

**MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF
THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND
STOCKPILING OF BACTERIOLOGICAL
(BIOLOGICAL) AND TOXIN WEAPONS AND
ON THEIR DESTRUCTION**

BWC/MSP/2004/MX/WP.75
29 July 2004

ENGLISH ONLY

Second Meeting
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Meeting of Experts
Geneva, 19-30 July 2004
Items 5 and 6 of the agenda

**Emergency Management, an Australian Model: Planning for and Managing a Biological
Emergency**

Submitted by Australia

Introduction

1. This is an additional paper prepared by Australia at the behest of the Chair to amplify BWC/MSP/2004/MX/WP.31 outlining a national framework for a biological response capability.
2. Further details can be found at:
<http://www.ema.gov.au/ema/emaInternet.nsf/HeadingPagesDisplay/Publications?OpenDocument>

Extract from the Emergency Management Australia Manual

3. “The purpose of this Manual is to provide a basic reference to the arrangements which the Commonwealth and State and Territory Governments have in place to manage disasters and emergencies. It has been prepared for use by individuals, agencies and institutions involved in emergency management practice, education and training.
4. “The Manual had been prepared by Emergency Management Australia in consultation with State and Territory emergency management organisations and Commonwealth agencies which have a role in emergency management. It reflects the arrangements in place at the time of publishing. However, as the emergency management industry is constantly undergoing change, the Manual is expected to only have a life of one to two years [and is regularly updated].”

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5. A National Framework for a Biological Response Capability:

1. Outline

- 1.1. Policy framework
- 1.2. Structure
- 1.3. Plans
- 1.4. Arrangements
- 1.5. Relationship to civil defence¹

2. Policy framework

- 2.1. Government role in emergency management (EM)
- 2.2. Involvement of specific Government agencies
- 2.3. Coordination arrangements at [Federal²] Government level
- 2.4. Lines of connectivity for requesting/providing aid/assistance by/to other elements of government (States)
- 2.5. **Mitigation:** developing a national framework and specific measures
- 2.6. **Risk management:** likelihood v. consequence; prioritisation for application of resources

3. Structure

- 3.1. Management organisation
 - 3.1.1. National system elements
 - 3.1.1.1. Commonwealth counter-disaster task force
 - 3.1.1.2. National emergency management committee
 - 3.1.1.3. State-Territory emergency/disaster management organisations
 - 3.1.1.4. Commonwealth Government emergency management organisation
 - 3.1.1.5. Natural disaster relief arrangements (NDRA) (Commonwealth Government financial assistance)
 - 3.1.1.6. National emergency management coordination centre
 - 3.1.1.7. Emergency response plans
 - 3.1.1.8. Emergency response funding arrangements
 - 3.1.1.9. Emergency management information centre

¹ In accordance with the 1997 Protocol to the Geneva Convention 1949. Civil Defence 'against danger of hostilities and disasters during times of armed conflict'

² In addition to the Federal Government there are 6 State and 2 Territory governments

- 3.1.2. Other Commonwealth government departments and agencies with emergency management roles
- 3.1.3. State and Territory emergency management/counter-disaster arrangements
- 3.2. Functions
- 3.3. Responsibilities
- 3.4. Roles
- 3.5. Inter-departmental arrangements: hand-over, how to work together

4. Plans

- 4.1. Australian Emergency Management Series
 - 4.1.1. Pt I- Fundamentals
 - 4.1.2. Manual 2- Arrangements
 - 4.1.3. Pt II, Approaches to EM
 - 4.1.3.1. Vol 1- Risk management
 - 4.1.3.2. Vol 2- Mitigation planning
 - 4.1.4. Pt III- **EM practice**
 - 4.1.4.1. Vol 1 Service provision
 - 4.1.4.1.1. Manual 2- disaster medicine
 - 4.1.4.1.2. Manual 3- disaster recovery
 - 4.1.4.2. Vol 2, Evacuation planning
 - 4.1.4.2.1. Health aspects CBR**
 - 4.1.4.2.1.1. Manual 3
 - 4.1.4.2.1.1.1. Coordination and control
 - 4.1.4.2.1.1.2. Site issues
 - 4.1.4.2.1.1.3. Personal protective equipment and measures (including issues pertaining to problems with PPE, medical monitoring of personnel in PPE, management of heat stress)
 - 4.1.4.2.1.1.4. Decontamination procedures (for biological and bio-hazards)³
 - 4.1.4.2.1.1.5. Detection
 - 4.1.4.2.1.1.6. Forensic issues

³ For this and following items listed, similar guidance is included in the Manual for nuclear and chemical incidents

- 4.1.4.2.1.1.7. Mental health issues of hazardous materials exposure
- 4.1.4.2.1.1.8. Health records and control
- 4.1.4.2.1.1.9. Biological weapons effects
- 4.1.4.2.1.1.10. Medical classification of potential biological warfare diseases
- 4.1.4.2.1.1.11. Biological incident -medical management
- 4.1.4.2.1.1.12. Biological agents summary
- 4.1.4.2.2. Post disaster survey and assessment
- 4.1.4.2.3. Urban search and rescue
- 4.1.4.3. Vol 3- Guidelines
 - 4.1.4.3.1. Guide 1- Multi-agency incident management
 - 4.1.4.3.2. Guide 9- Psychological services, emergency managers guide
 - 4.1.4.3.3. Guide 10- Psychological services, mental health practitioners guide
 - 4.1.4.3.4. Guide 12- Economic and financial aspects of disaster recovery
 - 4.1.4.3.5. Guide 13- Community development in recovery from disaster
- 4.1.5. Pt IV- Skills for emergency services personnel
- 4.1.6. Pt V- Management of training

5. Arrangements

- 5.1. Australian Emergency Management Institute, conducting
 - 5.1.1. Training, education, studies and research. This is an arm of Emergency Management Australia (EMA)
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