Tasmania Fire Service

Community Development Framework
2020 to 2024

Purpose of the Community Development Framework

The purpose of this framework is to guide, support and inform the Tasmania Fire Service Community Development Team when engaging with communities to build resilience and when providing guidance on good practice and community development.

The framework facilitates the alignment of service delivery with fire and emergency services strategic directions, state, national and international strategies.

This framework contributes to the Fire and Emergency Services Strategic Plan – *Framing the Future*. The 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 safer and more resilient
to the impact of fire and other hazards.

Mission

To empower the community to prevent, prepare
and respond to fire and other hazards.

Through a community development approach:

1 Enhance community preparedness levels for fire and other hazards.

2 Engage with internal and external stakeholders, including communities, to develop and implement good practice local resilience strategies.

3 Provide up-to-date information to allow community members to make informed decisions about what actions to take in an emergency.

4 Apply good practice, innovation and continuous improvement, including documenting and evaluating community outcomes in behavioural change.

Community Development Definition

In the fire safety context Community Development can be defined as: Working with communities to build resilience through collaborative action, shared capacity building and the development of strong relationships built on mutual trust and respect.

Core Business Programs and Strategies of the Community Development Team

- Bushfire-Ready Neighbourhoods program
- Tasmanian Visitor Information Network program
- Council on the Ageing (COTA) Home Fire Safety program
- Bushfire-Ready Carers
- Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre (BNHCRC) and Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council (AFAC) engagement, including industry representation and contribution
- Provision of public information as part of incident response for bushfires and other emergencies
- Collaboration across the TFS, and Department of Police Fire and Emergency Management with a shared responsibility approach to community risk reduction

Community Development Principles

The following principles have been adapted from the AIDR *Community Engagement for Disaster Resilience Handbook 2020*.

TFS seeks to uphold these principles when undertaking community development activities with Tasmanian communities.

Place the community at the centre

Effective community engagement is responsive, flexible, and recognises the community as the central reference point for planning, implementing and measuring success in any engagement process. Inclusive, respectful and ethical relationships between engagement partners and the community must guide every stage of the engagement process.

Understand the context

Effective community engagement requires partners to develop a strong understanding of the unique history, values, diversity, dynamics, strengths, priorities and needs of each community.

It is also important to understand the environmental, political, or historical context that surrounds any hazard, emergency event or disaster.

Recognise complexity

Effective community engagement considers the complex and dynamic nature of hazards, disaster risk and emergency events, and the diverse identities, histories, composition, circumstances, strengths and needs of communities and community members.

Work in partnership

Effective community engagement requires a planned and coordinated approach between the community and partners at every stage of the process. Potential issues arising from any imbalance in power, information or resources between the community and partners will be proactively managed during the process.

Communicate respectfully and inclusively

Community engagement is built on effective communication between the community and partners that recognises the diverse strengths, needs, values and priorities of both community members and partners.

Recognise and build capability

Effective community engagement recognises, supports and builds on individual, community and organisational capability and capacity to reduce disaster and home fire safety risk and increase resilience.

Australian Institute of Disaster Resilience (2020) *Community Engagement for Disaster Resilience Handbook*.

Supporting Frameworks

International

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

National

- AIDR Community Engagement for Disaster Resilience Handbook 2020
- AFAC Strategic Directions for Fire & Emergency Services in Australia & New Zealand 2017-21
- National Strategy for Disaster Resilience – Community Engagement Framework 2013
- National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework 2018
- AIDR Public Information and Warnings Handbook 2018
- Australasian Inter-Service Incident Management System (AIIMS) 4 – 2017
- Australian Disaster Resilience Index 2020
- AFAC Smoke Alarms in Residential Accommodation 2018
- BNHCRC Preventable Residential Fire Fatalities in Australia July 2003 to June 2017 – 2019

State

- Tasmania Fire Service & State Emergency Service Strategic Direction Framing the Future 2017
- Tasmanian Emergency Management Arrangements, Issue 1 – 2020
- Tasmanian State Natural Disaster Risk Assessment 2016
- Tasmanian Government Framework for Community Engagement 2013
- Tasmanian Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines 2017

TFS (organisational)

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

October 2020

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TFS Community Development & Education Unit

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October 2020