

Preparedness for effective response

Speed read

- The key phases, tasks and potential levels of impact detailed in the handbook should be understood by emergency managers to inform their operations.
- Emergency managers' operational objectives should affirm the protection of life and the minimisation of disruption to communities.
- Emergency managers should make sure that emergency plans and emergency preparations are workable, and that planning is a continuous process.

Key points

- Tsunami response requires a coordinated, multi-organisation effort under the control of a designated lead organisation. Organisations with different skills and resources can be matched with tasks best suited to their capabilities.
- Tsunami response operations can be separated into 3 key phases:
 - pre-impact (warning)
 - impact
 - post-impact.
- Strategies for tsunami response operations include:
 - protect and preserve life
 - establish and operate tsunami warning systems
 - issue community information and warnings
 - coordinate the evacuation of affected communities with consideration for their welfare
 - protect critical infrastructure and assets essential to community survival during an emergency
 - protect residential property
 - protect assets and infrastructure that support individual and community financial sustainability, and that support community recovery post-incident
 - protect the environment with consideration to its cultural, biodiversity and social values
 - manage the transition from response operations to recovery.
- Effective tsunami planning involves a range of stakeholders developing tsunami plans and procedures that are holistic in scope.
- A tsunami plan may be part of an all-hazard integrated emergency management planning process.
- Emergency planning is a continuous process that should involve all stakeholders that are likely to play a part in response. Consultation with affected communities is also vital to ensure community ownership of the plan.
- Community engagement is crucial to building community resilience to any hazard, however, it is more difficult for tsunamis because communities in Australia are unfamiliar with tsunami risk.
- Exercises provide an opportunity to ensure plans are workable and effective.

Quick Guide

Take action

- Determine your role in an tsunami emergency response operation and how you can support other areas of the emergency response operation. Identify areas where you require additional support.
- Think about what needs to be done before, during and after a tsunami occurs.
- Consider if your tsunami planning can be integrated into broader emergency management planning to reduce duplication of effort.
- Check the 'key considerations for tsunami emergency planning' table on page 42 of the handbook.
- Consider whether you have monitoring and evaluation systems in place to ensure your tsunami emergency planning is a continuous process.

More information

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