

# South Australian Emergency Management Arrangements and Extreme Heat Planning



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Emergency management arrangements  
in SA are governed by the

*Emergency Management Act, 2004*



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# State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC)

The Act establishes the SEMC which consists of:

- CE of DPC (Chair)
- Commissioner of Police
- Chief Officers of the Emergency Services
- CEOs of State Government Agencies with emergency management responsibilities
- a Local Government representative



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# SEMC Function

- The SEMC prepares and keeps under review the State Emergency Management Plan (SEMP)
- The SEMC outlines responsibilities, authorities and the mechanisms to prevent, or if they occur, manage and recover from emergency incidents and disasters in SA



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# SEMP

- The SEMP is based on the *All Hazards* principles as endorsed by the Emergency Management Council and Emergency Management Australia
- The SEMP relies on strong cooperative, coordinated and consultative relationships among State Government agencies and Local Government



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# Functional Services

- Functional Services are a group of agencies that perform functional roles that support response and recovery activities during an emergency
- They contribute to the coordination role of the State Emergency Centre



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# Functional Services

Example: *Ambulance and First Aid*

- SAAS
- St John Ambulance
- RFDS
- SLS SA
- State Rescue Helicopter Service



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# Hazard Leader

- The SEMP identifies Hazard Leaders for each of the 9 identified hazards
- A Hazard Leader is the agency which, because of its legislative responsibility or specialised knowledge, expertise and resources undertakes a leadership role for multi-agency prevention, preparedness, response and recovery (PPRR) planning



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# Extreme Weather Hazard Leader

The SA State Emergency Service (SES) is the Hazard Leader for Extreme Weather.

The Extreme Heat (EH) Plan will be an annex to the Extreme Weather Hazard Plan



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# Extreme Heat (EH) Plan

The EH Plan will be an over-arching plan that identifies triggers/thresholds, phases of alert, and a range of preparedness, response and recovery activities undertaken by relevant Functional Services and other agencies

The associated Communications Strategy is a key element of the Plan



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# Extreme Heat (EH) Plan

Although an EH event can impact on:

- agriculture
- animal welfare
- infrastructure e.g. disruption to power and transport systems

the greatest risk and therefore the main focus of the EH Plan is on the human health impact



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# EH Plan includes the following levels/phases:

- Long term planning and summer preparedness
- Heatwave Awareness: Impending threat
- Heatwave Watch: EH event imminent
- Heatwave Alert: EH event occurring
- Heatwave Urgent Warning: Extended and/or high impact EH event



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# Heat Health Warning System (HHWS)

- SES
- Department of Health
- Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)

have been working together to develop a Heat Health Warning System (HHWS).



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# Heat Health Warning System

The HHWS will use meteorological forecasts in conjunction with pre-determined thresholds to initiate interventions designed to reduce heat-related impacts on human health during extreme heat events.



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# Heat Health Warning System - Threshold

Based on existing research and BoM capability the Heat Health Warning System threshold has been set as a forecast indicating that the maximum temperature for metropolitan Adelaide will be 35°C or over for 3 consecutive days.



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# Heatwave Awareness

When there is a forecast for Day 5, 6 and 7 (of any 7-day forecast period) indicating that maximum temperatures for those 3 consecutive days will be 35°C or over SES will issue a '*Heatwave Awareness*' email to relevant Government agencies and Functional Services.



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# Heatwave Watch

When the forecast period of extreme heat is two days out i.e. Days 3, 4 and 5 (of a 7-day forecast period) have been forecast to have a maximum temperature 35°C or over the SES will coordinate a briefing at the State Emergency Centre (SEC).



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# Heatwave Watch

At the SEC briefing, Functional Services, lead by the SES will review preparedness levels and decide whether to release a *Heatwave Watch Message* to the community.

If the forecast indicates more than 3 consecutive days with a maximum temperature of 35°C or over a *Heatwave Watch Message* shall be issued.



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# Heatwave Watch

Research indicates that high minimum temperatures overnight exacerbate the impacts of a heatwave, and therefore if the average or mean of forecast maximum and minimum temperatures for any day is 30°C or over a *Heatwave Watch Message* shall be issued.



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# Heatwave Alert

- Once an extreme heat event has commenced a *Heatwave Alert Message* will be issued
- During the period of extreme heat SEC briefings will be scheduled daily
- Inputs into any decision-making process in SEC will include forecasts from the BoM and situation reports from Functional Services



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# Heatwave Urgent Warning

If the situation warrants it e.g. Health/SAAS report that systems are under pressure and increased morbidity and mortality is occurring in the community, disruptions to power and transport systems are occurring etc. a *Heatwave Urgent Warning Message* may be issued.



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# Issues/Challenges:

- Current limited BoM forecasting capability
- Coordination of community services sector
- Alert and response levels for different agencies vary e.g. Health and SAAS may be at 'emergency' levels of response well before there is any impact on power or transportation systems
- Cooling Centres/Shelters



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**QUESTIONS?**



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