Tasmania Fire Service

Community Development Framework
2017 to 2020

The purpose of this framework is to guide, support and inform the Tasmania Fire Service Community Development Team when engaging with at-risk communities in community safety. The framework facilitates the alignment of service delivery with contemporary fire and emergency services strategic directions, state, national and international strategies.

This framework sits under the Fire and Emergency Services Strategic Plan - Framing our Future. The day to day business of the Community Development and Education Unit is guided by the Division of Community Fire Safety Business Plan and the Unit Business Plan.

Vision

A Tasmanian community that is safer and more resilient to the impact of fire and other emergencies.

Mission

To be an emergency management leader and partner in the community safety space in prevention, preparedness and response. This includes being adaptable and compatible with broader emergency management strategies for fire and other emergencies.

Through a contemporary community development approach:

1 Raise community preparedness levels in relation to fire and other hazards in identified communities and with risk groups.

2 Consult, collaborate and engage internal/external stakeholders and communities to develop and implement local resilience strategies.

3 Bench marking (best practice), innovation and continuous improvement, including documenting and evaluating community outcomes in behavioural change.

4 Align with strategic organisational direction in emergency management.

Community Development Definition (Community Fire Safety Context)

The process of working with at risk communities to identify and implement strategies to strengthen and develop resilience to fire and other emergencies. This process is guided by the Tasmania Fire Service Customer Service Charter.

Community Development Themes

- Targeted approach
- Sustainability
- Capacity building
- 'One size does not fit all'
- Doing 'with' and not 'for'
- Asset based, by building on risk communities' strengths and potential

Core Business Programs and Strategies of the Community Development Team

- Bushfire-Ready Neighbourhoods program
- Tasmanian Visitor Information Network program
- Council on the Ageing Home Fire Safety program
- Project Wake Up! program
- Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC and AFAC engagement, including industry representation and contribution
- Provision of public information as part of incident response for bushfires and other emergencies, and
- Collaboration across TFS, Department of Police Fire and Emergency Management and TFS/SES Operations with a shared responsibility approach to community risk reduction.

Community Development Practices

- Partnerships
- Stakeholder engagement with internal and external communities
- Resource sharing
- Research partnerships
- Data collection
- Independent evaluation
- Continuous improvement
- Professional development

Community Development Principles

- Collaborate with individuals, organisations and communities towards a shared responsibility approach
- Take an evidence based approach to guide best practice
- Develop resilient communities through risk reduction
- Identify and mobilise community capacity through contemporary community development practice
- Encourage collaborative action by crossing organisational borders and interests
- Enable community participation, ownership and leadership

International

- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030
- International Association of Public Participation - Doctrine/Spectrum

National

- AFAC Strategic Directions for Fire & Emergency Services in Australia & New Zealand 2017-21
- National Strategy for Disaster Resilience - Community Engagement Framework 2013
- National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines- Handbook 10 - 2015
- Australasian Inter-Service Incident Management System (AIIMS) 4 - 2017

State

- Tasmania Fire Service & State Emergency Service Strategic Direction Framing the Future
- Tasmanian Emergency Management Plan - Issue 8
- Tasmanian State Natural Disaster Risk Assessment - 2016
- Tasmanian Government Framework for Community Engagement 2013
- Tasmanian Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines 2017
- Emergency Management Framework for Vulnerable people

Organisational

- Community Fire Safety Business Plan
- Community Development & Education Unit Plan
- Community Development Team Activity Plans - Program & project specific
- TFS Customer Service Charter

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TFS Community Development & Education Unit

August 2017