

WURDALE & SURROUNDS RECOVERY NETWORK

THE NETWORK IS A COMMUNITY INITIATIVE
AIMED AT BUILDING THE COMMUNITY
STRENGTH NEEDED TO RECOVER QUICKLY
FROM MAJOR EMERGENCY EVENTS SUCH
AS A BUSHFIRE.

THE APPROACH TAKEN IS TO PROVIDE A
FRAMEWORK TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY
INVOLVEMENT IN THE RELIEF AND
RECOVERY PROCESS.



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HOW IT ALL STARTED

We live in an amazing and beautiful area – but one of high risk, particularly from bushfires, but also from storm and drought damage.

This risk was highlighted during a community fire scenario enactment session in late 2018 . As result of this session a number of community members and representatives from local community groups came together to form a committee. The focus was to develop a strategy that concentrated on the community response after an emergency event, utilising the skills and experience of the people in our community and leveraging other supporting agencies as and when available.

COMMITTEE

The Committee exists only to ensure appropriate structure and dissemination of information to the community which is aimed at enabling community members to participate and support all in the event of a major emergency event.

To ensure that the Committee and Volunteers are able to operate and have adequate insurance coverage. **The Network is an Auspice group of Winchelsea Community House Inc. A6247K.**

THE LOGO

The tree represents a community ecosystem, where a network operates to connect all of us by empowering community members with knowledge and support, creating an environment to build a more cohesive community able to cope with and recover from a major emergency event.

EMERGENCY EVENTS

There are a number of emergency event that could occur that would impact our community. Fire, Wind and Storms, human and livestock epidemics, heat wave, flood etc.

THE STRATEGY

A detailed strategy has been developed which in summary covers:

- Stages of Relief and Recovery and the response:
 1. The actual event
 2. INCIDENT stage (0-3 hours after the event)
 3. RELIEF stage (3-72 hours)
 4. Longer term RECOVERY support
- Resourcing, Structure and Location of the Relief and Recovery Leadership Team
- Triggers to activate the Team
- Key contacts
- Engagement and Communication focus
- Supporting documentation



Relief and Recovery Leadership Team Role and Focus areas

Relief & Recovery Manager and Relief & Recovery Assistant - Manages the team, makes decisions and conducts risk assessments

Roles focused on the following key areas:

Community Registrar - Registers people including details of special needs or circumstances

Local Knowledge - Connecting with local knowledge holders, maps, current situation

External Volunteer Management - Manages unplanned volunteers eg. Blaze Aid, Lions Club, etc.

External Agency Liaison - Connecting with relevant agencies

Internal Communications - Keeping all members in touch and up to date with the situation

Community Information and Communication - Develops and disseminates community information.

Working with Government Agencies in the following areas:

Welfare, Nutrition and Shelter

KEY POINTS OF RELIEF AND RECOVERY

- Vic Emergency App will alert the Community, Committee and registered volunteers of a major event
- In consultation with relevant bodies identify Relief and Recovery (R&R) site.
- Communication commences to :
 - Confirm relief and recovery (R&R) site
 - Call out for volunteers to resource Relief and Recovery Leadership Team and support roles when it is safe to do so.
 - Assignment of lead role.
 - Advice to Winchelsea Local Command Facility (LCF) of contact details
 - Advise community of R&R site location
- R&R site set up – roles assigned
- Immediate focus on community welfare
- When appropriate, partner with Government Agencies for the benefit of the Community.
- Longer term ongoing support to community for recovery

Like to register your interest to help / volunteer before there is an event ?

Like to know more ?

Send an email to :

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Emergency events can come from anywhere and at any time. Be prepared and think about "what if" factors in your plan. Also think about the volunteer role you can play to support the community to recover.

