

Planning for recovery

Speed read

- Recovery can be complex and long-term, requiring coordinated, adaptive efforts across communities, organisations and sectors to resolve the impacts that an event has had.
- Impacted individuals and communities should be at the forefront of the recovery process.
- Recovery planning should focus on managing the consequences, not just the hazard.
- Critical components to include in recovery planning are impact and needs assessment, public information, psychosocial support, longer-term planning including rebuilding and relocation, and continuous improvement.

Key points

- Tsunamis present challenges for emergency response and recovery due to factors such as low levels of community awareness, rare occurrence, and potential to cause widespread damage and isolate communities.
- There may be a broad range of consequences that need to be managed in tsunami recovery. These include consequences to the social, natural, economic and built environments.
- Successful recovery requires a planned, coordinated and adaptive approach between community and organisations.
- The recovery process from significant tsunamis is long, complex and challenging for individuals, businesses and communities.
- Recovery planning, coordination and management takes a consequence focus – that is, managing the consequences, not just the hazard.
- Damage, impact and needs assessments are critical components of recovery planning.
- Other key factors to consider in recovery planning are public information, support for psychosocial impacts, longer-term planning (for example, financial support, rebuilding and relocation decisions, and memorials) and continuous improvement through conducting exercises and after-action reviews.

Take action

- Learn more about the recovery process by reading the [Community Recovery Handbook](#) (AIDR 2018).
- Learn more about evacuees/returnees' psychosocial experiences and needs in [Coping after a crisis](#) (Australian Red Cross 2024).
- Use the [Recovery Exercising Toolkit](#) to equip yourself to undertake further recovery planning and action.

More information

- [Community Recovery Handbook](#) (AIDR 2018)
- [Evacuation Planning Handbook](#), Chapter 4 (AIDR 2023)
- [Public Information and Warnings Handbook](#) (AIDR 2021)
- [Emergency Planning Handbook](#) (AIDR 2020)
- [Community Engagement for Disaster Resilience Handbook](#) (AIDR 2020)