



NSW Hazardous Materials/Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear Emergency Plan

A Sub Plan of the NSW Emergency Management Plan

Endorsed by SEMC on 20 June 2019

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Section 1 – Introduction

Purpose

1. This Plan is the New South Wales Hazardous Materials (Hazmat)/Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear (CBRN) Emergency Plan. It covers the whole of NSW including Lord Howe Island.
2. The Plan describes the arrangements for the control and coordination of major Hazmat/CBRN emergencies requiring coordinated response and recovery activities. The plan ensures a coordinated approach of combat and supporting agencies in an effective manner. The Plan recognises that a CBRN incident may be accidental or deliberate, the latter being crime or terrorism related, and specific NSWPF responsibilities that would follow.
3. The plan has been prepared by the NSW CBRN/Hazardous Materials Advisory Group at the direction of the NSW State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) and the State Counter Terrorism Committee (SCTC) as a sub-plan of the NSW State Emergency Management Plan (EMPLAN).
4. This Plan applies to all hazardous material emergencies within NSW, including CBRN emergencies, requiring multi-agency involvement and specific command and control arrangements under the direction of the State Emergency Operations Controller (SECON) and/or State Emergency Recovery Controller (SERCON).
5. Fire and Rescue NSW are the combat agency for hazardous materials emergencies and non-terrorism related CBRN incidents in NSW.
6. For specific terrorism/CBRN events, NSW Police Force have predetermined multi-agency arrangements that will be activated according to the NSW Counter Terrorism Plan supporting a multi-agency approach.
7. This Plan details the arrangements relating to an imminent or actual, accidental or deliberate release of a hazardous material in NSW, or a CBRN incident that does not have a terrorism link.

8. The NSW State Waters Marine Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Plan details the arrangements for a controlled and coordinated response for some hazardous materials emergencies occurring on State waters. For hazardous materials not covered by the NSW State Waters Oil Marine and Contingency Plan, this Plan will apply.
9. This Plan may be activated in response to a hazardous material emergency which occurs on or spreads into Commonwealth lands or waters within or adjoining NSW.
10. This Plan provides an Annexure for the response and funding arrangements for an asbestos emergency.

Activation

11. Activation of this Plan may be recommended by:
 - Commissioner of Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW)
 - Region Emergency Operations Controller (REOCON)
 - Region Emergency Management Officer (REMO)
 - Environmental Services Functional Area Coordinator (EnvSFAC)
 - Health Services Functional Area Coordinator (HSFAC)
 - Marine Pollution Controller (or delegate) - for maritime pollution incidents
12. The Plan will be activated by either the SEOCON or Deputy SEOCON (DSEOCON) prior to or during the response phase of a Hazmat/CBRN emergency.
13. Alternatively, the Plan may be activated by the SERCON or Deputy SERCON (DSERCON) in the recovery phase of a Hazmat/CBRN emergency requiring a coordinated multi-agency response.
14. Where the presence of asbestos containing material (ACM) in the community poses significant risk to public health and safety, following a large-scale disaster or emergency, Asbestos Emergency Funding Arrangements (see Annexure) may be activated.
15. Once the Plan is activated the State Emergency Operations Centre is to be advised and is to inform relevant Combat Agencies, Functional Areas and other members of the State Emergency Management Committee. The Environmental Services, Health Services and Public Information Functional Area Coordinators will always be notified of the Plan's activation.

Section 2 – Preparedness

Legal Framework

16. NSW has a well-defined legislative framework for prevention, response and recovery relating to hazardous material incidents.
17. The following NSW legislation relates to the prevention activities to be undertaken in the manufacture, handling, use and transportation of hazardous materials; and the associated emergency response and recovery powers to manage the accidental or deliberate release of these hazardous materials.
 - *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989*
 - *Fire and Rescue Act 1989*
 - *Terrorism (Police Powers) Act 2002*
 - *Public Health Act 2010*
 - *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (New South Wales) Act 1994*
 - *Protection of the Environment Administration Act 1991*
 - *Dangerous Goods (Road and Rail Transport) Act 2008*
 - *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*
 - *Environmental Trust Act 1998*
 - *Environmentally Hazardous Chemicals Act 1985*
 - *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*
 - *Local Government Act 1993*
 - *Marine Pollution Act 2012*
 - *Marine Safety Act 1998*
 - *Pesticides Act 1999*
 - *Ports and Maritime Administration Act 1995*
 - *Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 1966*

- *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*
- *Radiation Control Act 1990*
- *Radiation Control Amendment Act 2010*
- *Crimes Act 1900*
- *Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Act 2002*

Governance

18. A comprehensive administrative structure is in place at both the National and State Government levels to manage Hazmat and CBRN emergencies.
19. Where required, NSW develops and maintains policies, plans and procedures between relevant agencies, the Commonwealth, and business sectors in preparation for Hazmat and CBRN emergencies.
20. NSW maintains arrangements to support and advise the Commonwealth on Hazmat and CBRN emergencies which occur on, threaten or spread to Commonwealth lands or waters.

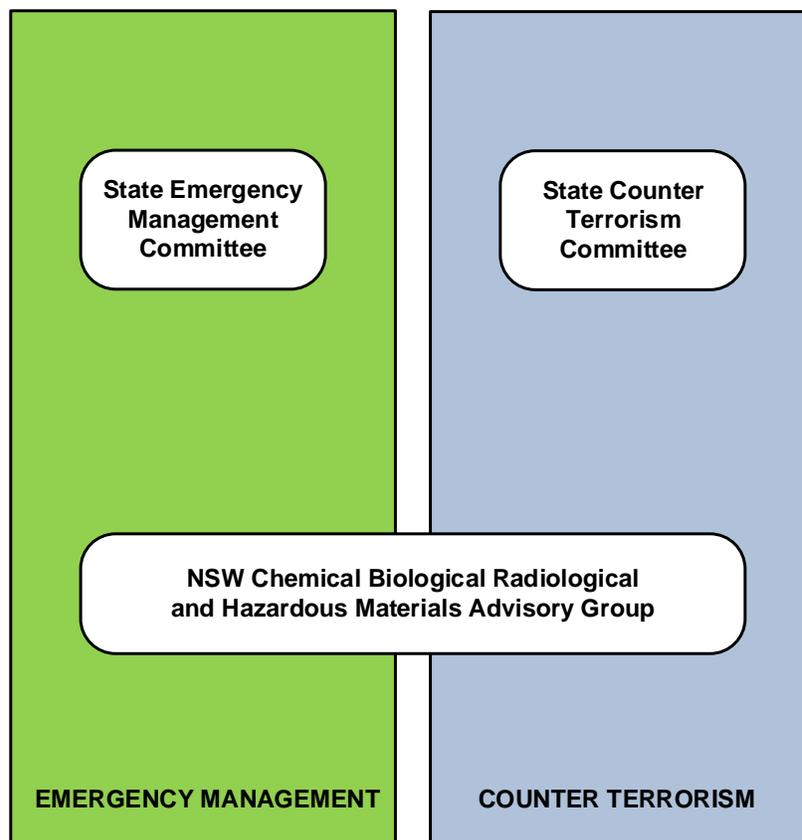


Diagram 1 – Governance and reporting structure

21. The **NSW CBRN/Hazardous Materials Advisory Group** has dual reporting lines to the State Counter Terrorism Committee on CBRN issues and the State Emergency Management Committee for Hazmat issues.
22. The NSW CBRN/Hazardous Materials Advisory Group is responsible for:
- providing strategic direction and oversight of Hazmat prevention, preparedness, response and recovery strategies and capabilities in NSW
 - working with relevant agencies to develop, and maintain the capability to coordinate hazardous material prevention, preparedness, response and recovery strategies
 - evaluating the NSW Hazmat capabilities, supporting legislation, policies and plans and identifying emerging issues and potential gaps
 - establishing links with related peer bodies and partnerships with relevant national committees and working groups
 - the review and maintenance of the NSW Hazmat/CBRN Sub Plan
 - acting as the primary source of advice relating to Hazardous Materials for the:
 - State Counter Terrorism Committee
 - State Emergency Management Committee

Principles

23. The following principles apply to this Plan:
- Intelligence on escalating risks is developed using timely and accurate information regarding the identification and assessment of hazardous materials and/or threat.
 - Risk Management is a systematic application of management policies, procedures and practices, relating to the tasks of communicating, establishing the context, identifying and analysing, evaluating, treating, monitoring and reviewing risk.
 - Multi-agency cooperation NSW relies upon a whole-of-government approach to inform policy, planning, response and recovery decision making.

- Managing the use of hazardous materials relies on established and well-maintained controls, which include legislation and regulations relating to monitoring, control, emergency response, and education for business, industry and the public.
- Response and recovery capability NSW has a consistent approach to capability development including the training and exercising of responders, established standards as well as coordination of plans and arrangements to achieve interoperability across agencies.
- Relationship with business and industry An active partnership with business and industry based on cooperation and coordination between all stakeholders contribute to an effective prevention, preparation, response and recovery outcome.

NSW Capability

24. NSW maintains capabilities to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from Hazmat incidents. The development, maintenance, planning and training of NSW capability is shared across government agencies consistent with core responsibilities and identified capability as follows:
25. Fire and Rescue NSW: Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW) is the combat agency for operational response to Hazmat emergencies (except as detailed in the NSW State Waters Marine Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Plan). FRNSW maintains procedures, equipment, training and resources to command, detect, decontaminate and render safe people, property and areas affected by hazardous materials.
26. NSW Police Force: The NSW Police Force (NSWPF) is the combat agency for acts of crime and terrorism within NSW. The NSWPF will work with relevant agencies to conduct investigations related to the deliberate release of hazardous materials. NSWPF will have overall responsibility for the coordination of the crime scenes resulting from Hazmat emergencies or imminent CBRN acts whether criminal or terrorism in nature.
27. NSW Ambulance: NSW Ambulance (NSWA) is a supporting agency responsible for the emergency care and pre-hospital management of all casualties including the establishment of casualty triage, treatment and transport.

28. Environment Protection Authority: The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is responsible for protecting the environment during emergency response and recovery operations, providing advice and coordinating scientific support to combat agencies in relation to Hazmat response operations. The EPA, as the regulating authority for the Environment Services Functional Area, requires the regulated community to operate in a manner that prevents incidents from occurring as well as requiring them to be adequately prepared in the event of emergencies. The EPA carries out investigations into incidents or emergencies involving hazardous materials and takes appropriate regulatory action where necessary.
29. NSW Rural Fire Service: In a hazardous materials emergency within a NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) response area, the NSW RFS may provide support by maintaining scene safety pending the arrival of FRNSW Hazmat resources, initiating fire fighting operations and providing bulk water supplies for decontamination purposes.
30. NSW State Emergency Service: The NSW State Emergency Service (NSW SES) maintains a disaster assistance capability. During hazardous materials emergencies, the NSW SES may, where requested and risk assessed, provide resources or incident management support to other agencies.
31. NSW Health: NSW Health is a supporting agency and provides health services in accordance with the Health Services Supporting Plan (HEALTHPLAN). During a Hazmat emergency, NSW Health is responsible for providing definitive healthcare to casualties, protecting the physical and mental health of the public during response and recovery operations and providing health advice to other agencies and the public during all phases of the emergency management cycle.
32. Transport for NSW: Transport for NSW (Transport Coordination Division) will provide expert advice on transport arrangements, support EPA and/or FRNSW with waste transportation, and provide support to police and emergency service operations where necessary.
33. Maritime agencies: Roads and Maritime Services (NSW Maritime Division) is the overall managing agency for marine oil/chemical spills and ship accident emergencies in State waters. Combat agency roles are undertaken in accordance with the NSW State Waters Marine Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Plan.

NSW Maritime has responsibility for the overall coordination of response to and recovery from maritime emergencies, including the appointment of a Maritime Pollution Controller.

In addition, NSW Maritime coordinates support to the combat agency and where necessary provides an Incident Controller until the combat agency is determined/agreed.

34. Public Works and Engineering Services: Provide Engineering Emergency Management capability to support combat agencies, other functional areas and asset owners to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from any event. This may include specialist advice, undertake emergency works, hazard and damage assessment, coordinate make safe and clean up (including asbestos), and provide advice on NSW Natural Disaster Relief eligible repair works.
35. Agriculture and Animal Services - NSW Department of Primary Industries: NSW Department of Primary Industries may provide an Agriculture and Animal Services Functional Area Coordinator who may be responsible for providing expert advice to the Site Controller on their capability and capacity, support Police and emergency service operations.
36. Land and Property Management Authority: Through its Land and Property Information division, the Land and Property Management Authority (LPMA) is the key provider of land administration services in NSW. In emergency situations LPMA provides relevant geospatial information to ensure a more efficient and effective response and recovery.
37. Energy and Utility Services: The Energy and Utility Services Functional Area Coordinator of NSW Trade and Investment and participating organisations, will provide specialist advice on energy and utilities arrangements, and provide support to police and emergency service operations where necessary.
38. Volunteer Rescue Association: The Volunteer Rescue Association (VRA) may be requested to provide general rescue resources and support to NSW Police Force and FRNSW during emergency operations.
39. Welfare Services: Welfare Services are responsible for the coordination of welfare (human services) issues and advice. Welfare Services may have responsibility for providing expert advice on welfare arrangements, short, medium, and long-term accommodation and support to displaced members of the community.

40. SafeWork NSW: SafeWork has responsibility for investigations and enforcement of workplace regulations. They may also provide resources to monitor and manage occupational risks, provide advice on regulation compliance, and support FRNSW, NSW Police Force, other emergency services and regulators during investigations of Hazmat emergencies.
41. Local Government: Local Government may have responsibility for providing assistance with information related to the site and/or facility, resources and equipment, enhancing community resilience, assisting FRNSW with the render safe, providing support to Police and emergency service operations and recovery phase services.

Commonwealth Capability

42. Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO): ANSTO operates Australia's only nuclear research reactor and associated radioisotope production and research facilities. As part of these operations and licensing requirements ANSTO maintains comprehensive radiation safety and emergency response capabilities.

In the event of a radiological/nuclear hazardous materials incident, ANSTO can assist by providing scientific expert advice, technical assistance, and make available on-site resources, facilities and systems to the emergency services where they are needed.

43. Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA): ARPANSA is the IAEA designated National Competent Authority for Emergency Preparedness and Response involving radiological materials and can provide specialist technical operational support teams to the Australian Government and the State and Territory jurisdictions upon request.

ARPANSA teams are capable of locating, identifying and characterising radiological material, including being able to assess the geographic and health implications due to an event or incident.

44. Australian Defence Force (ADF): ADF may provide specialist CBRN advice and resources to assist in the detection, decontamination, rendering safe and recovery of Hazmat emergencies. The ADF may assist in the analysis of CBRN material as well as specified people/areas affected by CBRN materials. The ADF will usually be activated under a Defence Force Aid to the Civil Authority (DFACA) arrangement for an emergency; and/or a Defence Force Aid to the Civil Community (DACC) arrangement for less urgent or follow-on tasking.

45. The Defence Intelligence Community: The Defence Intelligence Community may contribute in the detailed analysis of CBRN threats as part of the general NSW and Australian Intelligence Community.
46. The Bureau of Meteorology (The Bureau): The Bureau is Australia's national weather, climate and water agency, providing observations, forecasts, warnings, analysis and advice covering Australia's atmosphere, water, oceans and space environments. The Bureau maintains 24/7/365 operations centres. In the event of a hazardous material/chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear incident, the Bureau can respond to requests for forecasts and advice. This may include provision of site forecasts, wind change charts and plume dispersion modelling.
47. International Agencies: NSW also has identified key international strategic partners that may provide additional assistance/resources from overseas agencies if necessary.

Public Information

48. The management of public information will be undertaken in accordance with the Public Information Services Functional Area Supporting Plan and the NSW Counter Terrorism Public Information Response and Recovery Arrangements.

Training and Exercising

49. NSW agencies participate in exercises designed to test aspects of emergency management in relation to Hazmat / CBRN emergencies at the local, regional, state and federal levels. Plans are revised as necessary following activations and as a consequence of exercise debriefing sessions.
50. The SEMC and/or the NSW Counter Terrorism Exercise Steering Committee routinely conduct multi-agency exercises to practise these arrangements, in part or whole, outlined in this Plan on a regular basis.
51. Each agency and functional area are responsible for conducting education and training and associated exercises of their own arrangements that support this Plan, and/or contribute to Hazmat multi-agency exercises conducted under the auspices of the SEMC and the NSW Counter Terrorism Exercise Steering Committee on an annual basis.

Section 3 – Prevention

52. The prevention (mitigation) of a Hazmat emergency is dealt with through a range of legislative and regulatory controls. These details are not dealt with further in this Plan.
53. Measures to prevent these types of emergencies or the escalation of an incident require effective partnerships between agencies, governments, business, industry and the community.

Section 4 – Response

54. The NSW Government and its agencies are responsible for the operational response to a Hazmat emergency within NSW. The primary considerations relate to the protection of life, property and the environment, including monitoring, containment and rendering safe the hazardous material.
55. Significant Hazmat and CBRN emergencies within NSW will necessitate high level decision making within the NSW Government, taking account of policy implications, community anxiety and the potential requirement for State, National and International cooperation.
56. At all times NSW remains responsible for the operational management and deployment of resources required to deal with Hazmat emergencies. In this regard, the NSW Government maintains a comprehensive set of legislative arrangements which clearly articulate the roles, functions and powers of NSW agencies related to Hazmat emergencies.

Response Arrangements

57. When an incident escalates to an emergency that requires a significant whole of government coordinated multi-agency approach, which requires the Plan to be activated, these arrangements will apply.
58. Hazmat emergencies require a diverse range of resources, skills and knowledge and by necessity, clearly defined lines of command and control. To assist in the effective management of such an emergency NSW relies upon an Integrated Command and Control Model. This model provides a platform that co-locates and integrates all responding agencies, at the strategic, operational and tactical levels to ensure a coordinated approach to the management and resolution of the emergency. This arrangement is represented at Appendix 1, Command and Control Diagram.

Policy Level

59. The Minister for Emergency Services and/or the relevant Minister responsible for specific Hazmat emergencies are responsible for coordinating government policy and government related public information related to the emergency.
60. In the event that either a Hazmat or CBRN emergency is considered to be the result of a deliberate act that is suspected to be terrorism/crime related, the State Crisis Centre may be activated. The State Crisis Centre's primary function is to support the NSW Crisis Policy Committee, centralise information, support government policy and decision making, liaise with the State, Territory and Commonwealth governments and coordinate inter-jurisdictional assistance and public information arrangements. More information on the arrangements of terrorist incidents can be found in the NSW Counter Terrorism Plan.

Strategic Level

61. FRNSW are the combat agency for a Hazmat incident. The SEOCON is responsible for the strategic control, direction and coordination of support to the combat agency responsible for the response and management of a Hazmat emergency in NSW and the agency coordinating clean-up of the site of a Hazmat release. The SEOCON will provide updates and advice to the Minister for Police and Minister for Emergency Services and other relevant Ministers as required.
62. If the event is a terrorist incident, the Police Operations Centre will be activated under the control of the Police Commander nominated by the Commissioner of Police. Additionally, the State Operations Centre will also be activated under the control of the SEOCON. These processes ensure a coordinated strategic response through the co-location and integration of the Police Operations Centre and State Emergency Operations Centre.
63. In the event of an act of terrorism or deliberate criminal act, the NSW Commissioner of Police will appoint a Police Commander (Pioneer Commander if Terrorism, Police Commander if criminal) who will be responsible for the strategic management of all police resources, including the SEOCON, to achieve the Police Commanders strategic intent. The Police Commander has overall responsibility for the coordination of the related investigation.

64. Prior to SEOCON being appointed, the Police Commander, via their Incident Management Team, may request the activation of functional area representatives/coordinators.
65. Agency Chief Executives and Functional Area Coordinators will, if appropriate or if requested by the SEOCON, attend the State Emergency Operations Centre or send a representative.
66. The SEOCON will also activate other relevant and necessary Functional Areas who will appoint Coordinators to coordinate their relevant resources and activities.
67. The Public Information Functional Area Coordinator (PIFAC) is responsible for the coordination, development and provision of public information during a Hazmat emergency requiring the activation of this Plan and therefore, a significant public information response. The PIFAC will report directly to the SEOCON or Police Commander and ensure public information support is provided to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, other relevant Minister(s), State Emergency Operations Centre and Site Control.
68. If the State Crisis Centre is activated the Public Information Coordination Office (PICO) may be established by the SEOCON or Police Commander to coordinate public information on behalf of NSW Government agencies. The PIFAC is responsible for the management of the PICO which will be staffed by communications specialists from responding agencies. The PICO may request additional resources from other government agencies as required.
69. Joint Media Information Centre(s) may be established to provide press conferences and briefings from strategic and operational controllers/commanders and political leaders where appropriate.

Operational Level

70. For non-terrorism related events, the following arrangements apply. At the operational level the SEOCON will appoint a Site Controller who is responsible for the tasking and prioritising of operational activities of supporting Police, emergency services and functional areas, ensuring relevant information is shared. The Site Controller will report directly to the SEOCON.
71. If the release is not accidental, NSW Police will appoint a Police Forward Commander which the Site Controller will report through.

72. A Site Control will be established under the control of the Site Controller to ensure a coordinated operational response through the co-location and integration of the Police Forward Command Post and Local Emergency Operation Centre at the incident site.
73. All coordinating agencies will provide a Functional Area Coordinator to the State Emergency Operations Centre (SEOC). The operational arrangements for each agency and Functional Area are the responsibility of the relevant Functional Area Coordinator and are designed to maximise a Functional Area's effectiveness, whilst working within the Site Controller's operational intent. This may include appointing an agency or Functional Area Coordinator on site if appropriate.
74. Agencies and functional areas include:
- NSW Police Force
 - Fire and Rescue NSW
 - Health Services
 - NSW Ambulance
 - Environmental Services
 - Public Information Services
 - NSW Rural Fire Service
 - NSW State Emergency Service
 - Agriculture and Animal Services (coordinating agency the Department of Primary Industry)
 - Telecommunication Services
 - Energy and Utilities Services
 - Engineering Services
 - Local Government(s)
 - Transport Services
 - Volunteer Rescue Association
 - Welfare Services
 - SafeWork NSW
 - ANSTO
 - Australian Defence Force

Section 5 – Recovery

75. The recovery process commences with the response to a Hazmat / CBRN emergency. It operates alongside the response and will continue after the response operations have been completed. In the context of Hazmat emergencies, recovery occurs within two distinct yet complementary stages:
- Recovery of the site and the remediation of the contaminated area to an acceptable level; and
 - Return of the impacted social, built, economic and natural environments of the affected community to normalcy.
76. Office of Emergency Management Resilience and Recovery Branch work with Local Council and Government Agencies to coordinate the recovery operations.

Recovery Arrangements

77. The NSW Recovery Plan outlines the strategic intent, responsibilities, authorities and mechanisms for recovery following a major natural or non-natural disaster.
78. The NSW Recover Plan has provisions for recovery responses at the local, regional and state level depending on the size and impact of the emergency. It describes the support that can be provided to the coordinating authority during emergency operations.
79. The NSW recovery arrangements described in this plan are consistent with the arrangements in the NSW State Emergency Management Plan and the NSW Recovery Plan.
80. Recovery committees are the strategic decision making body for recovery. Recovery committees provide support to local authorities in managing the recovery process. They provide visible and strong leadership and have a key role in restoring confidence to the community through assessing the consequences of the emergency and coordinating recovery activities.
81. Under the State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989, the State Emergency Recovery Controller is responsible for coordinating the recovery from a significant emergency. The State Emergency Recovery Controller may, in accordance with the Act, issue directions to agencies with functions in connection with the recovery from an emergency.

Site Remediation Process

82. A Waste and Environment Sub-Committee may be formed, reporting back through the main Recovery Committee. This Sub-Committee may be chaired by the EnvFAC or delegate as decided by the Recovery Committee. This group will include representatives from relevant agencies such as the EPA, Health, Engineering, SafeWork, FRNSW and Local Government, and/or other agencies as required.
83. Once the scene has been rendered safe by FRNSW (as per the *Fire and Rescue Act 1989*) the sub-committee will manage the remediation of the scene as follows:
- Containment of the hazard. During a Hazmat emergency. This process may be supported by other functional areas as appropriate.
 - Confirm existence of residual contamination/identification of contamination. If the identity of the hazardous material is not known, identification of the hazardous material may be conducted at the request of the remediation working group by FRNSW, NSW Police Forensic and Technical Services Command, EPA and/or ANSTO.
 - Characterise nature/extent of contamination. The remediation working group will define the objectives for assessing the nature and extent of the contamination. The assessment will be led by the EPA with input from other agencies and may require the engagement of private contractors.
 - Source reduction. Source reduction includes the packaging and removal of grossly contaminated items. The use of specially trained CBRN operators will depend upon the nature, location and level of contamination.
 - Removal/disposal of contaminated items and waste. The EPA will identify disposal sites and/or methods of waste destruction. Assistance may be required from a number of agencies / functional areas including Engineering and Transport Services Functional Areas.
 - Select appropriate remedial method(s). The remediation working group will recommend to the Recovery Committee the most suitable method of decontamination based on both the contaminant and the area of contamination.
 - Decontamination of area. The decontamination process will include a validation phase to ensure that the remediation objectives have been reached. A risk analysis may be carried out to assess whether to take critical infrastructure offline for decontamination.

- Determine effectiveness of remediation. The remediation working group will make recommendations to the Recovery Committee on acceptable exposure limits and standards of effectiveness for the decontamination process as well as determine ranges of acceptance criteria.
- Certification of effective decontamination for re-occupancy. NSW Ministry of Health, in conjunction with the EPA, will be responsible for advising the Recovery Committee of the acceptable criteria for effect decontamination and the process of re-occupancy.

Section 6 – Review

84. This Plan will be reviewed every three to five years or after activation if required.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Command and Control Diagram

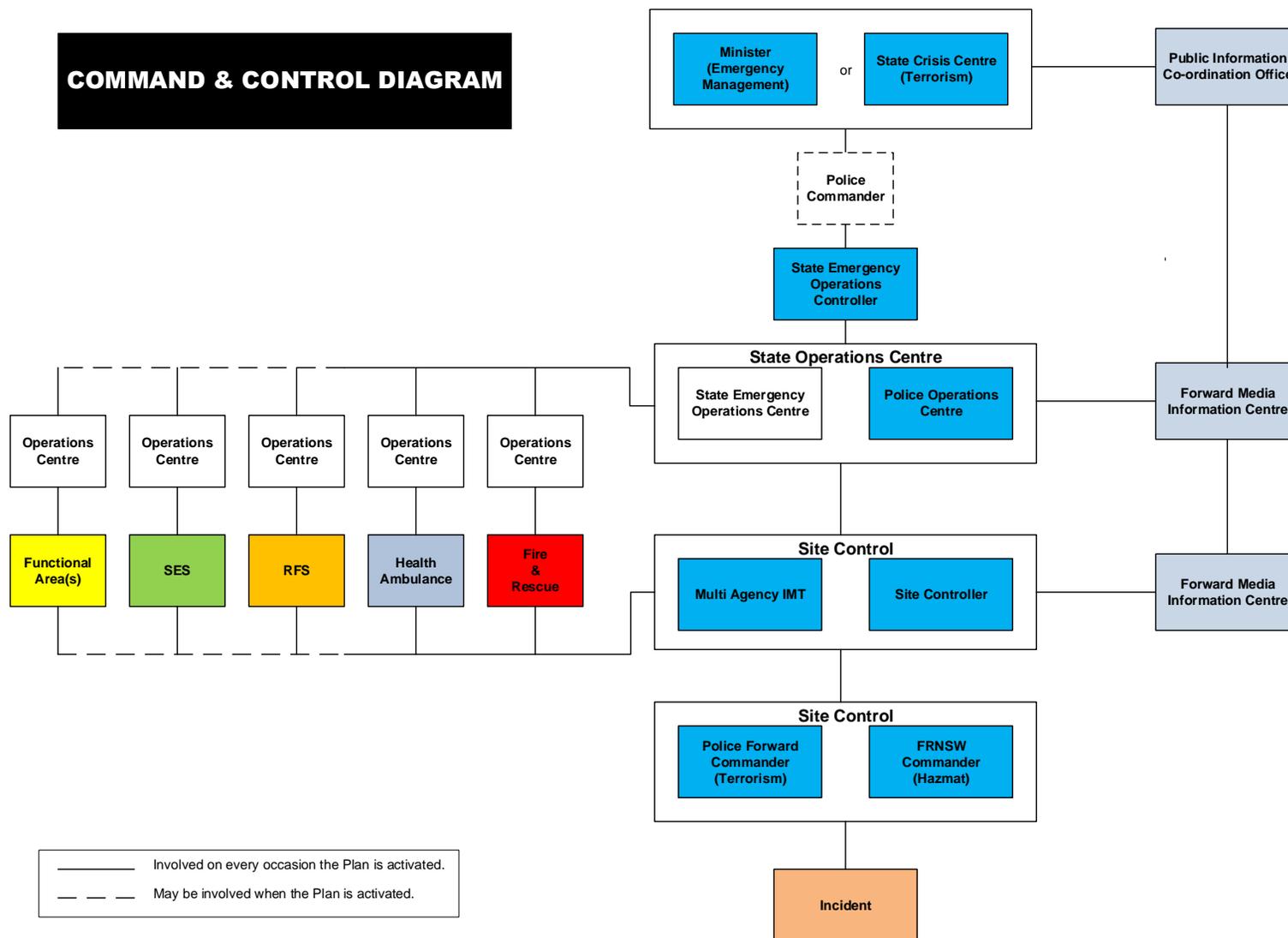
Appendix 2: Generic Site Diagram

Appendix 3: Definitions

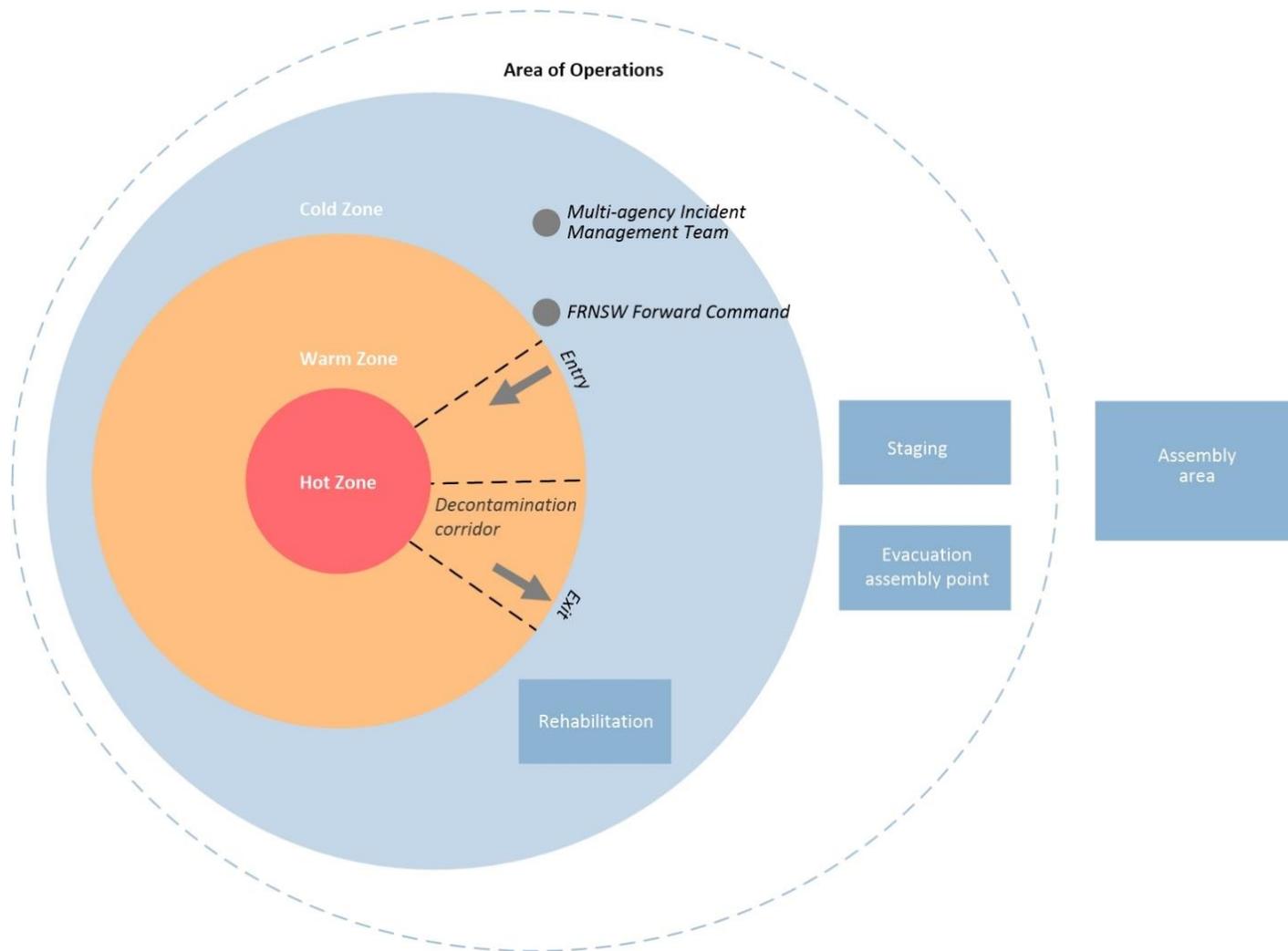
Appendix 4: Acronyms

Appendix 1: Command and Control Diagram

COMMAND & CONTROL DIAGRAM



Appendix 2: Generic Site Diagram



Appendix 3: Definitions

Agriculture and Animals Services Functional Area Coordinator

The State Agriculture and Animal Services Functional Area Coordinator (AASFAC) is a member of the State Emergency Management Committee. This officer has the responsibility to plan for the controlled and coordinated use of all agriculture and animal resources available within the State for the prevention of, preparedness for, response to, and recovery from the impact and effects of any emergency.

Ambulance Commander

A senior member of the NSW Ambulance who is in command of all ambulance operations at the site.

Ambulance Loading Point

An area in which casualties are loaded into ambulances for transport to allocated medical facilities.

Assembly Area

A designated location used for the assembly of affected persons prior to the movement to other designated locations, such as to an Evacuation Centre. An assembly area is used to assist in the control or movement of people away from the site.

Biological Material

Any substance originating from a living organism, including plants, animals or micro-organisms.

Biological Threat Agent (BTA)

A pathogen (disease causing organisms) or toxin (poisons produced by a biological source) which can cause disease in man, plants or animals.

Body Holding Area

An area established in the Cold Zone to temporarily store deceased persons prior to conveyance to the mortuary.

State Counter Terrorism Committee

This Group supports the Cabinet Standing Committee on Counter Terrorism, emergency management and community safety. It is chaired by the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Chemical Material

Any pure chemical or mixture of two or more chemicals that retain their individual chemical properties. Chemicals here may refer to an element, a compound or a complex of chemicals.

Combat Area

The area as identified by Fire and Rescue NSW as the Hot and Warm zones.

Contamination

The actual or potential exposure of persons, animals, property or the environment to a hazardous material.

Chemical Warfare Agent (CWA)

A chemical agent used in warfare which can be in liquid, gas or solid form.

Decontamination

The process of assessing, removing, reducing and/or preventing the spread of contamination.

Decontamination Corridor

The corridor through which people and equipment are decontaminated when moved from the contaminated to the uncontaminated area.

The process used to record the movements or intended movements of displaced persons, whether injured or not, and other relevant details necessary for police operations, as well as ensuring that inquiries from concerned relatives and friends can be expediently dealt with.

Defence Assistance to the Civil Community

Defence Assistance to the Civil Community (DACC) provides for Defence assistance to States and Territories. There are six levels, with categories 1-3 provided where there is a direct threat to life and/or property, whereas categories 4-6 provide for non-emergency assistance.

Defence Force Aid to the Civil Authority

If there is any possibility that force may be required to be used by Defence personnel, the activity is defined as Defence Force Aid to the Civilian Authorities (DFACA).

Deputy State Emergency Recovery Controller

The Director of Resilience and Recovery, Office of Emergency Management with responsibility alongside the State Emergency Recovery Controller for the overall co-ordination of recovery operations at the State level or as otherwise prescribed in hazard specific plans.

Deputy State Emergency Operations Controller

An officer designated by the Secretary of the Department of Justice with responsibility, alongside the State Emergency Operations Controller, for the response to an emergency at the State level.

District Emergency Operations Controller

The Region Commander of Police appointed by the Commissioner of Police, as the District Emergency Operations Controller for the Emergency Management District.

Engineering Services Functional Area Coordinator

The Engineering Services Functional Area Coordinator provides Engineering Emergency Management coordination advice and support to combat agencies and functional areas during emergencies.

Environmental Services Coordination Centre

The coordination centre set up by the Environment Protection Authority to coordinate the Environment Services Support and may be near to or remote from the emergency.

Environmental Services Functional Area Commander

A designated officer of the Environment Protection Authority, who provides a point of contact for the Environmental Services Functional Area to the site, provision of specialist advice, and is responsible for the on-site coordination of recovery operations associated with cleanup, site remediation and waste treatment and disposal.

Evacuation Centre

A centre established to meet the immediate needs of affected people following an emergency situation. This may include travellers (commuters and tourists) who are unable to complete their journey.

Evidence Collection Centre

An area established and operated by the NSW Police Force to support investigations by all agencies being undertaken within the site.

Fire and Rescue Commander

A senior Fire and Rescue NSW Officer who commands all FRNSW operations at the site.

Forward Command

A single service term which refers to the location at or near the site of the hazardous materials emergency from which the service Forward Commander commands the activities of their organisation.

Functional Area

Under EMPLAN a Functional Area refers to a category of services involved in the preparations for an emergency, including Agriculture and Animal, Communication, Energy and Utility, Engineering, Environmental, Health, Public Information, Transport and Welfare Services.

Functional Area Coordinator

Is the nominated Coordinator of a Functional Area, tasked to coordinate the provision of Functional Area support and resources for emergency response and recovery operations, who, by agreement of Participating and Supporting Organisations within the Functional Area, has the authority to commit the resources of those organisations.

Geospatial Information

Information that identifies the geographic location and characteristics of natural or constructed features and boundaries on the Earth.

Hazardous Material

Anything that, when produced, stored, moved, used or otherwise dealt with without adequate safeguards to prevent it from escaping, may cause injury or death or damage to property (*Fire and Rescue Act 1989*).

Hazardous Materials Emergency

Any hazardous materials incident which requires a significant and coordinated response. Such emergencies may be land based or occur on or in the inland waters or the marine waters of NSW.

Health Commander

The Health Commander is the commander appointed by the Health Services Functional Area Coordinator to coordinate and control all health operations at the site.

Hot Zone

The area of actual or impending contamination as defined by the Fire and Rescue NSW Commander in consultation with the Site Controller/Police Forward Command.

Inland waters

Those waters within the limits of the State that are not State waters (or prescribed as State waters).

Integrated Command and Control System ICCS+

The Integrated Command and Control Model combines the NSW emergency management arrangements as defined by the *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989* and the State Emergency Management Plan with the agreed counter terrorism arrangements in the National Counter Terrorism Plan. It provides the platform for seamlessly addressing the policy, strategic and operational management of a terrorism incident.

Joint Media Information Centre

A designated assembling area for media where joint media briefings are held and spokespersons from responding agencies are collated.

Land Based

Any area in NSW including land and inland waters.

Local Emergency Operation Centre

A centre established at the local level as a centre of communication, and as the central area the co-ordination of operations and support, during an emergency.

Maritime Pollution Controller

High level government official appointed by the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight who has responsibility for the overall control of a major maritime incident (or potential incident) response.

NSW Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear and Hazardous Materials Advisory Group

Chaired by Fire and Rescue NSW, this Advisory Group is responsible for the development, maintenance and review of Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Hazardous Material multi agency prevention, preparedness, response and recovery capabilities within NSW and reports to the State Emergency Management Committee.

NSW Counter Terrorism Exercise Steering Committee

This is a multi-agency committee chaired by the Assistant Commissioner, Counter Terrorism & Special Tactics Command, NSW Police. It is responsible for the approval, management and conduct of all exercises within NSW that have a counter terrorism theme or focus.

NSW Counter Terrorism Public Information Response and Recovery Arrangements

The NSW Counter Terrorism Public Information Response and Recovery Arrangements detail, for NSW Government agencies, the responsibilities, authorities and mechanisms for the management, co-ordination and release of information to the public in response to a terrorist incident.

NSW Crisis Policy Committee

In the event of a terrorist incident, this Committee will be formed and responsible for the overall policy management of the incident. It is chaired by the NSW Premier and comprises of Ministers from emergency, transport and other relevant agencies.

NSW State Emergency Management Plan (EMPLAN)

The State Emergency Management Plan (EMPLAN) is the document outlining the overall agreed roles and responsibilities of agencies in emergency management. The State Disaster Plan details emergency preparedness, response and recovery arrangements for New South Wales to ensure the coordinated response to emergencies by all agencies having responsibilities and functions in emergencies.

NSW Recovery Plan

The New South Wales Recovery Plan outlines the strategic intent, responsibilities, authorities and the mechanisms for disaster recovery in New South Wales. The Recovery Plan, which will be supported by guidelines, allows for the development and implementation of a planned recovery following a natural disaster or other emergency.

NSW State Waters Marine Oil and Chemicals Spill Contingency Plan

The aim of the plan is to outline the arrangements to deal with marine oil or chemical spills and marine incidents such as groundings, collisions, disabled vessel, fire on a vessel etc that could result in an oil or chemical spill into State waters of NSW.

Police Commander

A senior NSW Police Officer who has overall strategic command of an operation. Where the incident is terrorism related the Police Commissioner will appoint a Pioneer Commander (for overall strategic command) and Pioneer Forward Commander/s for specific locations/areas/scenes.

Police Forward Commander

A senior NSW Police Officer who has command of a particular geographic area/scene/site and reports to the Police Commander.

Police Forward Command Post

A Police Forward Command Post, under the control of a Police Forward Commander, may be established where an incident site has been identified to co-ordinate operational activity.

Police Operations Centre

The Police Operation Centre may be established following a major incident (terrorism, criminal, emergency) to provide overall strategic command, under the responsibility of an appointed Police Commander.

Public Health

Public health relates to the protection of the health of the public as distinct from individuals.

Public Information Coordination Office

The Public Information Coordination Office may be established following a terrorist incident to provide a single source of co-ordinated public information on behalf of all agencies.

Public Information Functional Area Coordinator

This officer is responsible for the co-ordination, development and provision of public information following a terrorist incident. The Public Information Functional Area Co-ordinator will ensure public information support to the State Operations Centre, the State Crisis Centre and Site Control.

Public Information Services Functional Area Supporting Plan

This plan details the arrangements for the coordination, collection, collation and dissemination of public information in an emergency under the control of an emergency operations controller. This includes the coordinated release of public safety / warning messages and public information, public education, and interaction between all media agencies during all phases of emergency operations.

Radiological Material

Radioactive materials in terms of this Plan, is equivalent to the more commonly used term 'radioactive substance'.

A radioactive substance refers to any natural or artificial substance whether in solid or liquid form or in the form of a gas or vapour (including any article or compound whether it has or has not been subjected to any artificial treatment or process) which emits ionising radiation spontaneously.

Recovery Centre

A Recovery Centre provides a one stop shop for impacted residents and businesses to access assistance and information. This removes the necessity for victims to seek services at several venues and eliminates the duplication of services provided to individuals and families. It also aids in the coordination of human services.

Recovery Committee

The Recovery Committee is the strategic decision-making body for local recovery. It provides support to the local community and local authorities in managing the recovery process and provides visible and strong leadership.

Recovery Coordinator

A Recovery Coordinator may be appointed by the NSW Government to be the public face of the recovery operation providing guidance to the Recovery Committee. If appointed, the Recovery Coordinator chairs the Recovery Committee and acts as the conduit between the Recovery Committee, the community and the State Government.

Render Safe

Render safe means a determination by the FRNSW Commander, in consultation with the EPA that an incident has been rendered safe with regard to public health and damage to property and that the hazardous material is safe for transportation and/or temporary storage.

Residual Contamination

Contamination that remains after steps have been taken to remove it.

State Emergency Operations Controller (SEOCN)

The person appointed by the Governor, on the recommendation of the Minister responsible in the event of an emergency which affects more than one District, for controlling the allocation of resources in response to the emergency. The State Emergency Operations Controller is to establish and control a State Emergency Operations Centre (NSW EMPLAN).

State Emergency Recovery Controller (SERCON)

The office of the State Emergency Recovery Controller is held by the Secretary of the Department of Justice or by a senior executive of the Department of Justice designated by the Secretary and is responsible for controlling the recovery from the emergency in accordance with Section 20B of the *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989*.

Site Control

The location from which the Site Controller, agency commanders and functional areas coordinate the emergency. It usually includes the relevant Emergency Service Commanders and Functional Area Coordinators and other advisors as required.

Site Controller

A Police Officer appointed by and subject to the direction of an emergency operations controller, to be responsible for determining the site, establishing site control and controlling the on-ground response to the emergency. Until the emergency operations controller appoints a site controller, the senior police officer will assume control.

Site Remediation

Site remediation is the process of removing pollutants and contaminants from a specified site.

Staging Area

An area in the Cold Zone, where support response personnel, vehicles and other equipment can be held in readiness for use/call forward, during a response to an emergency.

State Crisis Centre

This centre is established when an incident occurs, or a significant threat is manifest to centralise information, support ministerial and state government policy making and coordinate inter-jurisdictional assistance. The State Crisis Centre will also coordinate public information arrangements with other States/Territories and the Australian Government.

State Emergency Management Committee

The committee constituted under the *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989* (as amended), is the principal committee of emergency management throughout the State, and, in particular, is responsible for emergency planning at State level.

State Emergency Operations Controller

The person appointed by the Governor, that is responsible, in the event of an emergency which affects more than one District, for controlling the allocation of resources in response to the emergency.

State Operations Centre

This centre may be established if multi-agency co-ordination is required following a terrorist incident. The centre is established under the authority of the State Emergency Operations Controller and ensures a co-ordinated response through the collocation and integration of the Police Operations Centre and the State Emergency Operations Centre.

State Waters

State waters can be defined as:

- the territorial sea adjacent to the State;
- the sea on the landward side of the territorial sea adjacent to the State that is not within the limits of the State; and
- other waters within the limits of the State prescribed by the Marine Pollution Regulation 2014.

This refers to the territorial sea from the low water mark seaward for three nautical miles, as well as prescribed harbour/port waters. (see Annex "C" for details) (*Marine Pollution Act 2012*, Section 3).

Terrorism

An act or threat, intended to advance a political, ideological or religious cause by coercing or intimidating a government or the public, by causing serious harm to people or property, creating a serious risk of health and safety to the public, disrupting trade, critical infrastructure, or electronic systems (*Terrorism (Police Powers) Act 2002*).

Appendix 4: Acronyms

ADF	Australian Defence Force
ANSTO	Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation
CBRN	Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear
DACC	Defence Force Aid to the Civil Community
DEOCon	District Emergency Operations Controller
DFACA	Defence Force Aid to the Civil Authority
DSEOCN	Deputy State Emergency Operations Controller
DSERCON	Deputy State Emergency Recovery Controller
EMPLAN	NSW State Emergency Management Plan
EnvSFAC	Environmental Services Functional Area Commander
EPA	Environment Protection Authority
FRNSW	Fire and Rescue New South Wales
Hazmat	Hazardous Material
HEALTHPLAN	Health Services Supporting Plan
HSFAC	Health Services Functional Area Coordinator
IED	Improvised Explosive Device
LO	Liaison Officer
LPMA	Land and Property Management Authority
MPC	Marine Pollution Controller
NSW	New South Wales
NSWA	NSW Ambulance
NSWPF	New South Wales Police Force
PICO	Public Information Functional Area Coordinator
PIFAC	Public Information Functional Area Coordinator
RFS	Rural Fire Service
SEOC	State Emergency Operations Centre
SEOCN	State Emergency Operations Controller
SERCON	State Emergency Recovery Controller
SEMC	State Emergency Management Committee
SERM Act	NSW State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989
SES	State Emergency Service
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
USAR	Urban Search and Rescue
VRA	Volunteer Rescue Association

Annexure – Asbestos Emergency Funding Arrangements

Aim

This Annexure of the HAZMAT/CBRN Sub Plan details the specific arrangements for the coordinated funding and management of asbestos debris during and following a larger scale disaster or emergency, being an event that requires a significant and coordinated response, where the presence of asbestos containing material (ACM) in the community poses a significant risk to public health and safety.

Background

As a result of some larger scale disasters or emergencies, asbestos debris may be present in the community for a prolonged period beyond that normally required to resolve a hazardous materials incident i.e. days or weeks. This extended period required to render the hazard safe can cause undue community distress, increase the potential for exposure, increase costs and delay recovery. This Annexure has been prepared to clarify the arrangements for a timely resolution to protect public health and safety.

Context

The *NSW State-wide Asbestos Plan (2013)* and the *Asbestos Blueprint (2017)* were developed by the 'Heads of Asbestos Coordination Authorities' (HACA) as authoritative conceptual guidelines for the management of ACM. The *State-wide Asbestos Plan* describes the principles for the safe management of ACM in NSW, while the *Asbestos Blueprint* outlines the role and responsibilities of State and Local Government agencies.

This Annexure expands on these guidelines describing how they apply to the management of ACM encountered during the response and recovery phases of a larger scale disaster or emergency. It is directed towards the management of significant asbestos contamination that may be associated with contemporary disaster events such as fire, flood, storm or explosion.

Render Safe

When ACM is suspected during an emergency, the responsible Combat Agency for the emergency (FRNSW, RFS, SES or Police) will carry out the following initial actions to render the hazard safe:

- **prevent access** to the immediate area which may contain damaged ACM. This can be achieved for example, by limiting public use of roads to the area, signage and fencing;

- the **Combat agency**, if not Fire and Rescue NSW, will inform Fire and Rescue NSW of the location and any relevant Rapid Damage Assessments for ACM as soon as practicable; and
- **control dust** in consultation with FRNSW by the appropriate method which can include damping down with water, spray with Poly Vinyl Acetate (PVA) glue, cover with tarpaulins or plastic sheeting etc.
- The Combat Agency may request Engineering to undertake early community air monitoring for airborne asbestos.

These controls may need to be maintained until the ACM is assessed and/or removed and the site clean-up is cleared by expert advice from an occupational hygienist that an ACM risk is no longer present. The Combat Agency or responsible authority to maintain control of dust will be determined by the type of emergency and the stage of the response or recovery.

Responsibility for Site-assessment and Clean-up

Responsibility for site assessment, clean-up and removal of ACM resulting from a larger scale disaster or emergency rests with the person or company responsible for the ACM or the owner of the site from which the ACM originated. Where necessary, the appropriate regulatory authority (usually the local council or the EPA) can direct clean-up operations using powers under Part 4.2 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*.

If the circumstances of the event mean that the responsible person is not able to carry out clean-up in a timely manner and there is an elevated risk to public health and safety, then consideration should be given to activating the funding arrangements outlined below to facilitate clean-up by a public authority.

Funding for the Management of Asbestos

In larger scale disasters or emergencies clean-up action must be taken without delay to protect public health and safety and it may not be practicable to require the responsible person to pay in the first instance. The eligibility criteria for funding is set out in the Disaster Assistance Guideline.

The objective of the funding available is to minimise delays that may cause exposures in places that the public have access increasing the risk to public health and safety.

Disaster Assistance Guidelines

The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) has published the NSW Disaster Assistance Guidelines (DAG) under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. The DAG A.12 *Clean-up and Removal of Asbestos Containing Material from Residential Property for Public Health and Safety* provides for immediate financial assistance of up to \$200,000 in extraordinary circumstances where ACM from damaged residential properties presents an unacceptable risk to the health and safety of the public.

Phase 2 funding will be made available to NSW Public Works to co-ordinate the clean-up and remove the asbestos containing materials in a timely manner to protect public health and safety and streamline recovery efforts.

Activation of Disaster Assistance Guideline Funding

The provision of funding under the DAG A.12 requires certain criteria to be met and assessment by the Asbestos Advisory Committee (AAC).

Under the DAG A.12 the following provisions may be made:

- Phase 1 assistance may include assessment of the ACM situation and urgent works to render safe the ACM on private residential properties affected by a Natural Disaster; and
- Phase 2 assistance may include clean-up and removal of ACM from residential properties as per the eligibility criteria

Asbestos Advisory Committee

The Asbestos Advisory Committee (AAC) will be Chaired by the Environmental Services Functional Area Coordinator, Deputy Environmental Services Functional Area Coordinator or their nominee and comprise the following membership:

- Environmental Services Functional Area
- Engineering Services Functional Area
- Health Services Functional Area
- Fire and Rescue NSW
- NSW Rural Fire Service
- NSW State Emergency Services
- SafeWork NSW
- Local Government NSW
- Office of Emergency Management

The Environmental Services Functional Area will provide secretariat functions for convening the AAC including record keeping. Minutes of each convening of the AAC will be provided to all members.

The AAC membership and process for assessment and authorisation will remain the same for DAG A.12 Phase 1 and Phase 2 funding requests.

Assessment and Authorisation Process

The process for assessment and authorisation of DAG A.12 funding is as follows:

1. The Combat Agency responsible for the larger scale disaster or emergency during the response phase, or the SERCON during the recovery phase, will advise the Environmental Services Functional Area (EnvSFA) that the extraordinary circumstances may exist to convene the AAC
2. A Natural Disaster has been declared or is likely to be declared, or the situation is a significant emergency
3. If warranted, the EnvSFA will convene AAC with member representatives
4. The AAC will assess the available information and may request FRNSW, other Emergency Service Organisation or Functional Area to gather further information to inform a decision
5. EnvSFAC in their capacity as ACC Chair will make a recommendation on the activation of the DAG A.12 to the SEOCAN during the response phase of an asbestos emergency or the SERCON during the recovery phase of an asbestos emergency
6. SEOCAN or SERCON will make a decision on the activation of the DAG A.12 and advise OEM Natural Disaster Expenditure and Governance (NDEG) Branch and the AAC of the decision
7. The Engineering Services Functional Area Coordinator will arrange for Public Works to coordinate the works in accordance with Disaster Assistance Guideline A.12 in consultation with the AAC, the local council(s), OEM and the SEOCAN/SERCON.

Assessment and Authorisation Flow Chart

