



Australian Government

Attorney-General's Department
Emergency Management Australia

NATIONAL

URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE

ARRANGEMENTS

(AEMC APPROVED APRIL 2008)

Table of Contents

NATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS	4
INTRODUCTION	4
<i>Background</i>	4
<i>Review of guidelines</i>	4
<i>Distribution</i>	4
<i>Aim</i>	4
<i>Purpose</i>	4
<i>Underpinning Principles</i>	5
<i>Response Management</i>	5
RESPONSIBILITIES	5
<i>Australian Government Agencies</i>	5
<i>Emergency Management Australia (EMA)</i>	5
<i>Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)</i>	5
<i>Australian Customs Service (Customs)</i>	5
<i>Australian Defence Force (ADF)</i>	6
<i>Australian Federal Police (AFP)</i>	6
<i>Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS)</i>	6
<i>Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO)</i>	6
<i>Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)</i>	7
<i>Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA)</i>	7
<i>Protective Security Coordination Centre (PSCC)</i>	7
<i>State Agencies</i>	8
PLANNING	9
<i>Related plans</i>	9
NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE ARRANGEMENTS	9
<i>National USAR Working Group (NUSARWG)</i>	9
<i>Australasian Fire Authorities Council (AFAC) USAR Committee</i>	12
<i>State Committees</i>	13
<i>Table 1. State Level Consultative Groups</i>	13
CAPABILITY	14
<i>USAR Response Cache</i>	14
<i>USAR Taskforce Cache</i>	14
<i>USAR Taskforce</i>	14
<i>International USAR Taskforce</i>	14
<i>Self sustainability cache</i>	14
<i>Table 2. Australia's current and planned USAR capability</i>	15
TRAINING	16
<i>Personnel undertaking USAR roles</i>	16
<i>Rescuers</i>	16
TASK FORCE SPECIALISTS	16
<i>Taskforce Specialist Course</i>	16
<i>Canine Teams</i>	16
<i>Engineering Capabilities</i>	17
<i>Paramedics</i>	18
<i>Bomb Technicians</i>	18
<i>Forensic and Disaster Victim Identification</i>	18
USAR OPERATIONS WITHIN AUSTRALIA	19
<i>Indicative Taskforce Structure</i>	19
<i>USAR within an Incident Management Structure</i>	20
INTER - JURISDICTIONAL ARRANGMENTS	21
PRINCIPLES	21
<i>Inter- jurisdictional Arrangements</i>	21

<i>Flowchart 1: Arrangements for State-to-State USAR deployment</i>	22
<i>Flowchart 2: Arrangements for USAR deployment with Australian Government involvement.</i>	23
<i>Authorised officers to be designated</i>	23
<i>Assistance</i>	24
<i>Requests for assistance</i>	24
<i>Powers</i>	25
<i>Recognition of competencies</i>	25
<i>Liability</i>	25
<i>Control and co-ordination</i>	26
<i>Stand down</i>	26
<i>Cost recovery</i>	27
<i>Dispute resolution</i>	27
<i>Media</i>	27
<i>Communications</i>	27
<i>Australian Government</i>	28
<i>Virtual OSOCC</i>	28
INTERNATIONAL RECEPTION ARRANGEMENTS	29
INTERNATIONAL USAR RECEPTION ARRANGEMENTS	29
<i>Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service Policy</i>	29
<i>Australian Customs Service Policy</i>	30
<i>Department of Immigration and Citizenship Policy</i>	30
PRE-INCIDENT PREPAREDNESS	30
<i>States and Territories</i>	30
<i>Process to request international assistance</i>	30
<i>Establishing Need</i>	30
<i>Request for International USAR Assistance</i>	31
<i>Preparations to receive international assistance</i>	31
DURING OPERATIONS	32
<i>Demobilisation</i>	32
<i>International Relations and liaison</i>	32
<i>Flowchart 3: Arrangements for international USAR assistance into Australia</i>	33
APPENDIX A	34
<i>Specific actions to be included in inter - jurisdictional arrangements</i>	34
APPENDIX B	37
<i>Australian USAR Training Categories</i>	37
<i>Terms and abbreviations</i>	38

[Throughout this document use of the term State shall include both states and territories where relevant.]

NATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

Background

State and local governments have the primary legislative responsibility of planning for, and managing the consequences of a structural collapse incident. Each Australian state and territory has established strategies for the provision of Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) response as part of its holistic emergency management arrangements.

The Australian Government shares an interest in Australia's USAR capacity; in particular, in ensuring a coordinated approach to the development of a robust *National USAR Capability* and that efficient, agreed national arrangements exist enabling synergistic benefits to be gained by all parties and the wider Australian community.

Review of guidelines

These guidelines will be reviewed from time to time as deemed appropriate by the National Urban Search and Rescue Working Group (NUSARWG).

Distribution

This document will be distributed to the membership of Australian Emergency Management Committee (AEMC), National Urban Search and Rescue Working Group and Australasian Fire Authorities Council Urban Search and Rescue Working Group.

Aim

This policy outlines the Australian National USAR Capability and the national arrangements for deployment within Australia. It also outlines the procedures for requesting and receiving international USAR resources to assist an Australian jurisdiction.

Purpose

The arrangements:

- Establish a structure for a systematic, coordinated and effective response to incidents in Australia;
- Define the procedures for the use of Australian Government resources to augment those of State governments;
- Acknowledge the roles and responsibilities of Australian Government and State agencies during crisis and consequence management for structural collapse incidents; and
- Serve as a foundation for further development of detailed operational plans and procedures at State level.

Underpinning Principles

State governments need to authorise any USAR resources being deployed interstate or overseas.

USAR resources when responded outside of their home jurisdiction will provide assistance to and comply with the established control and coordination arrangements of the Local Emergency Management Authority (LEMA) they are assisting.

Response Management

Management of structural collapse incidents will require the coordination of various response agencies involving operations and coordination centres at several levels of government. The concept of Crisis and Consequence Management adopted in the National Counter Terrorism Plan (NCTP) and the Commonwealth Government Disaster Response Plan (COMDISPLAN) provides a mechanism for the coordination of USAR resources.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Australian Government Agencies

While the States have the primary responsibility for the protection of life and property, support from the Australian Government may be requested by the States during an emergency when their resources are inadequate, unavailable or overcommitted. Australian Government agency responsibilities include:

Emergency Management Australia (EMA)

EMA as a division of the Australian Attorney Generals' Department has a broad and diverse role in emergency management. The scope encompasses prevention, preparedness, response and recovery of emergencies. For USAR, EMA chairs and provides the secretariat to the National Urban Search and Rescue Working Group (NUSARWG).

EMA promotes USAR through a range of initiatives including the conduct of a Capability Development Project to increase national capability in the areas of training, national arrangements and equipment.

Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)

AusAid is an Australian Government agency within the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. AusAID manages the Australian Government's overseas aid program. The objective of the aid program is to advance Australia's national interest by helping developing countries reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development. AusAid provides policy advice and support to the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary on development issues and plans.

Australian Customs Service (Customs)

Customs plays a vital role in protecting Australia's borders from the entry of illegal and harmful goods and unauthorised people, while also ensuring that the legitimate

movement of people and goods across the border is not unnecessarily impeded. The three principle roles of Customs are:

- To facilitate trade and the movement of people across the Australian border while protecting the community and maintaining compliance with Australian law;
- To collect customs revenue efficiently; and
- To administer specific industry schemes and trade measures.

Customs works closely with a number of other Australian Government Departments to detect and deter unlawful movement of goods and people across the border.

Australian Defence Force (ADF)

Australian Defence Force (ADF)

The ADF remains available to provide assistance to the states where appropriate through Defence Force Aid to the Civil Community (DACCC) and Defence Force Aid to the Civil Authorities (DFACA). Specifically, The ADF's Incident Response Regiment (IRR) maintains a Technical Access, Search and Rescue / Recovery (TASARR) capability that has the capacity to provide USAR assistance to the states where requested and available and in accordance with DFACC and DFACA arrangements. This assistance would usually be provided where it is demonstrated that the state's capacity to combat an incident or undertake a specific operational task is exhausted or is about to be exhausted. In such instances, control of ADF assets is ceded to jurisdictional authorities whilst command authority remains with the respective ADF commander.

Australian Federal Police (AFP)

AFP is responsible for criminal investigations relating to Australian Government interests, where this is not a State responsibility.

Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS)

AQIS is Australia's first line of defence in protecting our environment against exotic diseases and pests. It achieves this through inspection and quarantine arrangements in relation to inbound materials. AQIS also provides inspection and certification for a range of outwards going goods in accordance with Australia's international quarantine obligations.

Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO)

ASIO is responsible for the analysis and advice on terrorist related information and intelligence that may affect Australia and its territories. ASIO will issue periodic threat assessments.

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)

DFAT is responsible for managing the whole-of-government response to an incident overseas affecting Australians and for managing the overall relationship with the requesting country. DFAT chairs the Inter-Departmental Emergency Task Force (IDETF), which includes among its core members EMA, AFP and the Department of Defence. The Minister for Foreign Affairs and other relevant Ministers, on advice of the IDETF, authorise the deployment of Australia's emergency response teams.

DFAT's consular officers posted overseas or despatched from Australia to assist Australians in affected areas work together with emergency services teams. Consular officers help to locate missing Australians, organise access to medical facilities, facilitate the return of Australians to Australia, organise medical evacuations and the repatriation of Australian remains. DFAT also manages consular contingency plans for countries where Australia has official representation. The plans look at possible triggers for crises which might affect Australians in those countries, such as natural disasters, and provide guidance for initial responses.

Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA)

At the point of entry into Australia and when all pre - entry requirements have been met, DoHA will:

- Issue Clearance Certificates for medical equipment, drugs and medicines;
- Check evidence of professional qualifications and arrange temporary registration;
- Where documentation has not been sent prior to arrival, facilitate the process to assist where qualifications meet required criteria, relevant temporary registration;
- Provide Taskforces with a Medical Operational Plan.

Protective Security Coordination Centre (PSCC)

PSCC, which is also a division of AGD, coordinates protective security and counter terrorism arrangements between Australian Government and State agencies and facilitate communications between the Australian Government and States during an incident involving terrorism.

In such circumstances, a *Special Incident Task Force* (SITF) that includes selected Australian Government agency representatives will be established to oversee the implementation of Australian Government Crisis Management arrangements. The PSCC Watch Office will be the focal point for Australian Government Crisis Management coordination. PSCC will designate appropriate liaison and advisory personnel including a liaison officer for EMA's Incident Management Facility (IMF).

State Agencies

States have responsibility for the protection and preservation of the lives and property of their citizens. This includes legislative and regulatory arrangements in which the emergency management organisations of each State operate. These arrangements are normally established through State Disaster Plans (DISPLANS) which detail the lead / control agency responsible for planning and response to a particular type of incident or hazard.

Key response agencies for a structural collapse incident would normally include police, fire, ambulance and State Emergency Services

All state and territories maintain a plan for Urban Search and Rescue .The fire brigade in each jurisdiction is responsible for the establishment, maintenance exercise and up keep of the arrangements and plan.

PLANNING

Related plans

To better ensure an integrated and comprehensive approach to emergency management, the development of Australia's USAR plans and capacity, at all levels, has been informed and guided by related planning within Australia and overseas. Of particular relevance, the USAR arrangements have been formulated having regard to:

- Resolution 57/150 of the United Nations General Assembly;
- International Search and Rescue Advisory Group - Guidelines and Methodology;
- Australian Government Overseas Disaster Assistance Plan (AUSASSISTPLAN February 2002);
- Commonwealth Government Disaster Response Plan (COMDISPLAN February 2002);
- National Emergency Management Committee, *Guidelines for Interstate Disaster Assistance*;
- National Chemical Biological Radiological Working Group 2006, *Guidance on the national coordination arrangements for responding to the deliberate use of chemical, biological and radiological materials*;
- Australasian Fire Authorities Council, 2005, *Australasian inter-service incident management system: 3rd Edition*.

NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

National USAR Working Group (NUSARWG)

Role

To promote the strategic development of USAR capabilities nationally.

Objectives

- Foster a national multi-agency approach to the development of USAR capabilities;
- Develop protocols for the deployment of USAR teams across jurisdictions within Australia;
- Develop protocols for the receipt of international USAR assistance into Australia and the provision of Australian USAR assistance to overseas disasters;

- Establish and maintain links with national and international USAR organisations in order to contribute to the development of and to embrace best practice;
- Provide advice on USAR training, equipment and operational strategies;
- Share information on contemporary USAR capabilities and developments; and
- Foster the conduct of national USAR exercises.

Reporting

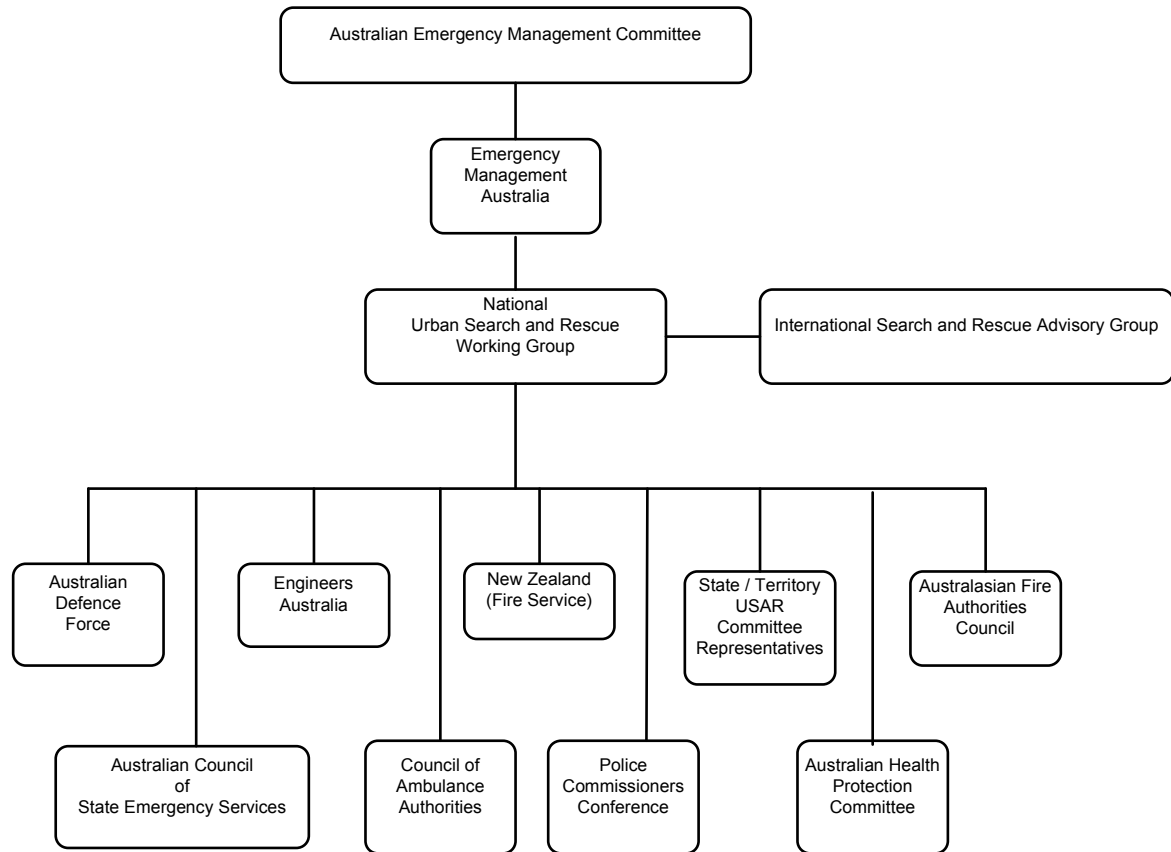
The NUSARWG reports through to the AEMC.

Working Group Structure

The NUSARWG is chaired by EMA and includes representatives from:

- All Australian States and Territories USAR committee representatives;
- Australian Defence Force (ADF);
- Australasian Fire Authorities Council (AFAC);
- Council of Ambulance Authorities (CAA);
- Police Commissioners Conference (PCC);
- Australian Council of State Emergency Services (ACSES);
- Australian Health Protection Committee (AHPC);
- Engineers Australia; and
- New Zealand Fire Service.

Reporting structure



Australasian Fire Authorities Council (AFAC) USAR Committee

Role

AFAC is a national peak body with membership drawn from the fire and emergency services. Through its Urban Group, AFAC facilitates on-going collaboration, dialogue and information exchange thereby facilitating:

- Interoperability through agreed standards for equipment, procedures and training;
- Adoption of *best practice* through on-going review of USAR practices both locally and internationally;
- Assistance in the development of capacity within jurisdictions through collegiate support between its member agencies across Australasia; and
- National level dialogue and liaison with EMA.

Objectives

The AFAC USAR Strategic Plan includes:

- Provision of effective fire and emergency services inputs to the development of the National USAR Plan and the activities of the multi-agency NUSARWG;
- Identification of national issues or barriers to inter-jurisdictional support;
- To promote the development of a sustainable, integrated, national, multi-agency response capability;
- Promotion of best practice in USAR management within fire and emergency services;
- Assist implementation of USAR within the fire and emergency sector through fostering best practice models, protocols, competency standards, training materials and other support tools;
- Facilitation of exchange of USAR experiences, skills and ideas and for mentoring between fire and emergency services;
- To provide national overview and recommendations on fire and emergency services USAR capabilities; and
- Prepare, analyse and report on USAR incident statistics and key performance indicators.

Reporting

The AFAC Urban Group receives strategic direction from and reports to the AFAC Council. Through AFAC's representation on the NUSARWG, information flow, priority setting and strategic coordination of issues is facilitated between the two bodies.

State Committees

In addition to the National consultative arrangements, the States have in place local working groups and consultative arrangements enabling USAR related issues to be discussed at a local level. As necessary, information and issues having significance beyond an individual jurisdiction can be referred from these groups on to a national agenda. The state level groups are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. State Level Consultative Groups

State	Working Group
Australian Capital Territory	ESA Joint Operations Planning Group
New South Wales	State USAR Advisory Committee
Northern Territory	NT Emergency Services Counter Disaster Planning Committee
Queensland	Queensland State Rescue Committee
South Australia	South Australian State USAR Committee
Tasmania	Tasmanian USAR Working Group
Victoria	State USAR Coordination Committee
Western Australia	State USAR Working Group

CAPABILITY

The Australian USAR capability has been developed based on a risk management integrated national approach and the selection of resources best suited to meet Australia's structures, geography and environment. The basic components upon which Australia's capability is based are:

USAR Response Cache

A nationally agreed cache of equipment suitable for a jurisdiction's immediate response needs to a structural collapse incident.

USAR Taskforce Cache

A nationally agreed cache of equipment suitable for a jurisdiction's immediate response needs and in addition to being able to be deployed to assist another jurisdiction to support a taskforce.

USAR Taskforce

A USAR Taskforce comprises a taskforce cache accompanied by sufficient trained personnel to maintain 24/7, self-sustained operations for at least 10 days.

International USAR Taskforce

An International USAR Taskforce is a USAR Taskforce that is registered with INSARAG to respond overseas in accord with UN protocols. New South Wales and Queensland have established International USAR Taskforces.

Note: While a State is deployed overseas they must still be capable of providing a State based response capability.

Self sustainability cache

A self-sustainability cache is intended to fully support a taskforce for a minimum of ten (10) days. This equipment may be utilised for, but is not restricted to, the following circumstances:

- Self sufficiency for USAR teams deployed interstate or overseas;
- Self sufficiency to any disaster relief team deployed overseas; and

NSW and Queensland maintain self-sustainability caches as part of the International USAR Taskforce capability.

Table 2. Australia's current and planned USAR capability

State	Current Capability	Target capability
Australia Defence Force	Developing capacity	USAR Response cache
Australian Capital Territory	Developing capacity	Canberra USAR Taskforce cache (Planned completion 2010)
New South Wales	Sydney International USAR Taskforce USAR Taskforce USAR Response Cache Newcastle USAR Response Cache Wollongong USAR Response Cache	Maintain state-wide current capacity
Northern Territory	Developing capacity	Darwin USAR Response cache (Planned completion 09/07)
Queensland	Brisbane International USAR Taskforce USAR Taskforce Townsville USAR Cache	Brisbane Additional: USAR Taskforce Cache (TBD) Townsville Maintain current capacity
South Australia	Developing capacity	Adelaide USAR Taskforce USAR Taskforce Cache (TBD)
Tasmania	Developing capacity	Hobart USAR Response cache Launceston USAR Response cache (Planned completion 2008)
Victoria	Melbourne USAR Taskforce	Regional Victoria Additional: USAR Taskforce Cache 2 x USAR Response Caches (Planned completion end 2009)
Western Australia	Perth USAR Taskforce	Perth Additional: USAR Taskforce Cache (Planned completion 2008)
Self sustainability caches	Queensland and NSW	Maintain status quo

TRAINING

In addition to equipment, capacity building and maintenance is dependent upon having access to the necessary skills and knowledge to apply the tools and procedures to a task; requiring both initial training and on-going skills maintenance. Thus, the NUSARWG has instituted training regimes to specifically address the needs of USAR. Training protocols and programs have been prescribed for:

Personnel undertaking USAR roles

The NUSARWG has adopted three levels of training for personnel who are involved in USAR operations. Associated training programs have been developed that comply with the Australian Qualifications Framework; as components within the Public Safety Training Package.

- *Category 1*
Primarily directed at the rescue and removal of surface casualties by first responder.
- *Category 2*
Directed towards search and rescue of trapped victims, competent operation of specialised equipment and proficiency in all aspects of specialist USAR techniques including the recognition of hazards, shoring and stabilization of collapsed or partially collapsed structures.
- *Category 3*
Category 3 training is directed at the command, control, and management of a task force; it is intended for personnel who are USAR Taskforce Leaders.

Rescuers

A Category 2 rescuer is a highly trained technician who operates within a team utilising specialised skills and equipment to rescue persons trapped as a result of a structural collapse. Specialised skills include the ability to locate and extricate trapped victims, undertake structural triage, shore, crib, cut, core into concrete and masonry and to work above and below ground.

TASK FORCE SPECIALISTS

Taskforce Specialist Course

A short course is provided to those people who are included in the task force as specialists to provide them with an appreciation of their role, how they integrate into task force operations and support task force commanders. This training, although conducted in isolation of the Category 2 course, uses the 48hr exercise as a component part. This course is compulsory for any personnel from the specialist areas prior to undertaking deployment with their Taskforce.

Canine Teams

In order to be included in USAR Operations, Canine Team Members must have completed:

- In all cases, Category 1 USAR training; and

- USAR Taskforce Specialist Course if they are to be deployed beyond their home jurisdiction.

In addition, the Canine Team must be certified to one of the following recognised standards:

- Australian Swiss Search Dog Association (ASSDA) USAR Advanced Operational Test or its International REDOG equivalent. [<http://assda-sardogs.org/index.php?itemid=8>]
- FEMA Type 1 Disaster Search Canine
<http://www.fema.gov/emergency/usr/canine.shtm>
- New Zealand Urban USAR Canine Readiness Evaluation Process: Advanced Level. http://www.usar.govt.nz/userwebsite.nsf/wpg_URL/USAR-Personnel-Search-Dogs-Index?OpenDocument&ExpandView

Engineering Capabilities

Given their nature, USAR operations may often require the advice, skills and services of engineers to better ensure the safety of both the victims of a structural collapse and the personnel engaged in the resultant search and rescue tasks.

The NUSARWG has adopted two levels of training for engineers intending to engage in USAR operations. Each of the training programs requires that an engineer has met prerequisite conditions.

- **Level 1 USAR Engineer Training**
Level 1 training is designed for professional engineers to be able to operate on the outer perimeter (only) of a structural collapse site. It provides awareness of the issues associated with working alongside emergency services personnel. Engineers with this level of training may provide advice to USAR personnel without entering the incident ground.
- **Prerequisite Conditions for Level 1**
A person seeking to undertake Level 1 USAR Engineer Training shall be a graduate engineer from any technical discipline and have completed Category 1 USAR training.
- **Level 2 USAR Engineer Training**
Level 2 training is designed for professional engineers to be able to operate within a structural collapse site to assess overall structure and element stability.
- In order to operate as part of a USAR taskforce, a person who has completed Level 2 USAR Engineer Training must complete a USAR Taskforce Specialist Course and at least 1 shift of a 48 hour Category 2 exercise.
- **Prerequisite Conditions for Level 2**

A person seeking to undertake Level 2 USAR Engineer Training shall be a Chartered Professional Engineer (structural or geotechnical) who has completed USAR Level 1 Engineer training.

Paramedics

The medical component of a team or task force is critical. Due to the types of injuries that can be encountered at a USAR incident, paramedics involved in USAR operations should be qualified to the highest clinical level available within their state. Considerations when providing medical care in the USAR context are:

- Arrangements need to be considered in line with jurisdictional responsibilities for rescue
- The purpose of the USAR paramedic is to provide care initially for members of the USAR team and then those people trapped in a collapse structure and it is not to provide services to the general community;
- Paramedics are required to have a comprehensive appreciation of USAR operations including Task Force specialist training and wherever possible USAR paramedics should strive to attain Category 2 Rescuer certification.
- Provision of medical care cannot rely on assistance from the impacted community and must be completely self sufficient; and
- In the event of an extended or large scale incident, an appropriately qualified doctor may be deployed in the role of task force medical manager.

Bomb Technicians

The need for a Bomb Disposal Team will be determined by Police when a structural collapse has resulted or suspected to be the result of an improvised explosive device (IED) or booby trap.

Bomb Technicians are responsible for ensuring a safe working environment for the Task Force by undertaking bomb and explosive appraisal procedures at the site. In the case that an unexploded device, secondary explosive device or booby traps are located, the Bomb Disposal Team will undertake procedures to render safe the explosive device.

Forensic and Disaster Victim Identification

At a major incident involving a structural collapse forensic investigators are responsible for evidence collection and facilitating identification procedures on deceased on behalf of the coroner. DVI will involve where possible the recording of the deceased in situ, numbering of same and commencing identification procedures at the scene. A strong relationship needs to exist between USAR personnel and forensic investigators to promote effective application of capability

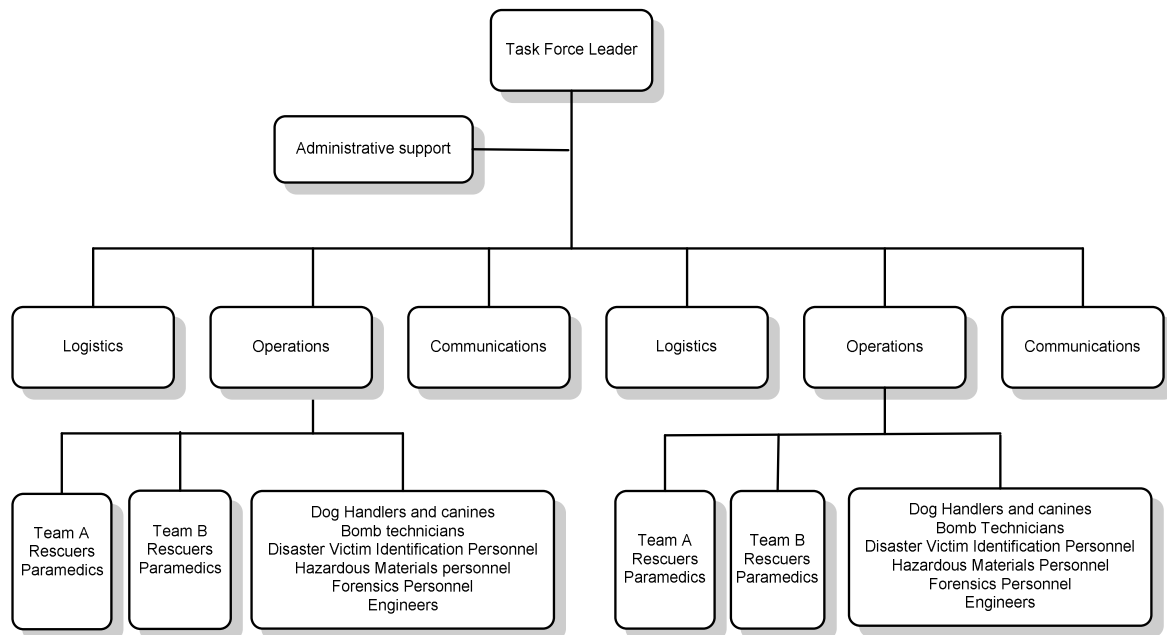
USAR OPERATIONS WITHIN AUSTRALIA

USAR capabilities have been developed within each state and territory. The national arrangements have built upon systems and processes within each jurisdiction to produce an integrated national capacity responsive to the dynamics of an incident.

Underpinning such is the recognition that a structural collapse incident may require resources beyond the local capacity, be they interstate or international. Thus, the internationally accepted standard International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) guidelines and methodology have been utilised as a basis upon which all Australian arrangements are designed thereby enabling seamless scaling up of operations and deployment of resources across Australia.

Indicative Taskforce Structure

The diagram is indicative of a USAR Taskforce structure; the structure is consistent with international USAR arrangements and provides flexibility for modification as required to address the specific needs and demands of a particular incident.



USAR within an Incident Management Structure

Essential to the resolution of any emergency situation is a robust incident management system (IMS) that enables the integration of the activities and resources of all involved parties.

The taskforce structure developed for USAR is consistent with the structure and application of incident management arrangements operating within Australia, enabling a USAR Taskforce to plug seamlessly into an IMS structure within the operations function.

INTER - JURISDICTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

PRINCIPLES

These guidelines have been developed in recognition that structural collapse emergencies and other incidents requiring technical rescue skills and resources can require a level of response beyond the resources available within an individual state or territory.

Two critical factors in reducing the adverse impact of structural collapse emergencies are the early recognition of the need for external resources and streamlined procedures to enable the activation and deployment of such resources.

The primary intention of these guidelines is to provide a standardised set of arrangements for the streamlined and rapid provision of mutual assistance between states and territories when USAR resources are requested to assist another jurisdiction whether for structural collapse emergencies or other incidents requiring technical rescue resources.

The guidelines have been developed in accordance with existing EMA and AFAC protocols for the provision of interstate assistance. They reflect arrangements under the INSARAG guidelines and methodology with appropriate adjustment for application to interstate calls for assistance; thereby maintaining a consistency between interstate and international procedures.

The arrangements provide a template for the establishment of bilateral agreements for USAR Mutual Aid between states.

Inter-jurisdictional Arrangements

Various inter-service and bilateral state agreements for the provision of assistance and resource sharing exist in relation to a range of services provided by jurisdictions. Through the on-going mutual cooperation and dialogue of the parties, such arrangements have operated effectively as a means of meeting infrequent surge demands that might be experienced by a jurisdiction or as a means of accessing specialist resources otherwise unavailable to a jurisdiction.

In the same manner, the USAR community has cooperated to develop the principles and a framework for bilateral arrangements to be established between states - *Inter-jurisdictional USAR Arrangements*

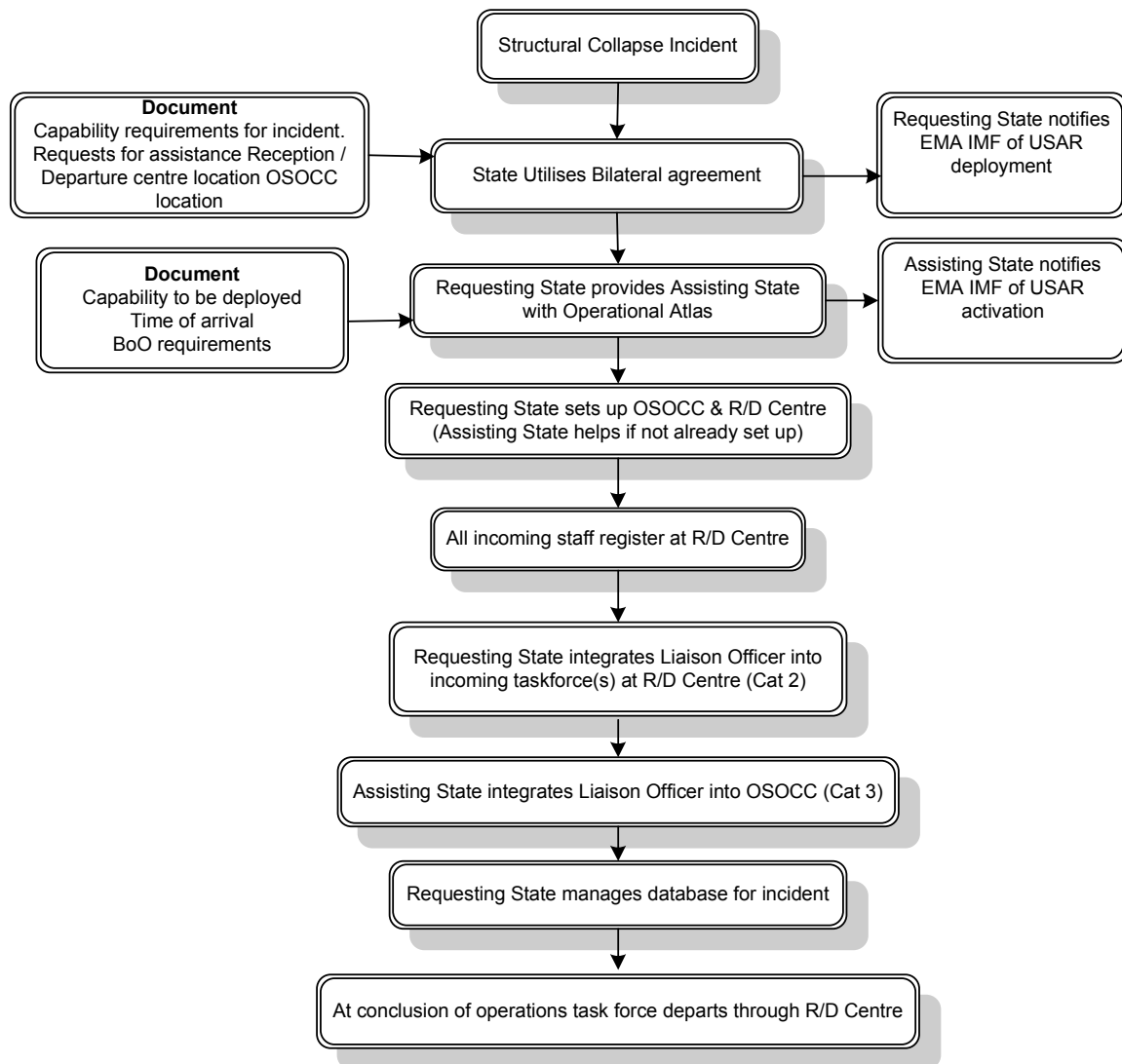
It is acknowledged that the nature of a particular USAR event may mean that the arrangements under a bilateral agreement are instituted without the need for Australian Government involvement. Regardless, the guidelines provide a mechanism for information and advice to be provided to the Australian Government (via EMA's Incident Management Facility) so that it may continue to monitor the level of available national USAR capability at all times.

The following flowcharts provide a schematic representation of the arrangements for Inter jurisdictional assistance within Australia:

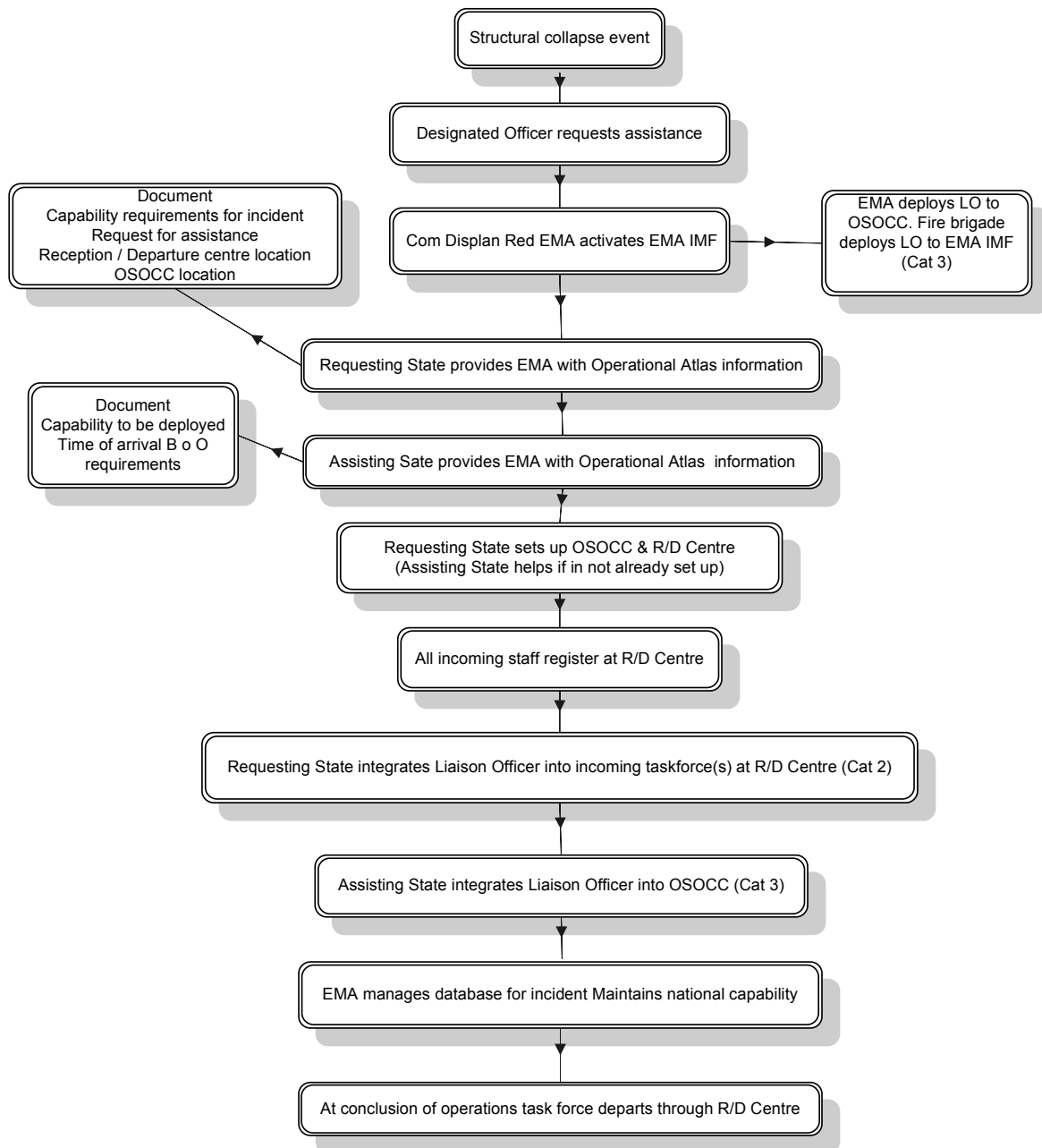
- State-to-State USAR deployment (Flowchart 1); and
- USAR deployment with Australian Government involvement (Flowchart 2).

Australian Government assistance can be obtained with or without the activation of COMDISPLAN however, for the purposes of this section, activation to COMDISPLAN Red is assumed. Flowchart 2 shows the process for engaging Australian Government assistance in relation to a USAR event within Australia.

Flowchart 1: Arrangements for State-to-State USAR deployment



Flowchart 2: Arrangements for USAR deployment with Australian Government involvement.



Authorised officers to be designated

Each State shall designate Authorised Officers for the purposes of making or determining Inter - jurisdictional requests for USAR assistance.

At least one Authorised Officer is to be available on a 24/7 basis.

Each State shall establish, and notify all other States of, the means to contact an Authorised Officer during an emergency to request Inter - jurisdictional USAR support.

Assistance

To the extent possible, a State requested to provide assistance will endeavour to make available the resources requested, noting that:

- An assisting State may withhold resources to the extent necessary to meet its own needs and responsibilities; and
- An assisting State may withdraw the requested and deployed resources at any time as necessary to meet its own needs and responsibilities.

The requesting State and an assisting State will liaise as necessary to keep each other informed of changes in circumstances that may affect the capacity to provide external support.

An assisting State will not withdraw resources without prior notice to the requesting State and will endeavour to provide as much notice as possible of its intention to withdraw any resources.

Requests for assistance

Only an authorised officer may request assistance on behalf of a requesting State. Only an authorised officer of the jurisdiction receiving a request for USAR support may determine a request for assistance. Requests for assistance must be in writing – which may include facsimile or email.

Initially, verbal requests for assistance may be made to provide early notice to another state and form the basis for the activation and standby of resources from the assisting State. However, in such an event:

- The requesting State must confirm the request in writing; and
- The assisting State will not deploy any resources external of its jurisdiction until it is in receipt of the written request.

Requests for assistance should include the following:

- A description of the incident for which the assistance is sought;
- The exact nature of the assistance required, including the level of capability required;
- The location of relevant Reception/Departure centres (RDC), including the most appropriate means of travel;
- The level of self-sufficiency expected of incoming teams (e.g. whether to establish own B o O; need to provide own feeding, rest/recline);

- The name of the authorised officer(s) making the request; and
- Relevant points of contact and communication details of the requesting State for further liaison regarding the request.

Powers

A requesting State will endeavour to provide members of an assisting State the powers and indemnities afforded to members of the requesting State performing similar roles.

[**Trigger** for automatic activation of provisions – suggestion “*Call for Inter - jurisdictional Assistance*”]

Recognition of competencies

States are to establish Memorandum of Understanding or legislative/regulatory provisions to recognise personnel who are:

- Temporarily performing tasks or providing services for which registration or licensing is required within the requesting State;
- Providing those services as part of a Taskforce from another jurisdiction that has responded to a call for Inter- jurisdictional assistance; and
- Qualified, licensed or registered as required within the assisting State to perform the tasks and/or provide the services which they provide as a member of the taskforce providing assistance in response to a call for Inter - jurisdictional assistance.

Such recognition is to be for the duration of involvement by the personnel as part of a Taskforce that has responded to a *call for Inter- jurisdictional assistance* until such time as that Taskforce is stood down.

[**Trigger** for automatic activation of provisions – suggestion “*Call for Inter- jurisdictional Assistance*”]

Liability

Except where relevant statute or common law prevents, the requesting State will be responsible for the liability, and associated expenses including legal representation, incurred by the assisting State and its personnel arising from personal injury, death, public risk, property loss or damage, or any other claim arising in the course of providing assistance to the requesting State.

The requesting State and the assisting State will consult in relation to the handling of any third party claims that may arise out of the provision of assistance based on these protocols.

States may consider the extension of existing insurance coverage to explicitly include the provision of coverage to parties requested to assist the relevant State or Territory.

[**Trigger** for automatic activation of provisions – suggestion “*Call for Inter - jurisdictional Assistance*”]

Control and co-ordination

Given the multi-disciplinary nature of USAR teams, it is recognised that assisting States may deploy teams consisting of career and volunteer personnel including fire fighters, SES members, doctors, paramedics, ambulance service personnel, engineers, and police who operate under a range of legislation and contracts of employment specific to the assisting State. The Taskforce/Team leader from the assisting State will assume responsibility for these personnel.

In order to facilitate the above, each discrete external taskforce/team shall be assigned duties as a discrete entity within the overall operations; in accordance with the following:

- requesting and assisting States will operate command and control in accordance with a recognised incident management system (ICS);
- Under ICS, USAR operations are a specialist activity within the Operations Function:
 - The resources of the assisting State will come under the overall control and coordination of the requesting State through the Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA);
 - The control function at the incident is exercised by the Incident Controller on behalf of and in concert with the LEMA; and
 - The assisting State will be responsible for command and control of individual personnel within its team(s) through the designated Taskforce Leader or Team Leader(s) in the event that a full taskforce is not deployed.
- In addition to the resources within the taskforce/teams provided by the assisting State, the assisting State shall provide an appropriately qualified officer to liaise with the requesting State at its incident co-ordination level; and
- The requesting State will have available an appropriately qualified officer at the co-ordination level to liaise with the assisting State regarding its resources.

NOTE: For the purposes of this section, *appropriately qualified* shall require having CAT 3 level USAR training.

Stand down

Following consultation with the LEMA and relevant stakeholders, the Incident Controller of the incident shall make the determination when USAR operations are to cease.

Following the standing down of USAR teams, the requesting State shall provide logistical support to the assisting States' resources to facilitate demobilisation and return to their home state.

Cost recovery

Costs incurred in the provision of assistance are to be met initially by the assisting State.

States / Territories will confer on the reimbursements of salaries of personnel provided by an assisting State.

The requesting State will meet other reasonable costs incurred by the assisting State and for any loss, damage or expense incurred in providing assistance.

At its own discretion, the assisting State may provide equipment or services to the requesting State without charge or cost.

Where cost recovery is sought, the assisting State will provide the requesting State with a detailed account of costs claimed.

It is generally recognised that cost recovery will not be sought for the purposes of training and exercising in preparation of the provision of assistance unless specifically arranged.

These arrangements in no way affect states accessing the Australian natural disaster funding procedures or emergency supplementation arrangements.

Dispute resolution

In the event of a dispute, each affected state will appoint an appropriate officer to resolve the dispute.

Affected states will attempt to resolve any disputes arising from the interpretation or implementation of these guidelines through the NUSARWG.

Media

During the provision of assistance, the requesting State will be responsible for the provision of information to the media.

Comments to the media from assisting States will be restricted to specific operational matters for which the assisting State is directly responsible.

Assisting States will not make comment to the media about any matter concerning the incident other than deployment arrangements and general tasking without prior approval of the requesting State.

Communications

The assisting State is responsible for the provision of communication facilities for use within its own operational elements and for providing communication links back to its own state.

The requesting State is responsible for providing communications from the Taskforce Leader(s) of an assisting State to the relevant operations centre(s) of the requesting State.

Australian Government

Not all instances of calls for Inter jurisdictional assistance under a bilateral agreement will necessitate the involvement of the Australian Government. However a requesting State may seek assistance from the Australian Government, via EMA, for the coordination of resources to be provided by an assisting State/s. However, in all instances of a call for Inter - jurisdictional assistance:

- The requesting State is to advise EMA:
 - Of the incident; and
 - That it has determined a need for Inter - jurisdictional support and shall be/is approaching other states with “*Call(s) for Inter- jurisdictional Assistance*”.
- An assisting State is to advise EMA of:
 - The resources deployed, the incident and the intended initial duration of deployment; and
 - Updates regarding release, redeployment and return to base of a taskforce/team.

Virtual OSOCC

EMA shall be responsible to update the INSARAG Virtual OSOCC with details of jurisdictions’ deployments/commitments.

In the event of an incident requiring the deployment of resources from several assisting States, an exchange of Liaison Officers (LO) will occur:

- A LO (having USAR CAT 3 training and appropriate security clearances) will be provided to EMA to assist in the facilitation and coordination of requests for assistances; and
- EMA shall provide a LO to the LEMA.

INTERNATIONAL RECEPTION ARRANGEMENTS

These procedures are specific to the possible involvement of international resources in an Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) incident. They are in addition to, and complement, procedures for local and/or Inter - jurisdictional deployment of USAR resources.

INTERNATIONAL USAR RECEPTION ARRANGEMENTS

Development of the national USAR capacity has recognised that USAR incidents are low likelihood and high consequence events. Planning has also been cognisant of the significant differences in geographic spread and population density across Australia. Capability planning is based on the recognition that there may be large scale incidents, or multiple incidents occurring simultaneously that could exhaust Australia's national capabilities.

The adoption by NUSARWG of standards, training regimes, and operational protocols based on INSARAG Guidelines and methodology has strengthened this strategy by better ensuring the streamlined integration of operations involving both internal and external USAR teams.

The potential for an external USAR Taskforce coming into Australia has necessitated careful consideration of the need to achieve the short term USAR response whilst maintaining the integrity of Australia's border protection - in particular, quarantine and customs matters which pose longer-term and potentially more enduring consequences.

Policy specific to USAR has been developed by Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service, the Australian Customs Service and Department of Immigration and Citizenship.

Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service Policy

Australia has a unique ecosystem that supports a variety of fauna and flora that is only found in Australia. Due to its geographic position, Australia remains free of many exotic diseases and pests that plague other countries.

Due to the nature of their work USAR taskforces are exposed to foreign soil, plant and animal matter when conducting search and rescue operations, the movement can pose a quarantine risk to Australia through contaminated equipment and personal effects providing a route for the entry of exotic pests and disease.

In cooperation with the NUSARWG, AQIS has developed procedures and protocols for the cleaning and inspection of USAR equipment and personal effects to manage the risk of the introduction of environmental, agricultural or health threats into Australia, whilst best facilitating the timely entry of assisting USAR taskforces into Australia.

Australian Customs Service Policy

The Australian Customs Service plays a vital role in protecting Australia's borders from the entry of illegal and harmful goods and unauthorised people, whilst also ensuring that the legitimate movement of people and goods across the border is not unnecessarily impeded.

Customs has developed a set of guidelines and recommendations in relation with USAR to more quickly facilitate the processing of taskforces and equipment into Australia in times of emergency. EMA and NUSARWG will continue to liaise with Customs in the implementation of its recommendations and opportunities for refinement.

Department of Immigration and Citizenship Policy

Policy and procedures have been established whereby international teams proposing to enter Australia are required to arrange visas and complete a personnel manifest (to be forwarded via EMA) prior to departing their own country. The availability of electronic visa processing in some cities offers time-savings in the event of deployment of a USAR team into Australia.

PRE-INCIDENT PREPAREDNESS

States and Territories

State and local governments have the primary legislative responsibility of planning for, and managing the consequences of, a structural collapse incident. As part of the integrated national approach, States shall develop and maintain:

- Their domestic USAR capabilities to the levels as agreed from time to time; and
- A pool of personnel trained to Category 3 level and having the necessary clearances to operate within the EMA Incident Management Facility as LO's for USAR events. [Currently, only the ACT Fire Brigade is able to provide such personnel]

EMA shall monitor and maintain information in the INSARAG Virtual OSOCC

Process to request international assistance

EMA is the national focal point for coordination of requests by Australian States and Territories for international USAR assistance. All requests for international assistance are to be directed to EMA which shall make requests in accordance with the INSARAG guidelines and methodology.

Establishing Need

When external assistance is required to resolve a USAR incident, in the first instance, States should seek assistance from other Australian jurisdictions. In the event that resources beyond those available within Australia are required, requests for international assistance should be made as soon as possible:

- The requesting State shall conduct an assessment to identify the priority needs for international assistance; and

- Information outlining the priority needs is to be passed to EMA for transmission to international support agencies.

Request for International USAR Assistance

- Requests to EMA are to be made by a Designated Officer within the meaning of the COMDISPLAN;
- A request is to be in writing using the standard form provided in the Operational Atlas available at Quick Place on the EMA website;
- The request will be forwarded through the Incident Management Facility;
- EMA shall liaise with the assisting Country, Customs and Immigration and others as it deems necessary to facilitate the issuance of electronic Visas for incoming taskforces which it has requested; and.
- The Incident Management Facility shall contact the rostered agency to arrange attendance of a LO.

Preparations to receive international assistance

Following a request for the provision of international assistance, the requesting State is to implement procedures and arrangements for receiving international USAR teams, by:

- Establishing an OSOCC;
- Establishing a reception Departure Centre(s) (RDC)
- Briefing arriving USAR teams at the RDC (or other appropriate location)
- Making provisions for:
 - USAR trained search dogs and handlers to be available for attachment to and to work with each international team(s);
 - Emergency medical pharmaceuticals (medical cache) for use by the international team(s); and
 - Feeding of the international team(s) for the duration of involvement.
- Determining security needs and arrangements for personnel, equipment, the OSOCC and B o O facilities;
- Establishing logistic requirements to support international USAR teams including interpreters and guides (if required), fuel, transport, water, maps, transportation to and from the B o O location;
- Providing regular update information to the incoming/assisting teams; and

- If operational and/or resource requirements change prior to the arrival of a requested taskforce negating the need, communicating to EMA the cessation of the need for additional USAR teams.

DURING OPERATIONS

- Implement security arrangements for personnel, equipment, the OSOCC and B o O facilities;
- Implement logistic requirements to support USAR teams including interpreters and guides (if required),fuel, transport, water, maps, transportation to and from the B o O location;
- Provide regular situation updates for inclusion on the Virtual OSOCC; and
- Maintain representation at the RDC and the OSOCC to ensure a coordinated response and national priorities are met.

Demobilisation

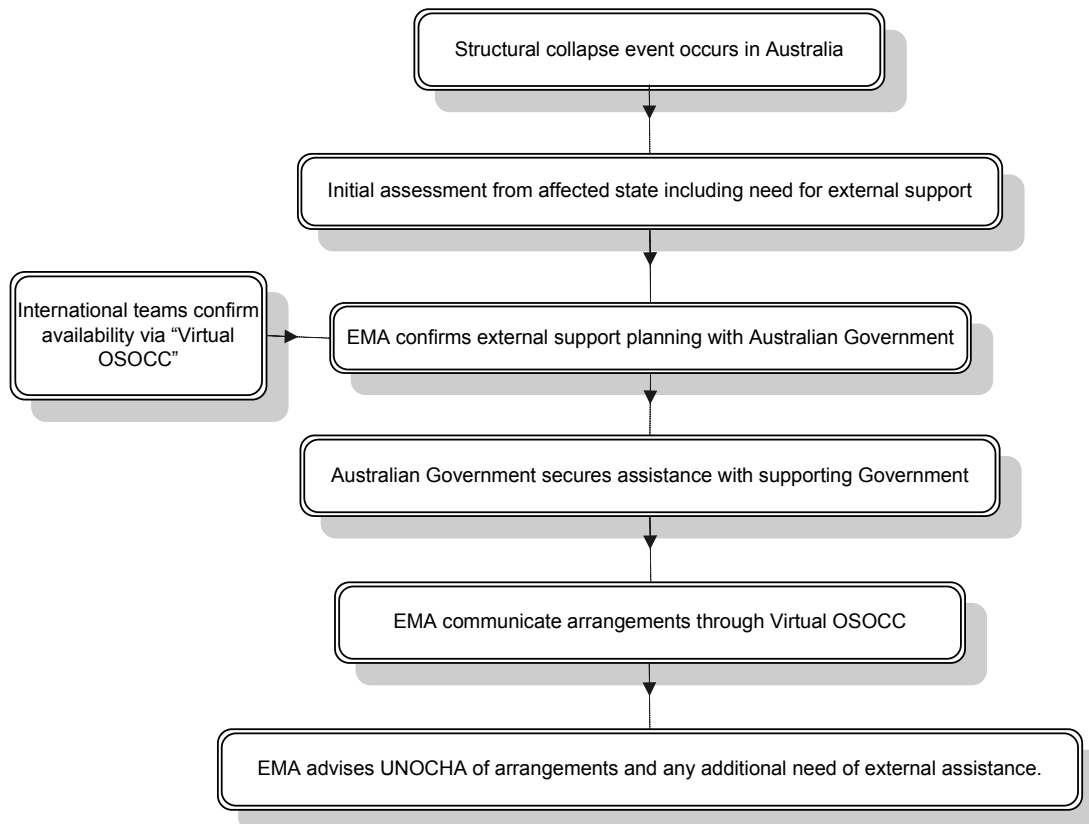
- In consultation with the LEMA and other stakeholders, the Incident Controller shall make the determination when USAR operations are to cease or, as appropriate, when involvement of the international assistance is no longer required given the current and predicted circumstances of the incident and availability of local resources; and
- Following the standing down of international USAR teams, the requesting State shall provide logistical support to facilitate demobilisation and withdrawal.

International Relations and liaison

As the national focal point for coordination of requests for international USAR assistance, EMA shall implement the international coordination mechanisms provided by United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) Teams to ensure that international liaison and communication occurs in accordance with accepted protocols.

EMA shall be responsible for liaison with and management of information flows between Australia and other nations in relation to the USAR assistance. To assist EMA to effectively manage international relations and liaison, the LEMA shall maintain a flow of information to EMA.

Flowchart 3: Arrangements for international USAR assistance into Australia



APPENDIX A

Specific actions to be included in inter - jurisdictional arrangements

Reception facilitation

Taskforce Information

The assisting State shall provide to the requesting State as early as possible and, in any event, no later than the assisting State's time of departure from its home base:

- Flight/transport details: ETA, location;
- Taskforce make-up and personnel details;
- Load and manifest details of its cache ;
- The taskforce's communications plan requesting State to have its communications personnel review the plan and facilitate its integration into the overall incident communications plan;
- Items excluded from cache to be provided for the taskforce's use by the requesting State (e.g. food stuffs unable to be transported across State borders); and
- Fuel, lubricant and other consumable requirements - for equipment within caches - necessary to commence work and for replenishment during the incident (due to inability to transport certain dangerous goods by air).

Load Handling

- The requesting State is to make appropriate arrangements to receive and unload caches arriving with the assisting State;
- The requesting State is to make appropriate arrangements:
 - To transport incoming caches to the incident site from the point of arrival of the assisting taskforce; and
 - To provide suitable equipment to unload the caches at the point of deployment onto the incident ground.

Establishment of OSOCC and RDC

- The requesting State is to establish an On Site Operations and Coordination Centre (OSOCC) and Reception / Departure Centre(s) (RDC) at nominated sites in accordance with INSARAG guidelines. [If the requesting State is unable to or has not set up the OSOCC, it is to be established by the first arriving taskforce.]

- All incoming staff from the assisting State are to register at the RDC;
- At the RDC, an LO (trained to USAR Category 2) from the requesting State will be integrated into the taskforce of the assisting State; and
- Upon arrival, an LO from the assisting State (trained to USAR Category 3 level) will be integrated into the LEMA.

Briefing to Taskforce

Following their arrival at the RDC prior to deployment to the incident area:

- The requesting State shall provide a briefing for the USAR crews; and
- The assisting State's Taskforce Leader shall handover T-Card information at the RDC confirming details of personnel arriving at the RDC.

Base of Operation

When an assisting State's taskforce is required to be fully self-sufficient in the field, the requesting State shall provide logistics assistance to the taskforce in the selection and establishment of the B o O, and transport of personnel to and from the site for the duration of involvement.

The requesting State is to provide security for the B o O and the assisting State's equipment during the deployment.

Transport

Where possible the assisting State shall assemble and arrange transportation for the requesting State of:

- Equipment as agreed between the two jurisdictions;
- Personnel sufficient to achieve the tasks requested; and
- An appropriately trained person to act as an LO at the incident co-ordination level.

Self sufficiency

Except where specifically arranged and agreed prior to deployment and confirmed in writing, an assisting State's Taskforce/ Team will deploy as a self-sufficient unit with a capability to maintain itself independently in the field for a period of 72 hours (or other period as specified prior to deployment).

[NOTES: In some instances of deployments within Australia, the requesting state may be able to arrange accommodation for incoming taskforce personnel near the incident site using existing civil infrastructure thereby negating the need for the establishment of base camps by incoming taskforces. If this is the case it should be communicated to the assisting State prior to deployment to enable cache equipment needs, manifests and consequent transport arrangements to be refined.

Some Australian States prohibit the movement of particular foodstuffs across their state border or within defined areas. Prior to deployment, the requesting State is to advise assisting Taskforces of any restrictions in this regard that may affect food items and to secure to alternative arrangements for such provisions if necessary.]

Standard Pallets

For Inter - jurisdictional deployments, all cache equipment is to be loaded on standard forklift pallets to facilitate common handling techniques throughout Australia.

Communications resources

The assisting taskforce is to be self-sufficient in terms of in-field radio communications for point-to-point use by members of its team(s). Such radio communication is not to interfere with other incident command and control network(s), however it may integrate into the incident command and control network(s).

The assisting taskforce is to have available a Communications Plan detailing its frequencies and contact details for the incident which is to be provided to the requesting State' LO.

Note: [Consideration might be given to States developing agreed pre-arranged channel selections/assignment for use during instances of Inter - jurisdictional assistance.]

The assisting taskforce is to have its own capacity to communicate back to its home agency and to its State of origin.

The requesting State is to have technical LO's to address issues of communications compatibilities (avoidance of interference) and to assist with incidental needs of the Taskforce as necessary.

The requesting State is to provide facilities for the assisting State Taskforce Leader(s) communications into the Incident Control.

Demobilisation facilitation

At the conclusion of the incident, all USAR taskforce personnel are to depart through the established RDC and be appropriately debriefed.

The requesting State shall arrange:

- The provision of forklift and road transportation (as necessary) at the B o O to enable an assisting State's cache equipment to be loaded for transportation to the sea or airport for return to its home base; and.
- As required, bookings for sea or air transportation for return of an assisting State's cache to its home base.

APPENDIX B

Australian USAR Training Categories

The NUSARWG has adopted three levels of training for personnel to be involved in USAR operations. Associated training programs have been developed that comply with the Australian Qualifications Framework and are components within the Public Safety Training Package.

Category 1 - Surface

Category 1 training is primarily directed at the rescue and removal of surface casualties. It includes basic search techniques, occupational health and safety, an appreciation of specialist equipment and techniques, and the ability to work as part of a team.

It is aimed at personnel likely to be involved in the early stages of an incident as the first responders.

Category 2 – Surface and Below Debris

Category 2 training is directed towards search and rescue of trapped victims, competent operation of specialised equipment and proficiency in all aspects of specialist USAR techniques including the recognition of hazards, and the shoring and stabilisation of collapsed or partially collapsed structures.

Completion of Category 1 training is a prerequisite to undertake Category 2.

Category 3 – USAR Management

Category 3 training is directed at the command, control, and management of a task force and is intended for personnel to act as USAR Taskforce Leaders.

APPENDIX C

Terms and abbreviations

24/7	Available 24 hours a day 7 days a week
AFAC	Australasian Fire Authorities Council
AQIS	Australian Quarantine Inspection Service
assisting Country	Nation/government sponsoring an INSARAG team that mobilises and responds upon a request to assist another nation.
ASSDA	Australian Swiss Search Dog Association
assisting State	<p>A state or territory which provides USAR support to a <i>requesting State</i> to assist resolve an emergency requiring USAR assistance.</p> <p>Note: For brevity, in these guidelines a reference to <i>state</i> shall be taken as a reference to States and Territories</p>
Authorised officer	<p>An officer of a state or territory agency who, in relation to USAR is authorised to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) request assistance from another jurisdiction and / or; and (b) determine such requests for assistance from another jurisdiction.
Base of Operations (B o O)	On-site operational facility close to a USAR incident work site comprising areas for the team management, equipment stock, personnel shelter, feeding areas, etc.
Cache	USAR Team/Task Force equipment, tools, communication equipment, medical supplies, etc.
Consequence Management (as applied to Australia's national counter terrorism arrangements)	Measures to protect public health and safety and provide emergency relief to those affected by the consequences of terrorism. Consequence Management has an emergency management focus.
COMDISPLAN	The national emergency management arrangements for the provision of Commonwealth Government assistance following a disaster within Australia.
Crisis Management (as applied to Australia's national counter terrorism arrangements)	Deliberate and immediate management for whole of government consideration of policy, decision making and coordination for the prevention and/or resolution of threats or acts of politically motivated violence in order to maintain national security and confidence in government. Crisis Management has a law

	enforcement focus.
ETA	Electronic Travel Authority - when used in relation to Australian customs and immigration arrangements
Deactivation	Assignment to a USAR Team indicating that their mission assignment is complete and to make ready for return home.
Demobilisation	The process used to return resources to their original location at the conclusion of an operation.
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
DiaC	Department of Immigration and Citizenship
DISPLAN	A Disaster Plan developed at a State Level
Designated Officer	An officer of a state who is authorised under the national emergency management arrangements (COMDISPLAN) to request Commonwealth physical assistance
DGEMA	Director General of Emergency Management Australia
EMLO	Emergency Management Liaison Officer
FEMA	The Federal Emergency Management Agency of the United States
INSARAG	International Search and Rescue Advisory Group
IDETF	Inter-Departmental Emergency Task Force (Commonwealth Government entity)
LO	Liaison Officer
LEMA	Local Emergency Management Arrangements - the authority responsible for the overall command, coordination and management of the response operation.
NCTP	National Counter Terrorism Plan
NEMC	National Emergency Management Committee
INCIDENT MANAGEMENT FACILITY	; The monitoring and coordination centre maintained by EMA. Requests for Australian Government disaster assistance are channelled from State and Territory Government through the INCIDENT MANAGEMENT FACILITY to the Director General, EMA
NUSARWG	National Urban Search and Rescue Working Group
NZ MCDEM	New Zealand's Ministry for Civil Defence and

	Emergency Management
Operational Atlas	Provides comprehensive information regarding a jurisdictions current USAR resources and arrangements. A Template Operational Atlas has been created and installed on the EMA website within the secure <i>USAR Quickplace</i> for completion by each jurisdiction as part of its planning.
OSOCC	On-Site Operations Coordination Centre
Point of Arrival (PoA)	Designated area where responding USAR teams and other resources are received, organised, briefed and assigned
requesting State	The state or territory requesting another jurisdiction to provide USAR resources to assist resolve an emergency.
RDC	Reception and departure centre
State	In this document, a reference to a State shall include any State or Territory of the Commonwealth – unless specifically indicated otherwise.
SES	State Emergency Service
UNDAC	United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
USAR	Urban Search and Rescue: a specialised technical rescue capability for the location and rescue of entrapped people following a structural collapse
USAR Team	A set number of trained functional specialists assembled to perform urban search and rescue operations
Virtual OSOCC	A web-based information exchange and coordination tool for disaster managers and international response organisations developed by INSARAG. It is used by USAR responders during major disasters to exchange information in order to facilitate decision-making for international assistance. See http://ocha.unog.ch/virtualosocc/login.asp