

Disaster Resilient SA

May 2019 newsletter

Updates: Eyre Peninsula workshops 22nd May

Registrations are currently open for 2 workshops that Red Cross will be running in Tumbly Bay on the 22nd May. We will be facilitating the workshops “Reaching the Hard to Reach” in the morning followed by “Community Preparedness for Emergencies” in the afternoon. A networking lunch will split the two workshops and all are welcome to attend one or both sessions and the free lunch. For further information and registrations, visit the Eventbrite pages or contact Jess Law- jlaw@redcross.org.au .

<https://reachingthehardtoreacheyrepeninsula.eventbrite.com.au>
<https://communitypreparednesseyrepeninsula.eventbrite.com.au>

Please circulate these events to all contacts on the Eyre Peninsula who may be interested in attending. Jess will also be available to meet with organisation’s on Thursday 23rd so get in touch to organise a time to meet.

Resource in focus: SES Fact sheets and checklists.

The lead up to the winter months bring the increased risk of severe weather resulting in storm damage and potential flooding. In the community engagement section of the SES website (<https://www.ses.sa.gov.au>) a range of fact sheets and checklists can be found to help inform and educate the community of what to do to be prepared for a variety of emergencies. These include what to include in an emergency kit, what to do to prepare for a flood or storm, information on climate change, building an environmentally sustainable home and caring for your horse in an emergency. Resources from SES have also been translated into 13 languages for CALD communities.



Good News story: Southern Cross Care

After meeting with Red Cross in 2018 to discuss the importance of emergency preparedness for people at risk in emergencies, Southern Cross Care made the decision to begin educating both staff and residents of what actions they can take to be better prepared for emergencies.

3 Rediplan sessions were hosted at Southern Cross Care community centres in Largs Bay, Plympton and Goolwa to build the knowledge of residents who are still living independently with 75 people attending across the 3 sites. The participants thoroughly enjoyed the session and appreciated receiving copies of the Rediplan to help them to improve their preparedness for emergencies. In addition to this, Red Cross have also provided training to the Home Support staff to educate them in the use of the Person Centred Emergency Preparedness toolkit.



The hope is that by providing the toolkit and a workshop on its use, the staff will feel confident to engage in conversations with clients and their families about what they would need to do to stay safe in the event of an emergency such as a house fire or natural disaster.

Practice Scenario: Earthquake

Wednesday

10:07am: A very large earthquake occurs, rumbling through the region for over a minute. Sections of the ceiling tiles collapse, fixtures have come loose in your workplace and damage is visible in all areas of town. Electricity has been cut.

10:12am: A quick assessment of your workplace shows moderate damage and that some staff and visitors have been injured. Both landlines and mobiles are jammed as people try to contact loved ones and emergency services. Your employees are concerned about their families but can't get in contact with schools/ home.

10:34am: Media reports a 6.7 magnitude earthquake has occurred in the region. Extensive damage to roads and buildings is reported with emergency services strongly recommending people not drive due to unsafe roadways. Phone calls are able to be made sporadically and text messages are going through. There is no power or water to your facility.

10:40am: Many staff want to leave to be with their families- *who are your essential staff in this scenario?*

3:23pm: A small aftershock lasting 10 seconds rocks your area causing loose items to fall but no further significant damage. This causes anxiousness for many people around you.

Thursday

8:00am: No power or water yet at your workplace. You continue to clean up the interior and exterior of your site to ensure safe access. Damage to your building is only cosmetic, but you have heard of other agencies that will likely be closed for weeks to repair structural damages. You alert your staff to the possibility of an increase in calls for support with other agencies out of action for the foreseeable future.

2:00pm: Limited power has been restored in your area but you still have no water. Bottled water is being distributed by government agencies. There are a number of roads that are inaccessible due to damage with detours established. This is causing significant delays with journeys taking 2-3 times longer than usual. You have many clients that fail to show up to their scheduled appointments as they are unable to get to you. You also have a number of

walk-ins that don't usually access your branch but they are unable to attend their regular service so have come to you for help instead. *How will you screen these clients, access and manage their records?*

Sunday:

11:00am: Full power and water have been restored to your facility.

Monday:

9:30am: The Manager of another one of the agencies that is still closed has suggested drawing up an MOU to allow some of their key services and staff to operate from your workplace whilst their building undergoes repairs. You will need to consider the additional space requirements and confidentiality issues between agencies.

For your workplace, consider the following:

- Does your workplace have easily accessible first aid supplies to manage injuries?
- Does your workplace have easily accessible torches and other safety equipment?
- What advice and duties will you be giving your staff?
- What (if any) messages will you be communicating to your clients/ customers/ community members and when?
- How will the damage to your facility, a lack of power and water alter operations? What services will be essential to maintain? Are there any that will be delayed or cancelled?

In the case of an Earthquake, remember:

- DROP, COVER and HOLD. Drop to the ground under a table or next to an internal wall if possible, and away from windows or anything that could fall on you. Cover your head and neck with your arms. Hold onto a stable item or brace against a wall until the shaking stops and exit when it is safe to do so.
- Expect aftershocks. DROP, COVER and HOLD every time.
- Check for injuries and damage. Apply first aid where required and turn off electricity and gas at the mains if there appears to be damage.
- Follow your emergency plans. Try to avoid driving unless an emergency and avoid unnecessary phone calls which can cause jamming- text instead.
- You may need to relocate if your house/ workplace is unsafe after an earthquake.



Do you have any questions regarding your emergency planning or your organisations role in an emergency? Contact Jess Law, Community Resilience Project Officer to have a chat. jlaw@redcross.org.au or 08 8100 4664