

Statewide Integrated Operational Planning Process

Making TSWL & Functional Management Simpler & More Consistent



Queensland Government
Department of Emergency Services

Regional Functional Plan 2010/11

South Eastern Region

Operations Management Swift Water Rescue Operational Plan

Version 1

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South Eastern Region Swift Water

Operational Plan

1. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of this plan is to provide sufficient information to enable Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) to provide a timely and appropriate initial response to Swift Water incidents within the South Eastern Region.

2. OBJECTIVES

To ensure the required infrastructure is in a constant state of readiness, thereby minimising the risk to the Community, QFRS staff and other agency personnel.

This plan has been developed to provide a holistic approach to swift water operations and includes:

- Swift water rescue preparedness (infrastructure & resources)
- Proactive strategies (including pre-emptive activities to manage response to swift water incidents)

- Coordinated swift water response (permanent, auxiliary and volunteer staff)
- Managed swift water operations at the:
 - Incident ground / Fire ground;
 - Incident Control Point;
 - Incident Control Centres; and
 - Coordination Centres (Regional and State).

3. LINKAGE TO STRATEGIC PLANS

This Swift Water Operational Plan contributes towards the requirements and achievement of:

- Whole-of-Government Priorities
- Department of Emergency Services Corporate Plan 2008-2012
- QFRS Strategic Plan 2008-2012

QFRS Strategic Plan 2008-2012

- **QFRS Goal 1 – Focus on front –line service delivery**

Strategies:

- Strategy 1.1
- Strategy 1.2
- Strategy 4.4

Commissioner’s priorities 2010 - 2011

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A1. Mature – State and regional incident coordination and management. A2. Enhance- Operational safety A3. Enhance- State and Regional specialist operations capability and support |
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- **SER Assistant Commissioner’s Priorities 2010 – 2011**

Operational Management,

- Operational excellence.
- Post Incident Analysis.
- Operational Safety.



4. INTRODUCTION

This plan is to provide information and guidance for rescue and recoveries involving swift water within the South Eastern Region:

Sections:

- 1 – Pre-incident Planning
- 2 – Incident Response
- 3 – Post Incident Recovery

5. PRE INCIDENT PLANNING

1 – All personnel are to receive appropriate swift water rescue training and maintain their competency before undertaking any swift water rescue.

QFRS has two levels of rescue training, Level 1 (dry rescue only) and level 2 (dry and wet rescue).

NOTE - Only level 2 swift water rescue trained personnel are to enter the water.

2 – Identifying potential sites for swift water rescue, and where previous swift water rescues have occurred. At these sites identify **Site Risks Assessments** and **LSOPs (Location Specific Operational Plans)**

3 – Anticipate the potential for swift water rescues by monitoring weather situations such as cyclones, prolonged heavy rain periods, pending storm activates or flash flooding.

The (DMO) Duty Manager Operations (when on Duty) will monitor weather conditions and liaise with the Regional Rescue Coordinator, and / or Senior On call Officer with advice as to the level of preparedness and associated actions, which should implemented within South Eastern Region.

(After hours activities will be monitored by the Regional Rescue Coordinator with advise to the Director Regional Operations and / or Senior on call Officer)

6. VEHICLES

A number of Vehicles have been identified within S.E. region that may serve as response vehicles to swift water incidents. These vehicles will allow for the placement of trained swift water technicians at predetermined location throughout the S.E. region.

The below list is a sample only and is not limited, S.E.R. Command A/D's, Support and Training vehicles may be used also if required.

ONLY ERV's (Emergency Response Vehicles) will be used as a Swift water rescue vehicle. –

Swift Water Rescue Vehicles	
Appliances & Type	Locations of Vehicles
645 M - CR – Permanent Crewing	Station 45 IPSWICH
645 Y - 4X4 Canter – <i>call back crewing</i>	Regional Resource
643 Y - 4X4 Canter – <i>call back crewing</i>	Regional Resource
635 K – CR – Permanent Crewing	Station 35 BEENLEIGH
633 Y - 4X4 Canter – <i>call back crewing</i>	Regional Resource
636 Y - 4X4 Canter – <i>call back crewing</i>	Regional Resource
640 M – CR – Permanent Crewing	Station 40 ROBINA
640 K – 4 x 4 – <i>call back crewing</i>	Regional Resource

Appliance Operational Capability

Resource	Capability	Location
Appliance CR45	<p>Call Sign 6-45 Mike</p> <p>Purpose – To provide Swift Water Rescue coverage to the Ipswich CBD Cunningham / Warrego Highways and surrounding areas during high risks periods so as to allow fast and effective rescue coverage.</p> <p>Capability –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical Rescue / Command vehicle • Crew of 2 • Full self contained communications Module, All radios, plus repeaters, cross patch/link facility • Sat phone, mapping, Forward Command capable • Fire fighting support • BA Hazmat • All disciplines of rescue • Road accident rescue capability • Urban ,rural QAS, VHS radios 	Station 45 Ipswich
Appliance 645 Y	<p>Call sign – 6-45 Yankee - 4X4 Canter</p> <p>Purpose - To provide Swift Water Rescue coverage during high risks periods so as to allow fast and effective rescue coverage.</p>	Regional Resource

	<p>Capability –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic swift water rescue equipment • 2 Personal Flotation Devices (PFD) • 1 x Float rope • Throw bags • 1 x 50mtr. life rescue line • Crew of 2 	
Appliance 643 Y	<p>Call sign – 6-43 Yankee - 4X4 Canter</p> <p>Purpose: To provide Swift Water Rescue coverage to the Camira, Logan Motorway to Browns Plains and surrounding areas during periods of high risks so as to allow fast and effective rescue coverage.</p> <p>Capability –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic swift water rescue equipment • 2 PFD • 1 x Float rope • Throw Bags • 1 x 50mtr. life rescue line • Crew of 2 	Regional Resource
Appliance CR 35	<p>Call Sign 6- 35 Kilo - 4 X4 Capable</p> <p>Purpose – To provide Swift Water Rescue coverage to the Beenleigh CBD, M1 Motorway , Oxenford and surrounding areas during periods of high risks so as to allow fast and effective rescue coverage.</p> <p>Capability -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical Rescue / Command vehicle • Crew of 2 • Full self contained communications Module, All radios, plus repeaters, cross patch/link facility • Sat phone, mapping, Forward command capable • Fire fighting support • BA Hazmat • All disciplines of rescue • Road accident rescue capability • Urban ,rural QAS, VHS radios 	Beenleigh Station 35
Appliance CR 40	<p>Call Sign 6-40 Mike</p> <p>Purpose – To provide Swift Water Rescue coverage to the Robina CBD, Gold Coast Motorway and surrounding areas during</p>	Robina Station 40

	<p>periods of high risks so as to allow fast and effective rescue coverage.</p> <p>Capability –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical Rescue / Command vehicle • Crew of 2 • Full self contained communications Module, All radios, plus repeaters, cross patch/link facility • Sat phone, mapping, Forward Command capable • Fire fighting support • BA Hazmat • All disciplines of rescue • Road accident rescue capability • Urban ,rural QAS, VHS radios 	
Appliance Fleet 498	<p>Call sign – Kilo - 4x4 Isuzu</p> <p>Purpose: To provide Swift Water Rescue coverage during periods of high risks so as to allow fast and effective rescue coverage.</p> <p>Capability -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard swift water equipment • 4 PFD • 2 x Float rope, • 2 x Throw bags • 2 x 50mtr. life rescue lines • Crew of 2 	Regional Resource
Appliance 636 Y	<p>Call sign – 6-36 Yankee - 4X4 Canter</p> <p>Purpose: To provide Swift Water Rescue coverage during periods of high risks so as to allow fast and effective rescue coverage.</p> <p>Capability –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard swift water rescue equipment • 2 PFD • 1 x Float rope • Throw bags • 2 x 50mtr. life rescue line • Crew of 2 	Regional Resource
Appliance 633 Y	<p>Call sign – 6-33 Yankee - 4X4 Nissan</p> <p>Purpose: To provide Swift Water Rescue coverage during periods of high risks so as</p>	Regional Resource

	<p>to allow fast and effective rescue coverage.</p> <p>Capability –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard swift water rescue equipment • 2 PFD • 1 x Float rope • Throw bags • 2 x 50mtr. life rescue line • Crew of 2 	
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7. STAFFING

When the level of Swift Water Preparedness is elevated within South Eastern Region a minimum of 2 x Level Two (L2) Swift Water Technicians will be on duty manning Swift Water vehicles at all times.

The South East Region's Duty Manager Operations (DMO) in consultation with the Regional Rescue Coordinator will determine which S.W.R. vehicles will be elevated to service and staffed in accordance with the level of S.W.R. preparedness. (Level 2, Level 3)

8. WEATHER CONDITIONS

Throughout the calendar year weather conditions in South East Region can vary from expected seasonal rain and storm patterns to isolated severe weather events. Predictable seasonal weather conditions and forecasted adverse weather events can be readily planned for, however the close monitoring of daily weather patterns is essential in maintaining optimum operational preparedness and response within the region.

A Number of levels of preparedness have been identified.

Level 1 – Wet weather day

Level 2 - Forecasted Adverse Wet Weather

Level 3 – Long range Forecast (Wet Weather)

9. PREPAREDNESS LEVELS FOR SWIFT WATER RESCUES

Wet Weather Day: *The S.E.R. DMO will ensure that on shift swift water rescue (L2) staff are rostered to, or available to be relocated to each rescue stations and that these staff will man the rescue appliance as required (i.e. Stations 35,40,45)*

Forecasted Adverse Wet Weather: *DMO/Technical Rescue Coordinator to liaise and recommend to DRO Opp's (Director Regional Operations)*

- *Availability of additional vehicles identified (Must be ERV'S) / Operationally ready to support SWR*
- *Availability of off duty Swift water level 2 Technical Rescue Crews for additional vehicles as required.*

The S.E.R. DOM will ensure all Rescue appliances are manned by level 2 swift water rescue staff at each rescue station (35; 40; 45.)

The S.E.R. DMO will monitor BOM site and consult the SER Technical Rescue Coordinator on weather conditions.

Long Range Forecasted Severe Weather Event: **UPON APPROVAL FROM THE DRO**
(Director Regional Operations) –

The S.E.R. DMO will ensure (in consultation with the Regional Rescue Coordinator), that sufficient level 2 swift water rescue staff are staged at strategic locations throughout S.E. Region (as per the S.E.R. SWR Operational Plan) and that these resources are maintained in as state of readiness for the duration of the risk period. This is especially critical during a predicted severe adverse weather event such as a Tropical Cyclone or East Coast Low which may impact the South East Corner of Queensland or Northern New South Wales.

NOTE: *The sustainability of level 2 (L2) swift water rescue crews to staff SER rescue stations and resources to provide an extended swift water rescue capability will be an operational priority. In cases of staffing shortage additional swift water rescue (L2) technicians may be sourced from outside of the Region as required.*

10. LOCAL ACTION PLANS (L A P)

Swift Water Rescue Local Action Plans are to be completed by level 2 Swift Water Technicians within each command's response area.

- 1 – On historical Swift Water Incident Sites
- 2 – On sites where Swift Water incidents have previously occur
- 3 – On any site which is deemed to be of a high risk in relation to a Swift Water incident or from intelligence gathered from out external sources or agencies.

11. EQUIPMENT

Swift Water Rescue Level 2 (L2) Technician:-

Personal Protective Equipment.(P.P.E.): –

- 1 - Personal Flootation Device (P.F.D.)
- 2 - Wet Suit
- 3 - Gloves
- 4 - Booties
- 5 - Strobe Light
- 6 - Knife
- 7 - Helmet
- 8 - Personal High Angle kit

Swift Water Rescue Appliances

(Any vehicle identified as a part of the S.E.R. SWR Operational Plan)

Minimum Equipment Cashe:-

- 1 - 2 x PFD's
- 2 – 2 x Throw bags
- 3 – 1 x 50mtr. Float rope
- 4 – 2 x 50mtr. Life Rescue Line
- 5 – Minimum amount of hardware
- 6 – Minimum amount of software

12. INCIDENT RESPONSE:

Initial Incident response will by initiated by Fire Com South East. This initial activation can be customised by the S.E.R. DMO or Senior Officer as determined by further information or as prevailing conditions indicate after the time of the call.

Primary Stations For deployment of Swift Water Rescue crews.

Central West Command:

Station	Vehicle	Location
Station 45	CR45	Ipswich

Central Command:

Station	Vehicle	Location
Station 35	CR35	Beenleigh

North East Command:

Station	Vehicle	Location
Station 31		Southport

South East Command:

Station	Vehicle	Location
Station 40	CR40	Robina

Criteria for Selecting Strategic Station/s:

1. The S.E.R. Duty manager Operations (DMO) will monitor weather conditions and liaise with the Regional Rescue Coordinator and DRO (Director Regional Operations), to obtain advice regarding the level of preparedness and the associated level of response activities, including locations of Swift water Rescue Support Vehicles and Crews that should be implemented within S.E.R. for the period of threat.
2. The DMO and or Regional Technical Rescue Coordinator will then contact the Director Regional Operations S.E.R. who will provide final approval for the operational activation. In the absence of the Director Regional Operations SER the Assistance Commissioner SER will provide final activation approval under guidance from the Regional Rescue Coordinator.

Process for Recall of Swift water Operational Crews:

1. Due to the nature of the weather conditions and the level of preparedness which is implemented, swift water rescue (L2) operational staff may be placed on a stand by / call back roster during the period of potential high threat.
2. Staff placed on a stand by / call back roster will be administered by the Regional Rescue Coordinator in conjunction with the Command Rescue Coordinators in each command.
3. When activated to call back all Swift Water Rescue L2 staff will assemble at the pre-advised staging location and will await assignment to a swift water rescue vehicle and locations.
4. All call backs to operational duty will comply with the QFRS award conditions and procedures.

Staging Locations:

The pre determined staging locations for Swift Water Rescue for the South Eastern Region are:-

- Central West Command – Ipswich Station 45.
- Central Command – Beenleigh Station 35
- Gold Coast South Command – Robina Station 40

Station Template

Operations Management A1.1.3

Development of LAPs, for swift water area's

South Eastern Region

General Description

- To assist in the development and maintenance of LAPs (Local Action Plans) and LSOPs (Location Specific Operational Plans) for identified and historical area's where water related rescue incidents may occur – which includes the development and maintenance of key relationships (e.g. Rural – Urban operations, police, ambulance, etc as a critical component of the LAP/LSOP.

Outcomes

- Community Safety has been enhanced within identified potential swift water rescue areas.
- Effective mutual arrangements that disregard urban, rural, regional or district boundaries in identifying appropriate resources required for emergency situations
- Enhanced mutual effectiveness through active involvement between the QFRS Urban and Rural brigades, QPS, QAS, EMQ (SES) which ensures utilization of the nearest/most timely resources
- Joint agency exercises to test communications, Incident Management System (IMS) protocols, equipment compatibility, response procedures, etc for use at emergency incidents
- Recognition and utilisation of competencies, qualifications and experience of all personnel in the total management of the incident
- Development and maintenance of appropriate relationships between QFRS operations and other agency stakeholders that will be required to effectively deal with a Swift Water incident

SMS Entry: Task 4.7 – Review SOP's
Task 0225 - LSOP
MFO: Hours only

QFRS Strategic Plan Reference:
QFRS Goal 2 - Operations
Strategies: 1.1, 1.2 & 1.3, 2.2

Measures:

- All current potential swift water rescue areas identified and targeted (SMS)
- Brigades and stations trained and equipped to respond in accordance with the Swift water protocols and LAP's or LSOP's
- Consistent application of specialist rescue skills
- Quality assurance.

Activity – not to be changed	Target	Due Date	Responsible Officer	Comment
<i>If any of the activities do not apply to your station, note N/A (Not Applicable) in the Target column</i>				
1. In consultation with Area Directors & Regional Rescue Coordinator review areas that have been identified as, - potential sites for swift water rescue incidents ie- cause ways etc	Targets as agreed on SIOPP Target Worksheet	February 2010	Regional Rescue Coordinator or SOC to provide	Refer Station Template and Business Rule A1.1.Know Your Patch

- sites which have historical swift water rescue incidents occurrences			Specialist advice	
<i>If there are no potential or historical Swift Water Rescue incident area's then no LAP or LSOP is required. NO FURTHER ACTION</i>				
Activity – not to be changed	Target	Due Date	Responsible Officer	Comment
2. Identify urban / rural stations and brigades for the community at risk	100%	Annually	Area Directors Urban & Rural SO's Captains	<u>Business Rule A1.1.Know Your Patch</u>
3. Actively involve urban/rural crews in - the planning process.	100% Urban/ rural fire stations		Area Directors Urban & Rural SO's	DMO/Regional Technical Rescue Coordinator to assist as requested.
4. Identify and then consult with other affected agencies to determine their views and how they may be able to assist.	Police, Ambulance, Counter Disaster etc.		Area Directors Urban & Rural SO's	DMO/Regional Technical Rescue Coordinator to assist as requested.
5. Carry out familiarisation visits to risk area to collect information -	100% Urban/ rural fire stations		Area Directors Urban & Rural SO's Captains	DMO/Regional Technical Rescue Coordinator to assist as requested.
6. Conduct operational exercises	80% Urban/ rural firefighters Stakeholder r agencies	Annually	Area Directors Urban & Rural	DMO/Regional Technical Rescue Coordinator to assist as requested.
7. Assist (as directed) in the development & maintenance of the Location Specific Operational Plan with Area Director Urban & Rural / Technical Rescue Coordinator and distribute to relevant officers	100%	On going		DMO/Regional Technical Rescue Coordinator to assist as requested.
8. Participate in the review of the Location Specific Operational Plan. The plan needs to be an integral part of the debrief process after major incidents.	100%	-Annually -After a significant incident	Tech rescue staff All Crews	DMO/Regional Technical Rescue Coordinator to assist as requested.

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LOCAL KNOWLEDGE	Station Name:
Operations Management A1.1.1	Develop Swift Water Rescue LAPs, LSOPs and Relationships
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You do not need to make any changes to your Local Knowledge Template unless there are significant changes from the previous year to the local knowledge involved. You do NOT need to complete a Local Knowledge Template for EVERY Station template or activity. Local Knowledge templates can be HAND WRITTEN if desired. 	
Activity <i>Which part or parts of the Station Template does this local knowledge refer to. A general explanation for the whole Template will do</i>	
Reference Material <i>Business Rules, Manuals, etc</i>	Refer Business Rule A1.1 Refer Business Rule A1.1.1
Applicable Regional Procedures <i>(if there are any)</i>	
Records kept where <i>Where in the Station are the files, manuals, forms etc. for this activity located</i>	SMS
Planning Done When <i>What time of the year do you need to start planning for this activity</i>	
How you do it at your Station: <i>A flowchart or step by step instructions</i>	
List of Local Contacts (if not in SMS)	

Local Provider / Contact Person	Phone/Mobile No.	Email	Fax No.
<i>Duty Manager Operations</i>			
<i>Regional Rescue Coordinator</i>			
<i>Director Regional Operations</i>			



SOUTH EAST REGION
SWIFT WATER OPERATIONAL PLAN
CHECK LIST

1. DMO – to monitor changing weather patterns and BOM Forecast
 - To consult with SER Technical Rescue Coordinator
 - Identify if an Wet Weather preparedness level 1,2,or 3 is met.(As per Swift Water Operational Plan)
2. Are Rescue appliances (Robina , Ipswich Beenleigh) to be crewed by Level 2 Swift Water Technicians from within the roster. (DMO to confirm with DRO)
3. High Risk (Flooding Area's) to be identified (LAPS) and Visual by Area Commander and or Local crews
4. Primary Swift Water activities to be undertaken by available Regional resources.
5. DMO and Technical Rescue Coordinator to monitor any change in conditions and /or increase in other than normal flood localities(Through the BOM site and local station familiarisations/advice.
6. DMO to determine Swift Water capabilities in surrounding regions
7. Level 2 or 3 -DMO/Technical Rescue Coordinator to liaise and recommend to DRO Opp's
 - Availability of additional vehicles identified (Must be ERV'S) / Operational ready to support SWR
 - Availability of off duty Swift water level 2 Technical Rescue Crews (Within /Outside Region) for additional vehicles as required.
8. Regional risks intensifies as confirmed through the BOM and incidents occurring that is impacting on SER opps capability.
DMO/Technical Rescue Co Coordinator to recommend to DRO for action.
 - Activate additional Swift water capabilities including crews .
 - Reconfigure SER Swift water capability dependent on risk and forecasted BOM site advice.
 - DMO/ Technical rescue Coordinator to monitor and provide regular updates to DRO Opps.
9. DMO / Technical Rescue coordinator to monitor risk, BOM Forecast, Local Laps/Sites and recommend to DRO Ops.
 - Crews Wellness and replacement options.
 - Return to normal capabilities.
10. DMO / Technical Rescue Coordinator to provide to DRO Opps a report of Crewing, Over time Crewing, Incidents, within 12 hours of return to normal duties.

FLOW CHART SWIFT WATER OPERATIONAL PLAN

