
HAWKESBURY-NEPEAN VALLEY: NSW SES FLOOD RESCUE ARRANGEMENTS

Annex E

**Supporting document (NSW SES Response Arrangements for
Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley) to the Hawkesbury-Nepean Flood Plan**

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1 FLOOD RESCUE

- 1.1.1 During flood operations the following types of flood rescue may be conducted:
- a. Rescue of people walking, riding or driving through floodwaters;
 - b. Rescue of people or animals stranded in flood waters and from remote areas;
 - c. Rescue of possibly large numbers of stranded people or animals from flood islands when road evacuation routes are cut (selection of rescue strategy);
 - d. Flood Rescue - Emergency Transport; and
 - e. Flood Rescue - Emergency Medical transport.

Strategy

- 1.1.2 The NSW SES will perform and coordinate flood rescue, where training and equipment is suitable and where a risk assessment has indicated that the risk to rescuers is acceptable.

Actions

- 1.1.3 The NSW SES may request other supporting emergency services to undertake flood rescues on behalf of the NSW SES. Supporting emergency services must supply information regarding flood rescues performed to the NSW SES.

1.2 FLOOD RESCUE COORDINATION

- 1.2.1 Flood rescues during Hawkesbury-Nepean flood operations will be controlled and coordinated by the SES Flood Rescue Operations section associated with the Hawkesbury-Nepean Incident Control Centre using SES Flood Rescue activation protocols and as detailed in Incident Action Plans.
- 1.2.2 Requests for aero-medical transport will be referred to the NSW Ambulance Service.
- 1.2.3 The Hawkesbury-Nepean Incident Controller may request Fire and Rescue NSW to:
- a. Provide specialist advice regarding hazardous material reports and impacts due to hazardous materials from flooded industrial/commercial premises; and
 - b. Provide decontamination facilities for flood rescue teams.

1.3 FLOOD RESCUE RESOURCES

- 1.3.1 The NSW SES will marshal flood rescue resources from the NSW SES Metro Zone in the first instance. These resources will be supplemented by flood

rescue resources from other NSW SES Zones, Fire & Rescue NSW, Marine Rescue NSW and other accredited agencies.

- 1.3.2 The NSW SES has a fleet of flood rescue boats available for large-scale flood operations in the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley. These are stationed at NSW SES Units throughout NSW SES Metro Zone. Additional resources will be coordinated by the State Operations Centre.

When road evacuation routes are cut there may be a requirement for the mass rescue of stranded people from flood islands and the extrication of remaining emergency services personnel.

1.4 VESSELS

- 1.4.1 The Incident Controller will coordinate the allocation of additional flood rescue vessels to NSW SES Units in the Hawkesbury-Nepean area of operations.
- 1.4.2 NSW Marine Area Command, NSW Police Force vessels may be utilised if required.
- 1.4.3 Marine Rescue NSW vessels may be utilised if required.
- 1.4.4 Appropriate boats from local boating groups may also be used.
- 1.4.5 Boat landing points will generally be on the regional road evacuation routes to link with bus transport.

1.5 AIR OPERATIONS IN SUPPORT OF FLOOD RESCUE

- 1.5.1 Helicopters may be used to:
- a. Conduct reconnaissance;
 - b. Assist with flood rescues;
 - c. Mass flood rescue - ferry any remaining people from within evacuated Sectors to landing points on the fringe of the flooded area in the case of people remaining on flood islands after road evacuation routes are cut;
 - d. Conduct supply operations.
- 1.5.2 Fixed wing aircraft may be used to:
- a. Conduct reconnaissance,
 - b. Move persons from the Richmond Sector via RAAF BASE Richmond prior to the base and Richmond Township being flood affected.

Strategy

- 1.5.3 Coordinate the provision and allocation of aircraft to assist with Hawkesbury-Nepean flood response operations.

Actions

- 1.5.4 The Incident Controller will have an Air Operations section to:
- a. Liaise with the NSW RFS State Air Desk and Transport Services Functional Area Coordination Centre on provision of aircraft;
 - b. Manage NSW SES Air Bases established;
 - c. Manage the allocation of aircraft assigned to the incident.
- 1.5.5 The protocol for Zones requesting aircraft is as follows:
- a. Request aircraft from the State Air Desk;
 - b. State Air Desk assigns aircraft to the incident;
 - c. At the conclusion the aircraft are released back to the State Air Desk.
- 1.5.6 Aircraft will be tasked from the Incident Control Centre.
- 1.5.7 Helicopter landing points should be located on high ground near regional road evacuation routes.

1.6 BUSES

- 1.6.1 Buses will be utilised at vessel and helicopter landing points to transport evacuees to activated evacuation centres (Refer supporting document Annex D Evacuation Arrangements).

2 TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS FOR MASS FLOOD RESCUE

- 2.1.1 Whilst every effort will be made to evacuate people via road before evacuation routes are cut, there may still be the need to rescue people that have been unable to evacuate in time or that have become trapped.
- 2.1.2 This could potentially involve large numbers of people trapped on shrinking flood islands.
- 2.1.3 Where weather and conditions permit, the rescue of people will be initially done via flood boat or else helicopter (refer also to Volume 1 of this plan).
- 2.1.4 Mass flood rescues will be coordinated by the Flood Rescue Operations section in the Incident Control Centre.
- 2.1.5 Aircraft used for ferrying people stranded on flood islands will be tasked from the Incident Control Centre.
- 2.1.6 Requests for aero-medical transport will be referred to the NSW Ambulance Service.
- 2.1.7 Buses used to transport people from vessel and aircraft landing points will be coordinated by the Transport Functional Area.

2.2 FLOOD BOATS

- 2.2.1 Wherever possible flood rescue boats will transport people to landing points on Regional Evacuation Routes where assembly areas will be established. At these locations they will be met by road transport options including buses and where required ambulances.
- 2.2.2 These landing points may need to be moved progressively along these Regional Evacuation Routes as flood levels rise or fall.
- 2.2.3 The following Regional Evacuation Routes are considered to be most appropriate for this purpose due to their width, location and proximity to other services:
 - a. Windsor Road;
 - b. Hawkesbury-Valley Way.

2.3 HELICOPTERS

- 2.3.1 Assembly areas will also be established at locations where helicopters are landing to reduce the distance that helicopters need to travel.
- 2.3.2 At these assembly areas those people that have been rescued will be met by other transport options including buses and where required ambulances.
- 2.3.3 People may then be transported to medical facilities, evacuation centres and/or transport hubs using buses.

- 2.3.4 The following locations may be potentially used as helicopter landing points during a flood event:
- a. Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley area of operations
 - Nepean Hospital;
 - Castle Hill Showground;
 - Blacktown Showground;
 - Reserve next to South Maroota Community Centre, corner of Wisemans Ferry Rd and Pauls Rd.
 - b. Lower Hawkesbury area of operations:
 - Hornsby Rifle Club, Rosamond St Hornsby;
 - Rofe Park, Galstone Road Hornsby Heights;
 - National Parks and Wildlife Service, Ku-ring-gai Chase Rd, Mt Colah;
 - Oliver's Garage helipad, Pacific Highway Brooklyn;
 - The Old Wisemans Ferry Tip;