



AFAC NRSC Strategy 2019-2023

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Images: Warren Frey, Paul Simakoff-Ellims (ACT Rural Fire Service), Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, Tasmania Fire Service, Metropolitan Fire Brigade and Country Fire Authority.

Overview

AFAC NRSC coordinates and facilitates international and interstate deployments through its established partnerships and national arrangements, authorised by the Commissioners and Chief Officers Strategic Committee (CCOSC). AFAC NRSC is recognised by CCOSC as an enabler of national capability for fire and emergency services.

Our Purpose

AFAC NRSC enhances the efficiency of resource deployments to an Interstate or International natural hazard emergency event. Through its creation of partnerships and agreements, national resourcing capability is deployable through a collaborative operating model.

Our Principles

1. Recognising national capability
2. National coordination maximising available capacity
3. Efficiency through effective partnership and collaboration
4. Timely deployment of fit-for-purpose resources
5. Flexible and adaptable, meeting agency requirements

About AFAC NRSC

The AFAC NRSC provides operational support capability on behalf of CCOSC. While the physical home of AFAC NRSC is currently located at AFAC office in Melbourne, it integrates and utilises existing national and state emergency management capability and resources in any jurisdiction and can be activated in any suitable location as determined by CCOSC members.

Acronyms

AIA	Australasian Arrangement for Interstate Assistance
AFAC	Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Service
AFAC NRSC	National Resource Sharing Centre
ANZEMC	Australian New Zealand Emergency Management Committee
CCOSC	Commissioners and Chief Officers Strategic Committee
CIFFC	Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
DNR	Department of Natural Resources (Canada)
EMA	Emergency Management Australia
FENZ	Fire and Emergency New Zealand
MCPEM	Ministerial Council for Police and Emergency Management
NZ MFAT	New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
NIFC	National Interagency Fire Center
PIEMA	Pacific Islands Emergency Management Alliance
SPC	Society for the Pacific Community



Governance Arrangements

Authorising environment

The AFAC Board established the Commissioners and Chief Officers Strategic Committee (CCOSC) to provide jurisdictional consideration and representation on behalf of AFAC Council to the Federal Government.

CCOSC endorses the AIA and authorises the AFAC NRSC to implement decisions taken by CCOSC about interstate and international resource sharing.

CCOSC has three scheduled meetings annually and meets as required through the year to coordinate national operational matters for interstate and overseas deployments. EMA co-chairs CCOSC with a State or Territory representative (on rotation).

Key Documents

The **AIA** is maintained by the AFAC NRSC and supported by CCOSC and articulates the basis for sharing fire and emergency service resources across state boundaries and between Australian states and territories and New Zealand. The AIA is the primary arrangement for mutual assistance in emergency management activities. It does not replace existing bi-lateral agreements that provide for everyday response operations by agencies across borders.

The AFAC NRSC **Operating Plan** is endorsed by CCOSC and provides an overview of the operations and arrangements in place that govern and determine the role and function of AFAC NRSC in managing and coordinating international and interstate deployments.

The **AFAC NRSC Workplan 2019-2021** identifies the key focus areas and deliverables to be met annually to achieve the vision of the AFAC NRSC. The document is used as the tool to report to CCOSC on project deliverables at each CCOSC meeting.

Key Relationships

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Australia) and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (New Zealand) are responsible for leading deployment of Australian and New Zealand Government's response to international humanitarian crises. Bilateral international agreements identify the circumstances under which the AFAC NRSC may receive a request for assistance and coordinate fire and emergency service resources on behalf of Australian and New Zealand agencies.

AFAC NRSC ensures that its international engagements and partnerships are transparent and visible, by maintaining positive relationships and regular communication between Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) in New Zealand and Emergency Management Australia. The Australian Government through EMA, co-chairs CCOSC and is integral to the ongoing performance of AFAC NRSC.

AFAC NRSC focuses on ensuring the NRSC office and Operational Hubs of NSW RFS and EMV and FENZ are trained and ready to support agencies across jurisdictions to build an internationally deployable team.



US and Canadian Arrangements

Internationally, an arrangement has been established between EMA (for Australia) and the Canadian Department of Natural Resources, authorising the AFAC NRSC and the CIFFC to administer deployments between the two countries. A similar arrangement has been established between EMA (for Australia) and the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior of the United States.

New Zealand has its own country to country authorising environment for international deployments. Increasingly, USA and Canadian partners seek to deal in a joined-up way with Australia and New Zealand in the administration of deployments and AFAC NRSC, directed by CCOSC, facilitates this. Australia and New Zealand seek convergence in relation to the terms of their international agreements with North American partners.

Under the arrangement personnel have been exchanged for learning and training purposes as well the deployment of resources coordinated through the AFAC NRSC. The largest request was executed through July to September 2017, with 235 AFAC member agency personnel deploying to British Columbia.

Pacific Engagement

There has been long standing ‘twinning arrangements’ between some AFAC member agencies and Pacific Island countries and territories which have resulted in significant support and capacity and capability building of fire and emergency services. Currently 12 AFAC members have bilateral arrangements with Pacific Island nations.

The Pacific Islands Emergency Management Alliance (PIEMA) program is supported by The Pacific Community as Secretariat and is funded by DFAT/MFAT. It identifies the role of AFAC as a supporting strategic partner. AFAC maintains an effective partnership with SPC based in Fiji. Through PIEMA, AFAC and AFAC member agencies support a coordinated capability development approach that strengthens interoperability of disaster and emergency agencies across the Pacific, thereby contributing to Australian and New Zealand Governments humanitarian strategies for the Pacific Region and positioning AFAC member agencies as a preferred development partner with DFAT/MFAT.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The monitoring of activities conducted under this Strategy will be a standing agenda item at CCOSC meetings. The Strategy and review of the previous year’s activities will inform the annual planning process.

Achieving Our Intent



Contribute and support the coordination of interstate and international assistance and resources as authorised by CCOSC.

Continue to develop NRSC systems, and nationally consistent tools and resources that support both intrastate, interstate and international deployments.

Continue to develop and enhance AFAC NRSC business continuity and visibility.

Ensure the business continuity, flexibility and adaptability of AFAC NRSC.

Objectives

- 1.1 Facilitate all significant international and domestic resource deployments for fire and emergency services personnel
- 1.2 Lead and manage international deployments of wildland fire management resources to the USA and Canada
- 1.3 Maintain and cultivate AFAC's international partnerships and coordination arrangements
- 1.4 Continue to strengthen coordination of disaster and emergency management capability development in the Pacific region

Objectives

- 2.1 Develop a resource sharing and tracking tool that creates a deployable Australasian capability
- 2.2 Enable deployment operations through effective processes
- 2.3 Aid interagency deployment data capability with appropriate reporting infrastructure

Objectives

- 3.1 Standardise roles and expectations for all deployable and support personnel
- 3.2 Generate uniformity in the deployment process

Objectives

- 4.1 Minimise financial impact on both requesting and deploying jurisdictions
- 4.2 Ensure continuation of knowledge sharing
- 4.3 Contribute towards new professional development pathways for emergency management personnel



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