

Prevention and preparedness: Australia's emergency management arrangements

Speed read

- Prevention measures try to eliminate the impact of hazards and reduce vulnerability to them.
- Mitigation measures accept that hazards will happen and work to lessen their impact through physical solutions and by strengthening community resilience.
- Preparedness involves actions to make sure that as risks increase or during an emergency, resources and services are ready, and communities can respond and recover.

Key points

- **State and territory governments have the primary role in prevention and mitigation.** This role is often supported by legislation and policy.
- **Prevention, mitigation and preparedness activities and strategies are undertaken by governments, non-government organisations, agencies, businesses, communities and individuals.**
- **Prevention, mitigation and preparedness activities and priorities should be informed by risk assessment and regularly reviewed.**
- **Risks change and evolve over time.** Planning, exercising and lessons management are key to improving preparedness and the development of capability.

Examples of prevention and mitigation strategies that lead to greater resilience include:

- hazard-specific control programs, such as building flood levees or bushfire mitigation programs
- land use planning and building controls in legislation and regulations
- community education and awareness, for example flood and cyclone safety messaging

Examples of preparedness activities include:

- developing household emergency plans and preparing emergency kits to last 72 hours
- developing tailored response and recovery plans
- critical infrastructure resilience planning and cooperation, across all levels of government and in partnership with the business sector

Take action

- Get to know who is responsible for mitigation, prevention, and preparedness in your area.
- Refer to [Emergency Planning](#) (AIDR 2020) for a guide on producing an emergency plan.

More information

- [Australian Emergency Management Arrangements \(AIDR 2023\)](#)
- [Second National Action Plan to implement the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework \(2023\)](#)
- [Guidance for Strategic Decisions on Climate and Disaster Risk \(2019\)](#)