

EMA Research & Innovation Program

The EMA Research and Innovation Program aims to facilitate the capture and transfer of innovative practice and disaster research outcomes across the sector.

For more information please contact Sue Collins 02 6256 4614 or Mike Tarrant 03 5421 5219, or email projects@ema.gov.au

Projects funded for the EMA Research and Innovation Projects Program 2005/06

Development of a model for Civilian Disaster Medical Assistance Teams

Summary

Unlike other countries, Australia does not have a significant history of deploying civilian medical teams into disaster areas. In both the Aitape (Papua New Guinea) tsunami in 1998 and the Bali bombing in 2002, the Australian Defence Force had the primary responsibility for deploying medical teams into the disaster area. Most States and Territories have also based their internal disaster relief medical teams around major hospitals, a practice which had been questioned following the 1997 Thredbo disaster. Because this particular disaster produced only a single live casualty, a review of medical team performance under multiple casualty incident or disaster conditions was not possible.

As a result of the most recent tsunami disaster in South East Asia, Australia sent civilian medical teams into the affected areas at short notice. The first four teams deployed needed to be medically equipped and able to live in the field, which was a major challenge for the current health logistics systems. The preparation and screening of personnel sent was also done rapidly, making it difficult to ensure the most appropriate people had deployed. This was further complicated by the changing roles of the teams, in one case from surgical to public health, in the 24 hours prior to leaving.

The United States developed Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMAT) as part of the National Disaster Medical System in 1981. While the US focus is more internal, the concept could be applied to civilian medical teams in Australia to provide a disaster medical response either intrastate, interstate or internationally.

Cultural Diversity: To establish guidelines on understanding the cultures, strengths and needs of non-Christian faith communities

Summary

Faith communities are highly diverse in their theologies, values and organisations and, as a consequence, can bring a variety of contributions to other social networks that already exist within a community. Sadly, this contribution is often ignored or vigorously opposed. Engagement with faith communities makes demands on official leaders and members of other non-religious networks, requiring an understanding of religious literacy, tolerance and close encounters for which they are either ill equipped or bound by perceived stereotypes.

Engaging faith communities in community building and how to achieve that involvement is a neglected area of study. The commitments, interests, organisation, places of worship and the social networks that originate from these groups, which in turn relate to peoples religious beliefs and identities, have an important contribution to any community building initiatives.

This research seeks to understand and enhance the contributions that can be made by faith communities such as Muslims, Buddhists and others that may emerge from this research to the programs of disaster response, community recovery and community building.

The development of clinical practice guidelines for Acute Stress Disorder (ASD) and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

Summary

The Australian Centre for Posttraumatic Mental Health (ACPMH) has been appointed by NH&MRC to develop best practice clinical guidelines for assisting adults following disaster and trauma. Specifically, the guidelines will outline evidence-based, best practice treatment of individuals who have developed, or are at risk of developing, distressing reactions generally consistent with diagnostic criteria for ASD and PTSD. The working group established by ACPMH for this project comprises top clinicians and researchers from around Australia in the field of posttraumatic mental health.

The working group will oversee a systematic review of research and clinical literature in the area of posttraumatic stress and related conditions. The review will identify levels of clinical and research evidence for common interventions. On the basis of this evidence, the working party will generate recommendations which will form the basis of the guidelines.

A sophisticated consultation process is required to ensure that the clinical guidelines are of practical utility and are widely accepted. In this project, the working group will seek regular input at each stage of the process from a multidisciplinary panel (MDP) comprising representatives of consumers, researchers, clinicians, service providers and purchasers, and other key stakeholder organisations.

Key deliverables for the project will be a summary of the evidence for the range of interventions following trauma and a set of clinical practice guidelines, endorsed by multidisciplinary practitioners across a variety of care settings and approved by NH&MRC. The document will form a national standard against which proposed interventions can be assessed.

What is recovery and what helps people recover? An investigation into medium and long-term community recovery after the 2003 Canberra bushfire disaster

Summary

A multidisciplinary research team across ACT Government and universities has been established to investigate the process of individual and community recovery after a disaster. The team brings together expertise from government, mental health, social work and communication to fully explore the recovery process. The project has four interlocking strands:

1. Whole-of-government, in partnership with community, approaches to recovery. The Bushfire Recovery Task Force and the ACT Recovery Centre provide a model for government/community response to natural disasters. The key research questions explore what the affected community accessed in terms of services provided: what worked, what the gaps were, and where people and communities are now in their recovery.
2. Communication and information provision to the community as part of the recovery process. The communication strategies of government and community groups will be explored in depth and analysed to develop models for effective communication approaches for communities in recovery.
3. The long-term mental health outcomes in individuals exposed to the bushfires. Using the expertise of the Department of Psychiatry, ACT Health, the research team will administer standardised instruments to look at morbidities such as depression, anxiety, PTSD and alcohol abuse.
4. Community and individual resilience. The impact of government and community recovery programs on community and individual sustainability will be evaluated and community development strategies identified which may become models for other recovery programs.

EM Update

Emergency Management Australia provides national leadership in the development of measures to reduce risk to communities and manage the consequences of disasters. EM Update provides current information on activities and issues in the emergency management environment across EMA and State and Territory jurisdictions.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE PREMIER & CABINET, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Eyre Peninsula bushfire recovery

The Lower Eyre Peninsula bushfire in January 2005 devastated a regional community and had major economic, environmental, social and physical impact. Nine people died and more than 1200 people were directly affected. This was a fire that burnt high value farming enterprises interspersed with remnant vegetation.

The fire-affected area was eight hours drive from the State's capital and covered remote rural communities, some of which were completely obliterated. The town of Wanilla was burnt to the ground and many landholders and residents lost everything – homes, sheds, stock, crops, equipment and their livelihoods. Seventy-nine homes were destroyed and more than 200 properties damaged. Major infrastructure was damaged, disrupting power, water and communications to hundreds of residents. Flora and fauna – some unique to the area – were destroyed and may never return.

The summer fire was followed by the driest autumn on record, leaving many crops unsown or with insufficient rain to prosper. Thousands of stock were agisted away from the area and many could not be returned as there was insufficient feed.

The recovery from such a disaster presented unique difficulties given the geographical location, the range of needs and the nature of the affected community.

Within hours of the declaration of an 'identified major incident' the SA government marshalled resources to assist the devastated communities and coordinate the recovery operation led out of Port Lincoln.

Within 24 hours:

- a Duty Minister with "full Cabinet authority" was despatched to the devastated area;
- the Bushfire Recovery Centre was established as a "one stop" shop;

- the Hotline, set up through Centrelink, was ready to receive calls;
- the State Recovery Committee was convened;
- personal hardship and distress grants were provided;
- the Premier announced funding support for the relief operation; and
- contact was made with the ACT and a representative travelled to Port Lincoln to share Canberra's lessons from their 2003 fires.

The Duty Minister's role proved an important part of a swift government response. This ensured that the range of new recovery grants were appropriately targeted and local issues dealt with adequate priority.

With the devastation has come the opportunity to start again in a new way. The destruction of properties has given the opportunity to completely reinvigorate businesses and ensure sustainability and viability. The recovery program includes Federal and State government support for reinstatement of farm enterprises. Rather than repairing their land and crops, this recovery effort involves recreating whole new ways of doing business. The manner in which crops and stock were handled has been reassessed and newer and better practices are being considered and adopted.

The number of volunteers who offered their time and efforts was such that the assistance of Army personnel was sought to manage the camp sites set up to accommodate the volunteers. The volunteer effort continues with people travelling from around the country and even from New Zealand to assist. A campsite continues to be managed locally and volunteers are welcome to come and help out.

Eyre Peninsula bushfire recovery

(continued)

In many ways, the Lower Eyre Peninsula bushfire recovery effort provides a template for future recovery operations. As the first such operation instituted under the newly proclaimed *Emergency Management Act 2004*, it highlighted the broad scope of recovery as a core function in emergency management.

*For further information contact Ross Pagram
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email: pagram.ross@saugov.sa.gov.au*

SAFECOM & Act

On 1 October 2005, a new *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005*, was proclaimed. This new legislation consolidates the existing Acts of the SA Metropolitan Fire Service, Country Fire Service and State Emergency Service into one Act with supporting regulations.

The purpose of the Act is to establish the SA Fire and Emergency Services Commission (SAFECOM), an organisation that provides governance and strategic accountability of the emergency services sector to a single Board, subject to the control of the Minister for Emergency Services.

*For further information contact David Cant
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Doppler Radar

On 28 October 2005, the Bureau of Meteorology commissioned a new state-of-the-art "Doppler" radar to the north of Adelaide. It is the first of six to be installed in Australia as part of a \$62 million commitment by the Federal Government over five years.

Information from the radar will benefit the wide range of services provided by the Bureau of Meteorology, including severe weather, hydrological, marine and aviation.

This means:

- severe weather systems will be more accurately depicted;
- better estimates of rainfall across catchments in the Mount Lofty Ranges will be obtained;
- improved flood forecasts will result;
- wind flows over Adelaide and adjoining areas can be monitored; and
- short-term prediction of potentially damaging winds and rapid wind changes which could impact on bushfires in summers will be enhanced.

*For further information contact Andrew Watson
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EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT POLICY

Urban Search and Rescue Capability Development Project

The Urban Search and Rescue Capability Development Project is a joint effort between the Australian Government and the State and Territory governments to develop national USAR policy and operational arrangements. It provides equipment, and training of rescue personnel, operational managers and government decision-makers. This project aims to build the national USAR capability.

The project team has consulted extensively with USAR authorities in each State and Territory to identify equipment needs for each jurisdiction. The procurement methodology is being finalised and will comply with Australian Government procurement guidelines. Delivery of equipment will commence before Christmas 2005. The equipment procurement element of this project is scheduled for completion over the next 18 months.

NSW Fire Brigades and the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service have already delivered USAR Category 2 training courses to multi-discipline teams throughout Australia.

The EMA project team provides regular reports to the National Counter Terrorism Committee, the Australian Emergency Management Committee and the National USAR Working Group.

*For further information contact James Gustus
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Emergency Services Infrastructure Assurance Advisory Group

On 5 October 2005, the Emergency Services Infrastructure Assurance Advisory Group (ES IAAG) held discussion exercise Cold Comfort. The discussion exercise examined the consequences of a pandemic influenza on the emergency services including:

- planning, response and recovery;
- impact on numbers of staff that may be incapacitated and how they would cope under such circumstances;
- delivery of service both quantitatively and qualitatively, and,
- critical tasks that must be performed during a major event for essential services to be delivered to the community and industry.

The discussion exercise was facilitated by EMA Principal Education Officer Colin Fiford. Dr Moira McKinnon from the Communicable Diseases Branch of the Department of Health and Ageing gave a detailed presentation from a health viewpoint.

This exercise built on work commenced in September 2004 in which ES IAAG members were tasked with identifying, from their agencies perspective, the services on which they depend. Agreement was reached on communications, energy, transport and health.

Cold Comfort provided an opportunity for the energy and communications sectors to provide some context for the ES IAAG to consider continued service provision in an influenza pandemic.

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COAG's National Inquiry on Bushfire Mitigation and Management

Following agreement from State and Territory governments, on 24 January 2005 the Prime Minister released the report of, and COAG response to, the COAG *National Inquiry on Bushfire Mitigation and Management*.

The report can be downloaded from www.coagbushfireenquiry.gov.au/.

The report highlights opportunities to improve co-operation and management of fire fighting resources. The report stresses the need for better understanding of risk, a greater focus on mitigation and better co-operation across jurisdictions. COAG agreed that the Augmented Australasian Police Ministers' Council will have a lead role in co-ordinating and monitoring the implementation/consideration of the report's 29 recommendations and 46 findings.

The Department of Transport and Regional Services (DOTARS) is responsible for co-ordinating and reporting on the implementation of the recommendations of the Report. EMA is responsible for reporting on implementation of several of the recommendations to DOTARS and is working with relevant Australian Government Departments and all States and Territories to this end.

*For further information contact Claire Sullivan
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COAG Report on Natural Disasters in Australia – Reforming mitigation, relief and recovery arrangements

The COAG report examined the ways in which Australia's national capacity to mitigate natural disasters and to manage their effects could be improved. It made a number of recommendations which broadly aligned with 12 reform commitments for action. Eight working groups, incorporating all levels of government, were formed to progress

the implementation of the recommendations and commitments. EMA provides a secretariat and reporting service to these working groups.

At the August AEMC meeting, it was agreed that the AEMC Strategic Works plan would incorporate an implementation plan for the work resulting out of the review. It was agreed that there would be broader

reporting based on the 12 reform commitments rather than focusing on the individual recommendations. The AEMC reports to the Augmented Australasian Police Minister's Council on the implementation of the recommendations and commitments.

*For further information contact Kim Fitzgerald
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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Working Together to Manage Emergencies

Applications for funding under the Working Together to Manage Emergencies Initiatives scheme in financial year 2005/06 closed on 29 July 2005. State Selection Committees met in each jurisdiction over the period 30 August – 12 September to prioritise applications for funding under both the Local Grants Scheme and the National Emergency Volunteer Support Fund.

The priority lists from individual jurisdictions for both programs are currently being compiled into a composite list for consideration by the Australian Government Attorney-General.

Applications for funding in 2006/07 will be invited in mid December 2005, with a closing date of 3 March 2006. Eligible emergency management response agencies and local governments are encouraged to apply. Guidelines and application forms will be available on the EMA website at www.ema.gov.au/communitydevelopment.

2005 Australian Safer Communities Awards

The Safer Communities Awards recognise best practice and innovation that help to build safer communities. They cover both organisations and individuals working in risk assessment, research, education and training, information and knowledge management, prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. Awards are given in categories covering pre-disaster and post-disaster.

On August 19, entries closed for the 2005 Safer Communities Awards. A total of 63 entries were received by the States and Territories. A national judging panel was convened comprising Greg Scroope of Brisbane City Council; Jenny Davies of Anglicare; Steve Frost of NSW State Disaster Recovery Centre; and Dr Fiona Wood, 2005 Australian of the Year. The panel was chaired by EMA's Assistant Secretary for Community Development, Trevor Clement. The panel judged State and Territory winners and awarded national winners in the respective streams and

categories during September. The national winners were recognised and presented with their awards by the Attorney-General at a ceremony at Parliament House on 1 December.

*For further information contact Kim Fitzgerald
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New Program – Business Continuity Management

The course in Business Continuity is with the Victorian Qualifications Authority (VQA) for national accreditation approval. This will be a four-day course run over five days and will include topics such as Commencement, Risk and Vulnerability, Business Impact Analysis, Response Strategies, Communications, and Maintenance and Testing.

Courses have been scheduled for 2006. Check the EMA website for further details.

*For further information contact Luke Dam
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Strategic directions for Education Training & Research

In 2001 a training needs analysis was undertaken by EMA. The Education & Training Group is now embarking on a project to inform its education, training and research directions and priorities for the period 2006–2008. The project involves national consultation with key stakeholders using a range of methods including workshops in all States and Territories.

*For further information contact Margery Webster
Phone: 03 5421 5283; email: margery.webster@ema.gov.au*

Emergency management and the school curriculum

EMA is the lead agency for recommendation 3.1 from the Council of Australian Governments', National Inquiry on Bushfire Mitigation and Management.

The Inquiry recommends that the Australian, State and Territory governments jointly develop and implement national and regionally relevant education programs about bushfire, to be delivered to all Australian children as a basic life skill. These programs should emphasise individual and household preparedness and survival as well as the role of fire in the Australian landscape.

To this end, EMA has proposed a national audit to identify strategies to integrate all hazards and emergency preparedness education into the school curriculum. This process will be completed by the end of the 2006 financial year and will lead to the identification of gaps within the curriculum and resources materials. It will lead to a clear understanding of the hazards and emergency preparedness needs in the Australian education system. This is an important step to prevent the duplication of resources and provides direction for EMA's and other emergency sector organisations' efforts in this area.

*For further information contact Melanie Ashby
Phone: 03 5421 5269; email: melanie.ashby@ema.gov.au*

Graduate Certificate in Emergency Management

There are two cohorts of students involved in EMA's *Graduate Certificate in Emergency Management*. This course provides professional development at a post graduate level and requires students to carry out in depth research and writing on current and pressing issues within the emergency management field.

The second cohort of students, who will graduate in mid-2006, are currently engaged in research projects to solve problems related to their emergency management work. The projects include:

- assessing community awareness of flood risk in a major city;
- understanding volunteers' reasons for leaving an emergency management agency;
- evaluating the ability of staff to carry out their emergency management responsibilities in a large government organisation;
- investigating the effects of an influenza pandemic on particular communities;
- evaluating the effectiveness of a new computer system in assisting response to emergencies; and
- researching the best approaches to emergency management training in a health organisation.

These projects and the many others being undertaken, directly assist students in their emergency management

roles and help develop crucial research and analytical skills. In this way, EMA's Graduate Certificate program serves to better equip students to deal with an increasingly complex risk landscape.

*For further information contact Mike Tarrant
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EMA Library

The library pages of the EMA website have received a facelift. The new format provides an easy and efficient means for clients to access all library services. To access the library website, visit www.ema.gov.au/library.

*For further information contact the library
Phone: 03 5421 5246; email: ema.library@ema.gov.au*

Australian Emergency Manual Series

A number of AEMs are currently under review in conjunction with a panel of subject matter experts from State and Territory organisations. The review of *Storm Damage Operations and General Rescue* will be completed by June 2006. The reviewed AEMs will join the rest of the series currently published on the EMA website.

Evacuation Planning has also been reviewed and has a new look. This publication is available on the EMA website.

*For further information contact Kate Keane
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This is EMA

This publication has been reviewed and updated and is available for distribution. It is also accessible via the EMA website.

*For further information contact Kate Keane
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EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT LIAISON

Augmented Australasian Police Ministers' Council

EMA provides the Secretariat for The Australian Emergency Management Committee (AEMC) and the Augmented Australasian Police Ministers' Council (A/APMC). The A/APMC is the Ministerial Council responsible for emergency management.

The AEMC met in Canberra on 4 August 2005 and 15 October 2005 in Brisbane.

*For further information contact Peter Arnold
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Bushfire Awareness and Preparedness Campaign

Since the Prime Minister's announcement of the Bushfire Awareness and Preparedness Day initiative, EMA has consulted extensively with State, Territory and Australian Government agencies as well as peak bodies such as the Australasian Fire Authorities Council and the Bushfire CRC.

These consultations concluded that it would be more appropriate to further enhance community bushfire awareness and preparedness through a national TV advertising campaign rather than implement a single national day of bushfire awareness and preparedness. A *National Bushfire Awareness and Preparedness* campaign which directs the community to locally relevant awareness and preparedness messages was launched by the Attorney-General on 15 October 2005. The media used for the campaign included TV advertising

and Indigenous radio advertisements. The campaign provides local bushfire services telephone numbers and websites at the end of the advertisements. This strategy also takes into consideration the varying jurisdictional bushfire seasons through its implementation timetable.

*For further information contact Li Peng Monroe
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Prime Minister's Science, Engineering and Innovation Council

The Prime Minister's Science, Engineering and Innovation Council (PMSEIC) formed a working group to examine the issue of tsunamis. Council membership comprises of the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Education, Science and Training, a number of Ministers with SET interests, and other non-Ministerial members.

The working group comprises 12 people with expertise in tsunamis and disaster preparedness, management and recovery. David Templeman, Director General Emergency Management Australia is a member of the working group.

The Working Group will examine the science of tsunami, in the context of the risk, potential impact and preparedness and prepare a report for consideration by PMSEIC. The group will make a presentation to the council on 2 December at Parliament House in Canberra.

*For further information contact Peter Arnold
Phone: 02 6256 4602, email: peter.arnold@ema.gov.au*

PLANNING & COORDINATION

Exercise Mercury 05

During October, EMA participated in the multi-jurisdictional exercise (MJEX) *Mercury '05*, the largest counter-terrorism exercise ever conducted in Australia. This tested the consequence management co-ordination processes from a whole-of-government perspective. During the exercise the NEMCC liaised closely with States and Territories, deployed two EMA liaison officers to ACT Emergency Services, and received requests for assistance from ACT. EMA representatives also participated in a number of jurisdictional discussion exercises (DISCEXs) from September through to early November.

*For further information contact Tracy Hicks
Ph 02 6256 4680; email: tracy.hicks@ema.gov.au*

NEMCC awareness training

NEMCC awareness training for EMA staff was carried out in October as part of the Learning and Development strategy. This training will eventually be integrated into the EMA induction process. The training increased awareness about the NEMCC operation and EMA's responsibilities, and included some practical "hands-on" work with simulated sitreps, hand-overs and resource coordination.

*For further information contact Stacy Warner
Ph 02 6256 4622; email: stacy.warner@ema.gov.au*

Cost of being a Volunteer survey

The Australian Emergency Management Volunteers Forum is currently undertaking research into the costs to the individual volunteer of being involved in emergency management volunteering. EMA funding has been made available to develop a national survey to examine the negative direct cash costs and in-kind contributions that volunteers make over a 12 month period as a result of their volunteering commitment.

The Research and Planning Unit of Anglicare Sydney has carried out the first stage of this two-stage

project and have designed and piloted a questionnaire on one of the Forum agencies – the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol. The pilot results were very promising and it is intended that in the 2006 Stage 2 of the project, a national survey of emergency services volunteers will be implemented.

Underpinning the project is the knowledge that this research is the first of its kind anywhere in the world. There has been considerable national and international research on valuing volunteer contributions, the costs to the agencies and

retention factors but there has never yet been a comprehensive national survey that gauges the costs to the volunteers themselves. It is expected that the results of this survey will enable intelligent and informed advocacy to Government on the cost of volunteering to members.

It is expected that the survey questionnaires will be distributed in February and it will be vital to the accuracy of the results to achieve a high participation rate. Remember this survey is designed to help us to help you, so if you receive one please complete it.

CONFERENCE DIARY

Conference details are sourced from the EMA website.
For more information about these and future conferences, visit www.ema.gov.au

2005

4–7 December

Location	Orlando, Florida
Title	2005 Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Annual Meeting.
Details	There are three supporting goals for this year's annual meeting, which are to take advantage of the meeting location in Florida to touch on "local" topics that have broad implications or analogies; to continue the internationalization of the SRA; and to encourage a more interdisciplinary orientation in the technical program. The 25th anniversary of the SRA also presents an opportunity to examine the changing role of risk analysis in societal and private decision-making.
Enquiries	tel: (703) 790-1745 e-mail: sra@burkinc.com web: http://www.sra.org/events_2005_meeting.php

7–9 December

Location	Bhopal, India
Title	42nd Annual Convention and Meeting on <i>Earth System Processes Related to Earthquakes, Tsunamis, and Volcanic Eruptions</i> .
Details	In addition to earth system processes, other topics include solid earth geophysics; atmosphere, space, and planetary sciences; marine geosciences; environmental geophysics; and more.
Enquiries	P.R. Ready, Indian Geophysical Union, NGR Campus, Pupal Road, Hyderabad 500 007, India. tel: 040-23434662 e-mail: igu123@rediffmail.com web http://www.igu.in/schedule.htm

2006

23–27 January

Location	Quito, Ecuador
Title	Cities on Volcanoes 4
Details	This meeting provides a forum where volcanologists, urban planners, civil defenders, community authorities, and business and health specialists can meet to discuss ways to mitigate the effects of volcanic eruptions and minimise their impact upon humanity through better science, technology, communication, and education. Symposia include new computational techniques for mitigating volcanic hazards, volcano studies and monitoring, risk management, emergency management, and human health impacts of volcanism. Workshops, field trips, and other scientific activities will also be offered.
Enquiries	e-mail: citiesonvolcanoes4@igepn.edu.ec web: http://www.citiesonvolcanoes4.com/

22–23 February

Location	Hong Kong
Title	GOVSEC ASIA, Asia Law Enforcement & Asia Ready Conference & Exposition – Uniting the Best Minds in Government Security, Law Enforcement and Emergency Management.
Details	GOVSEC Asia, Asia Law Enforcement & Asia Ready is the event of choice for government security leaders, law enforcers and first responders around the Asian region – offering up-to-the-minute insight, strategy, tactics, best practices and technologies for each of the three key components that constitute national security. The first presentation in Hong Kong brings together recognised experts and industry professionals to explore what's new, collaborate, share knowledge and experiences and vision.
Enquiries	e-mail: info@infoexws.com web: http://www.govsecasia.com

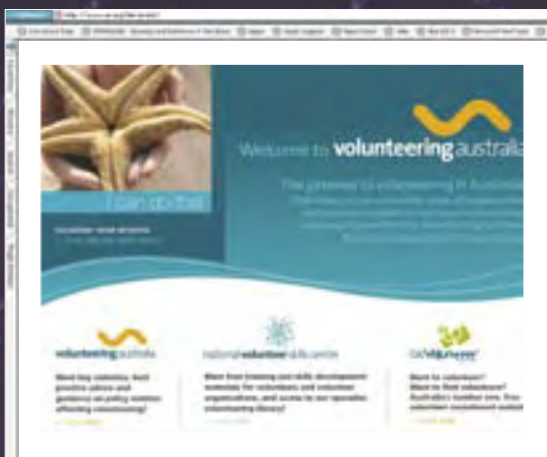
interesting websites



Australian Emergency Management Volunteer Forum

<http://www.emergencyvolunteersforum.org>

The Australian Emergency Management Volunteer Forum provides volunteers, their managers and organisations with the opportunity to raise issues of concern to a national representative body. The website provides the opportunity to ask questions and raise issues to the forum, and includes links to volunteer organisations across Australia, a photo gallery, and download section which includes the AEMVF Charter.



Volunteering Australia

<http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org>

Volunteering Australia is the national peak body working to advance volunteering in the Australian community. Its role is to represent the diverse views and needs of the volunteer sector while promoting the activity of volunteering as one of enduring social, cultural and economic value. The website includes a volunteer recruitment section, volunteer skills centre, conferences and events, information sheets, and a number of reports available for download including Snapshot 2004: Volunteering Report Card outlining the trends in volunteering in Australia and internationally.



Australian VolunteerSearch

<http://www.volunteersearch.gov.au/>

The Australian VolunteerSearch site is managed and maintained by the Commonwealth Department of Employment and Workplace Relations. The website has been established to facilitate the contacts between volunteers and volunteer organisations. The VolunteerSearch site allows organisations to advertise volunteer opportunities and for volunteers to post a profile outlining their details, skills and experience and the type and duration of volunteering they wish to undertake. Potential volunteers can automatically generate a list of volunteer opportunities in their area, and volunteer organisations can use the site to search for suitable volunteers.

EMA Research and Innovation Program



Australian Government

Attorney-General's Department
Emergency Management Australia

**EMA's role in research and innovation is:
"to provide national leadership in generating
knowledge and inspiring innovation in emergency
management practice".**

To achieve EMA's vision of 'safer sustainable communities' it is critical that existing knowledge and practice in the emergency management sector are enhanced. Research and innovation play a vital role in this, especially in relation to a changing environment and in providing the evidence base for good practice.

The EMA Research and Innovation Program aims to facilitate the capture and transfer of innovative practice and disaster research outcomes across the sector. The program is seeking applications from organisations wishing to participate in the program for 2006–2007 in the following priority areas.

Priority areas

- ▶ Building individual and community resilience
- ▶ Risk perception, including warnings and community action
- ▶ Innovations in disaster mitigation
- ▶ Methods for assessing disaster impacts, including long term, social and economic effects

Process and level of funding

Applications should be submitted by 3 February 2006.

Proposals will be accepted at two different levels:

- ▶ Scoping: a small grant to test an idea or concept for future project funding (up to approximately \$10 000)
- ▶ Major projects (up to \$100 000)

Information and contact details

Details of the program and application are available on the EMA website: www.ema.gov.au

For further information contact:

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Mike Tarrant (03) 5421 5219

or projects@ema.gov.au