

What I Need to Know

Disaster Management Framework

- The Queensland Government has provided a framework for the management of disasters through the Disaster Management Act 2003. The objects of this Act are to be achieved by making a number of provisions including:
 - establishing a State Disaster Management Group, as well as District Disaster Management Groups and Local Disaster Management Groups for individual or combined local governments and community councils;
 - preparing disaster management plans for each of the three levels in accordance with established guidelines.

District Disaster Management Groups

- Queensland is divided into Disaster Districts for the purposes of disaster management.
- The Disaster Management Act 2003 s.23 and s.24 outlines functions and membership of the District Disaster Management Group.
- QFRS Rural Operations as the primary authority on wildfire mitigation and management should be represented on the District Disaster Management Group. This would normally be the Area Director, Rural Operations (ADRO).
- Other Department of Emergency Services personnel including Area Directors from QFRS, QAS and EMQ would also have important roles within these groups.
- The District Disaster Management Group affords the opportunity to work with a wide range of government and non-government agency representatives and to ensure that wildfire issues are considered along with other hazards and risks.

Local Disaster Management Groups

- A local government is required to establish a Local Disaster Management Group under the *Disaster Management Act 2003* s.29. This may be done in combination with other councils.
- The functions of Local Disaster Management Groups are outlined in the *Disaster Management Act 2003* s.30(1) and include ensuring that disaster planning, operations and recovery are consistent with the State's strategic policy framework for disaster management.
- The QFRS Rural Operations as the primary authority for wildfire mitigation and management should be represented on the Local Disaster Management Group. This would normally be the ADRO, although in many cases an Area Support and Training Officer or an appropriate brigade officer or fire warden should attend given the requirement for local knowledge.
- Local Government is required to prepare a Local Disaster Management Plan under the Disaster Management Act 2003 s.53(1). QFRS Rural Operations provides specialist assistance to local government in the preparation and review of each Local Disaster Management Plan.
- Preparing for bushfires and other emergencies or disasters is a responsibility shared between DES, QFRS, other agencies, local government, and the community.
- In order to ensure that this is done effectively, partnerships supported by adequate representation and information, appropriate structures, and in some cases legislation, are necessary.

How I do it

- The responsibility for developing a plan for a coordinated response to a disaster rests with individual local governments. The resultant Local Counter-Disaster Plan is developed in association with representatives of the local Emergency Services.
- Brigade involvement in counter-disaster operations is appropriate when:
 - brigade involvement is part of the Local Counter-Disaster Plan; and
 - the brigade is operating under the direction of its command structure.
- Support of counter-disaster operations, in accordance with these two criteria, is a bona fide brigade activity. A brigade seeking inclusion in a Local Counter-Disaster Plan should contact the local QFRS Rural Operations Area Office.
- Brigade officers who regularly attend Local Disaster Management Group meetings should become familiar with the Disaster Management Act 2003 as well as with current local plans.

Reference Materials

- Area Reference Manual - Business Rule: D4.4.1 Review Station Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Plan
- Disaster Management Act 2003
- Queensland Disaster Management Planning Guidelines 2005
- Fire and Rescue Service Act 1990
- QFRS Regional Wildfire Operations Plans
- QFRS Location Specific Operations Plan (LSOP)