

ADVISORY NOTE

BROADCAST OF EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Licenseses should have in place adequate procedures to enable the timely and accurate broadcast of emergency information to the licensed community.

Emergencies are in general regarded as situations in which there is an imminent or actual threat within the community, whereby life or property are at risk and which requires a significant and coordinated response by emergency or essential service organisations.

A number of emergency and essential service organisations will be relevant for each licence area. As a general guide, emergency or essential service organisations include Police, Fire, Rural Fire, Ambulance, State Emergency Service (SES), Water, Port or Health Authorities and the Bureau of Meteorology. The licensee and appropriate emergency or essential service organisations in the licence area should jointly identify, develop and maintain effective lines of communication.

A licence area may have an Emergency Management Committee/Counter Disaster Council or equivalent organisation formed under State/Territory legislation, which is responsible for issuing guidelines to identify key emergency organisations and procedures for broadcasting emergency information. If such committees/councils exist, the licensee should become familiar with such guidelines and procedures.

Licenseses should:

- consult with appropriate emergency and essential service organisations within the licensed area and implement internal procedures to enable the timely and accurate broadcast of warnings and information supplied by such organisations relating to an existing or threatened emergency; and
- ensure a designated person within the licence area served is identified as the contact officer during business and non-business hours for all emergency matters.

Licenseses should review and, where necessary, update procedures regularly in consultation with the appropriate emergency and essential service organisations.

Where an Auslan interpreter is present at a news conference, official briefing regarding an emergency, or a public announcement of critical national significance and other events, licenseses will include the Auslan interpreter in the frame. While there may be exceptional circumstances where inclusion of an interpreter is not practicable, licenseses will take all reasonable steps to ensure that interpreters are included in the camera shot and in a manner where they can be clearly seen. Licenseses should ensure that all key employees are aware of and familiar with such guidelines.