

## Specific capabilities for flood emergency planning

### Speed read

- Typical capabilities used during flood incidents include, command and control, flood predictions and warnings, evacuation, resupply, property protection, flood rescue, road closures and management and transition to recovery.
- Evacuation is the primary strategy for ensuring the safety of at-risk communities when practical.
- Development, maintenance and operation of flood warning systems through the total warning system is critical to manage the flood threats.

### Key points

#### **Identify how command and control will be exercised to achieve priorities and objectives.**

Consider:

incident management structure

- locations for incident control centres
- likely divisions of control, for example, sector and divisional boundaries
- division and sector control arrangements particularly where a flood control agency may have little on ground presence.

**Assess risks involved in undertaking an evacuation so that people are not exposed to more hazardous environments e.g. travelling through deep, fast-flowing floodwater.** Consider evacuation triggers, challenges, planning for communication or warning, warning time, availability of official warnings, suitable evacuation routes, evacuation/relief centres.

**Determine and detail the priorities for resupply flood emergency plans.** Resupply is a frequently required function in rural and remote areas. Sometimes entire communities may become isolated. Give the highest priority to essential services like water, food and medications.

**Use temporary property protection measures to prevent or minimise property damage to neighbourhoods or individual assets.** For example, barriers and the removal or lifting of the contents of buildings. Temporary barriers should not be used or relied on as an alternative to evacuating a community.

**Implement flood rescue once an area becomes flooded or isolated.** The aim of flood rescue operations is to move people from immediate or potential harm to safety. Flood rescue operations can be separated into the following phases, identification and deployment of rescue resources, rescue execution, shelter and welfare.

**Document road closure and communication priorities in the flood emergency plan.** A significant proportion of flood deaths have happened as a result of motorists entering floodwaters. Specific flood risk factors that must be considered include, road alignment, road grade, presence of lighting, rate of rise, presence of roadside barriers, depth and velocity of floodwaters, flood depths downstream, kerb and guttering, ease of turning around. Consider that road operators may maintain automatic warning signage, road closure devices and can operate camera networks that can provide intelligence and inform response operations.

**Consider strategies and arrangements for initial relief and recovery and the transition to longer term recovery.** Include public health, clean-up, disaster waste management, restoration of infrastructure, return of evacuees, mental health support, establishment of recovery centres, making buildings safe for return, information provision.

# Quick Guide

## Take action

- Review guidance on the establishment and operation of total warning systems for flooding is provided in the companion document [Application of the Total Warning System to Flood \(AIDR 2020\)](#)
- Review [Guideline 2: Flood emergency response classification of the floodplain \(AIDR 2017\)](#)
- Review [AFAC guideline Use of Temporary Flood Barriers](#)

## More information

- [Managing the Floodplain \(AIDR 2017\)](#)
- [Evacuation Planning \(AIDR 2022\)](#)
- Further information on planning for command and control and the Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System (AIIMS) can be found in [Incident Management \(AIDR 2023\)](#)
- [Public Information and Warnings \(AIDR 2021\)](#)