> <p>Decide what you will do if a fire starts.</p> <p>If a fire starts, your life and property may be at risk. The safest option is to avoid bushfire risk areas.</p>	<p>These are dangerous fire conditions.</p> <p>Check your bushfire plan and ensure that your property is fire ready.</p> <p>If a fire starts, take immediate action. If you and your property are not prepared to the highest level, go to a safer location well before the fire impacts.</p>	<p>These are the most dangerous conditions for a fire.</p> <p>Your life may depend on the decisions you make, even before there is a fire.</p> <p>Stay safe by going to a safer location early in the morning or the night before.</p> <p>Homes cannot withstand fires in these conditions. You may not be able to leave, and help may not be available.</p>

Fire Danger Ratings are published between 4.30 and 5.00pm, daily during the fire season.

Phone the Country Fire Service Bushfire Information Hotline on 1800 362 361 or TTY (teletypewriter or textphone) on 13 16 77 for information on fire danger ratings, fire restrictions, fire bans, incidents and information relating to bushfire survival.

Stay Informed - Emergency Preparation starts with you!

In an emergency phone triple '000'.

In Australia you can also dial 112 from mobile phones if you are out of phone network range



SA Power Networks
P: 13 13 66
W: www.sapowernetworks.com.au



Australian Gas Networks
P: 1800 427 532
W: www.australiangasnetworks.com.au



National Broadband Network
P: 1800 687 626
W: www.nbnco.com.au



National Relay Service
P: 1800 555 677
W: www.accesshub.gov.au



South Australian State Emergency Service
P: 132 500
W: www.ses.sa.gov.au



Australian Government
Bureau of Meteorology

Bureau of Meteorology
P: 1300 754 389
W: www.bom.gov.au



Australian Government
Department of Social Services

TIS National
P: 131 450 (Interpreting Service)
W: www.dss.gov.au



Mental Health Triage Service
P: 131 465
W: www.chiefpsychiatrist.sa.gov.au



Nurse on Call 24/7
P: 1300 60 60 24
W: www.healthdirect.gov.au

Emergency Broadcasters



ABC Adelaide 891



5MU 94.3 FM / 96.3 FM / 97.1 FM



Power FM 98.7 or 100.3



SA SCAN Download to mobile phone or
www.sascan.net.au

During an Emergency

Life-Threatening Emergencies

Fire, Ambulance, Police



☎ 000

For 24/7 Crisis support call **Lifeline** or **Beyond**



☎ 13 11 14



☎ 1300 22 4636

Emergencies can be overwhelming!

- Follow your emergency plan and get your emergency kit
- Make sure family members and neighbours are aware of what is happening
- Beware of driving hazards if you are going to a safer/last refuge place
- Make sure you monitor warnings and updates

Remember Emergency Services may not be able to reach you in a disaster

Community Evacuation Information

The South Australian Police are responsible for coordinating an evacuation, but it could be any government agency like CFS, SES who recommend you evacuate.

How will I know when to evacuate?

In fast moving emergencies you may not receive a warning or a recommendation to evacuate. If you do, you may receive an emergency warning from several sources such as:

- Telephone emergency alert (fixed line and SMS)
- Emergency broadcasters (radio and television)
- Emergency service websites or apps
- Door knocking
- Police vehicle loudspeaker

What do I do when I am advised to evacuate?

Follow **ALL** directions and instructions from emergency services. If time permits, secure your premises and collect any valuables, including your emergency kit.

What do I do about my animals?

You need to pre-plan for pets and livestock in the event of an emergency. Leave early with your pet emergency kit and your emergency kit.

What if I require assistance to evacuate?

If you require assistance to evacuate, take this into account as part of your Emergency Plan. If you do not have transport to leave the area, have an alternative plan in place. This could be leaving with a neighbour or arranging for family to help you.

Where should I go?

You should go to the safe location advised in the warning. Once you have evacuated to a safe location, advise people so they know where you are and that you are safe.

**DO NOT RETURN UNTIL YOU ARE ADVISED THAT IT IS
SAFE TO DO SO**

For contacts in the community you live in refer to Councils Community Directory -
<https://www.mid-murray.sa.gov.au/community/community-directory>



INFORMATION FOR COMMUNITIES

This project has been supported by the Local Government Research and Development Scheme administered by the Local Government Association of SA