

## Management of Civil Defence Operations course 2001

The Management of Civil Defence Operations Course gained formal status as an accredited course in August 2000. The course is usually conducted annually at AEMI usually in late November. However, the 2001 course has been scheduled for the last week of September.

The course is aimed primarily at the operational level of emergency management and examines issues relating to civil defence planning and operations to manage the effects of armed conflict in Australia. In addition to members of statutory emergency management/response agencies such as police, fire, ambulance, SES and welfare agencies, representatives from Defence, public health, the media, local government, public utilities, NGOs and commerce and industry are most welcome to apply.

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## Commonwealth Government reception plan

In October 2000, a two-day workshop was held at AEMI to review the Provisional Commonwealth Government Plan for the Reception of Persons Evacuated into Australia following an overseas event (COMRECEPLAN). Experiences gained through recent evacuations such as the Solomon Islands event had highlighted this requirement.

The workshop which was attended by around 30 persons representing States, Territories, Commonwealth agencies and non-Government organisations made a number of recommendations to refine the plan which will now be submitted to the national Emergency Management Committee for further consideration.

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## New Australian emergency manual—post-disaster assessment and survey

EMA will soon be publishing a new manual on Post Disaster Assessment and Survey as part of the Australian Emergency Manual (AEM) series. The new AEM will provide emergency managers with useful a planning guide for the conduct of initial survey and damage assessments following the impact of a disaster. The manual draws on material from Australia and overseas and will include a series of check-lists and proformas. The manual should be available by mid-2001.

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## International Search and Rescue Advisory Group

The Asia Pacific Chapter of the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group met in Seoul, Korea in November 2000. This was the first meeting of the group since 1993 and resulted from an exploratory meeting hosted by EMA in Canberra in March 2000.

The meeting was attended by representatives from 10 countries of the Asia Pacific Region and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Attendees pledged to work together to improve urban search and rescue capabilities in the region. New Zealand will host the next meeting in late November 2001.

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## Review of disaster response plans

EMA is currently reviewing the Commonwealth Government Disaster Response Plan (COMDISPLAN) and the Australian Government Overseas Disaster Assistance Plan (AUSASSISTPLAN) as part of a three-year review cycle. The revised plans should be available in mid-2001

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## Indian Disaster Management Symposium

In November 2000, EMA coordinated Australian participation in a joint Australia India Council (AIC)/Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) sponsored Disaster Management Symposium in Delhi, India.

The Symposium covered a range of topics under the broad headings of prevention, preparedness, response and recovery with Indian and Australian speakers addressing each topic followed by open discussion. A number of small group workshops were conducted towards the end of the Symposium to address specialist subjects.

The nine person Australian team included representatives from James Cook University, Australian Maritime Safety Authority, Australian Geological Survey Organisation, Bureau of Meteorology, West Australian Fire and Emergency Services Authority, New South Wales Department of Land and Water Conservation, a Recovery Specialist and EMA.

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## Management of Chemical Biological Radiological Incendiary and Explosives (CBRIE) Emergencies/ Incidents course

The dates for the next CBRIE course to be conducted at AEMI have changed from 12–16 March to 25–29 June 2001. The CBRIE course is currently going through the accreditation process which should be completed by March 2001. Those who have attended one of the three previous CBRIE courses at AEMI will receive a new certificate through the mail in due course.

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## Exercise SAGIP 2000

Exercise SAGIP is an annual multilateral forum that promotes the sharing of experiences in disaster response and humanitarian assistance and provides an understanding of the emergency management arrangements in place in countries from the Asia Pacific region. The exercise is an initiative of the Philippine Department of Defence with the word SAGIP meaning 'to save lives'.

Exercise SAGIP 2000 which was held in Manila during the period 23–27 October 2000 brought together 90 military and civilian persons from 17 Asia/Pacific countries.

Mr Trevor Haines from EMA participated in the exercise as a member of the four person Australian Defence Force led delegation and presented papers on Early Warning and the United Nations response framework for international Urban Search and Rescue Teams.

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## EMA Projects Program

EMA has made available project funding to support disaster prevention and management projects during 2001/02. Project proposals aimed at reducing disaster-related loss of life, property damage, and economic and social disruption in Australia are now encouraged from individuals, community groups, businesses, non-government organisations and agencies at all levels of government.

Details on the EMA Projects Program funding are available on the EMA web site at [www.ema.gov.au](http://www.ema.gov.au). The closing date for proposals for Financial Year 2001/2002 project funding is 28 February 2001.

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## International Year of the Volunteer

It is estimated that there are over 500,000 volunteers registered with Australian emergency service organisations. Without them the emergency management sector could not function effectively. The year 2001 has been declared the International Year of the Volunteer (IYV) and provides a unique opportunity to recognise the

outstanding contribution of those dedicated people who give so much to make communities safer.

EMA intends to undertake a significant leadership role in IYV to ensure the profile of volunteering gains wider community acceptance and understanding. States and Territories are planning activities to make the IYV a special year. A National Committee has also been established to coordinate national emergency volunteer IYV activities and met for the first time recently. At this meeting, ideas for national activities which could assist the recruitment, retention, training or recognition of volunteers were generated. EMA will submit a proposal to the Department of Family and Community Services to seek funding for activities identified by the national IYV Committee. EMA will also make a significant financial and in-kind contribution towards these activities.

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## Australian Disaster Information Management workshop

The Australian Disaster Information Management workshop was held from 6–8 November 2000 with many representatives from a wide range of organisations. The workshop considered issues such as disaster information needs, benefits of a greater information capability and disaster information networking, some of the restraining forces, strategic objectives, possible actions, and resource implications.

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## National 2001 Safer Communities Awards

Following the success of the inaugural Safer Communities Awards in 2000, planning is now under way for the 2001 Awards. EMA is making arrangements to refine some elements of the Awards with a launch scheduled for late February at which time full details of the categories, nomination and judging criteria, and closing date for entries will be announced. It is expected that State and Territory judging will proceed in June or July followed by the national judging in August. While there were 75 entries for the 2000 Awards, EMA is looking forward to attracting a higher number of entries in 2001 from the emergency management, volunteer, local government and private enterprise sectors.

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## GDIN2001 Update

Preparation for the Global Disaster Information Network Conference (GDIN2001) is progressing well. This is a significant international event that EMA will be hosting on behalf of the Australian government. The Conference, which is to be held in Canberra from 21–23 March 2001, is open to all people with an interest in disaster

information management and is expected to attract up to 200 delegates from a range of areas within Australia and overseas. The Conference registration form and program can be found at the GDIN2001 website: [www.ema.gov.au/gdin/index.html](http://www.ema.gov.au/gdin/index.html). An advertisement appears in this issue of AJEM.

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## What's on at AEMI

### AEMI Program of activities for March – June 2001

AEMI has reviewed the Program of Activities for the first half of 2001 and as a result there have been a number of changes to the program, including additions and substitution of activities. The accompanying table outlines the residential activities with the changes highlighted. Please note that only the National Studies Program (NSP) activities that have been programmed are included, no extensions appear on the table and that, in response to a number of requests from clients, we will conduct a number of Evacuation Management courses.

5–9 March 2001	Recovery Management
12–16 March 2001	Evacuation Management
19–21 Mar 2001	Emergency Management of Australia's Cultural and Linguistic Diversity (NSP)
26–30 Mar 2001	Exercise Management
27–28 Mar 2001	School Education Implementation Workshop
10–11 April 2001	Senior Executives Emergency Management Briefing
30 Apr–4 May 2001	Implementing ERM
6–18 May 2001	EMO Program Course 1
21–25 May 2001	Evacuation Management
21–25 May 2001	Exercise Management
28 May–1 June 2001	Implementing ERM
18–22 June 2001	Recovery Management
18–22 June 2001	Understanding ERM
25–29 June 2001	Consequence Management To CBRIE Emergencies Course

### Reintroduction of Evacuation Management

The 3 ½ day accredited course in Evacuation Management has been included in the Program of Activities in March and May 2001. The aim of this course is to enable participants to contribute to the selection and implementation of evacuation as an intervention strategy. Upon completion of the course participants should be able to:

- Demonstrate the key issues in planning an evacuation strategy; and
- Explain the key issues in making a decision whether to evacuate.

The key topics in this course are related to the issues involved in the five phases of evacuation, that is:

Decision to evacuate; Warning; Withdrawal; Shelter; Return.

### Emergency Management Officers' professional development program

The new program consists of three courses and is designed for newly appointed Emergency Management Officers (EMO's) with significant emergency/disaster management responsibilities. These may work in SES, emergency management organisations or have significant emergency management duties in other organisations.

The purpose of the program is to provide a comprehensive package to support the initial role and function of newly appointed EMO's and to provide the EMO's with sufficient skills and knowledge to enable them to facilitate and support emergency management within their communities. Upon completion of this program, participants should be able to:

- apply emergency management concepts, principles and arrangements
- apply emergency management tools and skills
- apply management principles, knowledge and skills in emergency management contexts
- display appropriate attitudes, values and behaviours

The program consists of three two-week courses: Course 1, Course 2 and Course 3. Course 2 comprises of an Understanding Emergency Risk Management (UERM) course and an Implementing Emergency Risk Management (Implementing ERM) course. It is expected that persons nominating for the program will make themselves available to attend all three courses in the program, as well as completing the associated assignment and project work. One program has commenced and the next EMO Program has been timetabled for:

Course 1: 6–18 May 2001; Course 2: 15–26 October 2001; Course 3: 18 February–1 March 2002.

### AEMI Program of Activities for the Financial Year 2001/2002

The Program of Activities and details about courses can be accessed via EMA website at [www.ema.gov.au](http://www.ema.gov.au), or via The AEMI Handbook, which will be available from the beginning of April. The Handbook is obtainable from AEMI or the nominating authorities.

### New Activities at AEMI

Next financial year (2000/2001) AEMI will be offering 2 new courses. They are:

- Response and Recovery Planning
- Emergency Management for Local Government

The accredited Emergency Coordination Centre Management will again be offered, as well as the following:

- Understanding ERM
- Implementing ERM
- Exercise Management
- Evacuation Management
- Recovery Management
- Management of Civil Defence Operations
- Consequence Management to CBIRE Emergencies
- Emergency Management Officers' Program

For more information on courses contact:

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## National Studies program 2000/2001

The following are reports on the status of three activities that come under the National Studies Program banner.

### **Community Safety – Towards a safer community**

AEMI is hosting a series of workshops on Community Safety. The aim of these is to develop a better understanding of the ways in which Emergency Management can contribute to Community Safety. Participants will include Emergency Managers, representatives from local government, and other policy areas including health, crime/injury prevention, community development and environmental health. Outputs from the workshop include a set of principles and strategies for integrating Emergency Management into local government practices. The first was held at AEMI on the 12 & 13 of December. Two others will be held in March and May 2001.

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### **Emergency Management for Australia's Non-English Speaking Background community: residents and visitors**

Emergency Management Australia in conjunction with the National Police Ethnic Advisory Bureau and Kangan Batman TAFE will be conducting a workshop titled *Emergency Management for Australia's Non-English Speaking Background Community: Residents and Visitors* from 19<sup>th</sup> March to 21<sup>st</sup> March 2001. The venue will be the Australian Emergency Management Institute Mt Macedon Victoria. The workshop will be structured around syndicate activity to develop best practice guidelines in this important area of emergency management.

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### **Measuring the performance of disaster mitigation projects**

Considerable resources are invested in risk reduction (disaster mitigation) measures by all levels of government. There are few Australian examples of the measurement of the effectiveness, efficiency or appropriateness of these measures. Without these, it is difficult to assess the merit of such measures.

The Commonwealth Department of Transport and Regional Services (DoTRS), Bureau of Transport Economics (BTE), and Emergency Management Australia (EMA) will be conducting a series of workshops to capture the available Australian information on the costs, benefits and performance of flood disaster mitigation projects.

The National Emergency Management Studies Program workshops will focus on structural and non-structural flood disaster mitigation projects and programs, with the expectation that the results will be applicable to other risks reduction projects and programs.

The expected outputs of the National Emergency Management Study Program workshops will be:

- A better shared understanding amongst

Commonwealth and State/Territory government departments on the costs and effectiveness of flood disaster mitigation projects and programs; and,

- Information for the publication of a Working Paper by the BTE that examines the costs and effectiveness of flood disaster mitigation measures.

The expected outcome of the National Study Program workshops is a significant contribution to the capacity of Commonwealth and State/Territory government departments to assess the potential effectiveness of disaster mitigation projects and consequently more effective allocation of government expenditure.

*All those wishing to participate in this vital work are urged to contact:*

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## EMA publication news

### **School education resources**

#### **Swirling Winds, Dry Earth**

A valuable resource developed, as part of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, for middle school when teaching about hazards, weather, or specifically on cyclones and droughts.

Designed with inquiry-based learning activities to help students develop skills and enhance their understanding of tropical cyclones and droughts. Each section looks at the natural and human causes of the phenomenon, its behaviour, and management options to maximise its benefits while reducing its negative impacts on people and the environment. Case studies throughout Australia are used to highlight different aspects.

60 pages with activities which require students to investigate the information and participate in the responses. A wide range of exercises supported by statistical data, photographs and blackline masters.

*It is available through:*

The Geography Teachers' Association of Victoria  
PO Box 2066, Camberwell West, Victoria 3124, Australia.  
Phone: 03 9824 8355.

#### **Coming soon! The Hazards Happen CD-ROM teachers guide**

The CD-ROM contains stories of Australian Natural Disasters, scientific explanations, hazard management games and quizzes, 100's of images and is easy to navigate around. The teachers guide contains lesson plans, teacher notes and student task sheet masters for Years 3–12. The lessons use a variety of approaches including poetry, drama, comprehension, collages, painting, oral reports and inquiry based activities to explore the hazard, cause, effects and how individuals can reduce their vulnerability. The lessons are designed for a range of learning areas across several levels of schooling.

The teachers guide will be available early 2001 and inquiries can be directed to: Russell Forster, School Education Officer on 03 54215242.