

- 5.6.21 Both the HMA and the relevant local government must communicate with the public in a coordinated manner until such time as the HMA hands over responsibility for the public information function to the relevant government, via the Impact Statement.
- 5.6.22 When required and appropriate during the recovery phase, the SEPIC will coordinate whole of government (high level) public information arrangements to assist the local government(s), the State Recovery Coordinator and/or the SRCG.

5.7 Community Evacuation

- 5.7.1 Community emergency evacuation planning should be undertaken in accordance with the principles of the Commonwealth Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience's Evacuation Planning (Handbook 4), the SEMC's Western Australia Community Evacuation in Emergencies Guideline and the State EM Plan section 5.3.2.
- 5.7.2 Evacuation planning should include all five stages of an evacuation (i.e. decision, warning, withdrawal, shelter and return).
- 5.7.3 The HMA has the overall responsibility for managing the response of a hazard, including evacuation. The Controlling Agency may have responsibility for recommending an evacuation. During an emergency situation or state of emergency, the Controlling Agency must comply with the directions of the relevant HMA or SEC, respectively.
- 5.7.4 Local governments, HMAs, relevant emergency management agencies (i.e. Support Organisations and Controlling Agencies), in consultation with relevant LEMCs, must identify and document in the LEMA, refuge sites and evacuation centres appropriate for the hazards identified as having a high risk to the area.
- 5.7.5 The Controlling Agency (where authorised by the HMA) is responsible for the decision to evacuate during an emergency. The criteria to be considered prior to a decision being made are outlined in the SEMC's Western Australian Community Evacuation in Emergencies Guideline.
- 5.7.6 The Controlling Agency is responsible for providing community warnings and timely advice on the likely threat of an emergency and the required actions of the community to assist community members in recognising a threat and being able to make an informed decision as to whether to move to another location.
- 5.7.7 Once a decision has been made to evacuate an area, the IC, in consultation with the HMA, is responsible for ensuring effective communication strategies are implemented.
- 5.7.8 The Controlling Agency (where authorised by the HMA) will determine if the evacuation is to be recommended (voluntary) or directed (compulsory). A directed evacuation may only be made by a HMO, Authorised Officer or Police Officer during an emergency situation or state of emergency using powers under the EM Act (see State EM Plan section 5.3.2 for other relevant legislation that may be used to allow for the movement of people and animals).

In relation to bushfire, despite the existence of the Prepare. Act. Survive. Policy, a direction to evacuate may be required under certain circumstances. The following are **examples only** of factors that may be taken into account when deciding whether to direct people to evacuate or not:

- the magnitude, or predicted magnitude of the fire. For example, buildings are unlikely to withstand and catastrophic fire conditions

- the presence of at-risk persons for example, children, the elderly, or the obviously or apparently physically or mentally disabled
- whether those evacuated will have enough time to travel safely out of the area
- the availability of egress routes.

Public Information should reflect the directed evacuation position.

- 5.7.9 During a directed evacuation, the HMO, Authorised Officer or Police Officer must provide clear instruction to persons conducting the evacuation on what action should be taken where a person refuses to evacuate. It is an offence to refuse to evacuate once directed to do so. However, there is discretion whether to force a person to evacuate once directed to do so, or to take punitive action for failing to comply with the direction.

Examples of factors that may be taken into account, in deciding whether to remove a person failing to comply with a direction to evacuate, may include:

- the resources that would need to be diverted from responding to the emergency
- the safety of personnel.

The HMO, Authorised Officer or Police Officer conducting the directed evacuation should advise individuals about the risks of staying and of potential prosecution.

- 5.7.10 The Controlling Agency should manage any additional risks that arise from 'non-prescribed hazards' (i.e. those not defined under the EM Act and prescribed under the EM Regulations), such as structural integrity, before allowing a community to return following evacuation.

5.8 Traffic Management

- 5.8.1 Emergencies have the potential to impact on the movement and safety of vehicle and pedestrian traffic. The prime responsibility of the HMA or Controlling Agency is the safety of people, property and the environment.
- 5.8.2 The management of traffic during the emergency response requires coordinated planning by both the Controlling Agency and the asset owners such as Main Roads WA, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, local government, other state government agencies, public and private organisations. Traffic management planning and activities should be in accordance with the State EM Plan section 5.3.3 and the SEMC's Traffic Management During Emergencies Guideline.
- 5.8.3 The IC is responsible for the management of traffic during an incident and this continues during an emergency response until the road is returned to the asset owner.
- 5.8.4 Traffic management plans must include direction as to the legislation that authorises and/or empowers the personnel conducting the activity to engage in the directed traffic management.
- 5.8.5 The HMA is responsible for developing and maintaining a Restricted Access Permit System (RAPS) applicable to their hazard(s) for use by the IC/Controlling Agency, if applicable. The SEMC's Restricted Access Permit System Guideline should be used by HMAs when developing specific internal RAPS for their hazards.
- 5.8.6 The HMA or Controlling Agency is responsible for the welfare of people affected by the road closures at all times, until the road is returned to the asset owner.