

Questionnaire for SES Local Controllers

1. Structure of the SES units

1.1

Isis SES 2 groups:

Local Controller: [REDACTED]

Deputy Local Controller: Position vacant

Childers Group leader: [REDACTED]

Childers SES: North Street Childers, 26 Active members, 35-member total

Woodgate Group leader: [REDACTED]

Woodgate SES: Acacia Street Woodgate, 28 Active members, 48-member total
(Woodgate Currently managed by EMQ)

1.2

No paid positions within Isis SES

1.3

I believe there is a need for the SES unit executive to be paid, on a part time or full time basis depending on the size of the unit. This would enable the executive to prepare and organise training, exercises, maintenance, admin and educational programmes.

A way to reward members for their time would be a Tax benefit, based on their yearly attendance.

1.4

The Bundaberg region has 3 Local Controllers and 11 groups. The unit's function in a similar way to they had in the past. Each controller has there own local knowledge and when needed we all join as one.

2. Readiness for the 2010/2011 floods

2.1

NO unit could say they had enough training for 2010/2011. We had minimum members trained in all the Isis SES unit approved functions; this made the unit one of the highest trained units in Wide Bay Burnett area. This stopped the Isis unit from training more members in case of such an event. (Refer to Gap analysis)

2.2

No

2.3

NO not for an event like the 2010/2011. Access to more vehicles, boats, warning signs and rescue equipment is needed.

2.4

The unit was prepared to respond with the training and equipment it had. SES members can only be trained for the roles that are approved for their units. More specialised training such as special rescue, swift water rescue, Chainsaw level 2, Work at Heights and traffic management, need to be undertaken by a wider range of units. This will help in an event like 2010/2011 you can never have too much training or to many members trained.

3. Operations during the floods

3.1

Isis unit responded to requests for assistance for
Water diversion,
Sandbagging,
Traffic management and traffic control,
Assist Queensland Police,
Assist Queensland Ambulance using flood boat,
Resupply public by flood boat,
Evacuation by flood boat
Transport public by flood boat (ferry Service)

4. Command and control

4.1

To assist the public
To oversee RFA's
To protect life, property and the environment
To ensure the SES members adhere to work place health and safety polices.
To ensure the welfare of SES members and the public a like
To assist Local Emergency Services
To communicate with EMQ and LDMG

4.2

During a disaster I report to the LDMG then EMQ

4.3

SES receive requests for assistance from
SDCC, Smart services Queensland, local phone calls, local general public, Police,
Fire, and Ambulance.

4.4

The group leader, who will brief the group and pick suitably trained members to carry out the task, tasks members.

4.5

All competing RFA's are prioritised by

Life = 1

Property = 2

Environment = 3

If we had enough members to do more than 1 task at a time we did.

4.6

Yes

One request was for sandbags for a home in an estate that was cut off by road phone calls were made and as a result a team of neighbours helped the resident.

After the water receded a load of sand and bags were delivered to a high and dry point in the estate. In case they were needed again, the area did flood again.

A request for resupply was received while the flood boat was in Bundaberg, a team and flood boat from Maryborough SES assisted.

4.7

Yes.

Childers and Woodgate deployed 4-6 members at a time, so as not to leave the local area short of members.

4.8

(a) Local Disaster Coordinator: Very limited in the beginning, once a day toward the end. Calls were made by myself and others that were never returned

(b) Local Disaster Coordination centre: **No contact**

(c) Local Disaster Management Group: **No Contact.** As a member I was very disappointed that I was not even told the group was active.

4.9

(a) District Disaster Coordinator: **No Contact**

(b) District Disaster Coordination Centre: **No Contact**

(c) District Disaster Management Group: **No Contact**

4.10

During the floods there was very limited contact with the Wide Bay Burnett Area Director.

Dec. 28 2010 no one in the Wide Bay Burnett EMQ office could be contacted

There was some Email Contact with the North coast Regional Director

4.11

During the floods the local emergency services of Childers and Woodgate, Police, fire, Ambulance & SES. Were in constant contact, Daily meetings and regular phone calls kept everyone up to date.

4.12

Not to my knowledge

4.13

Area & Regional Directors roles in a disaster should be a support role to Local Controllers and Local Disaster Management Groups. They should be available to all Local Controllers and Local Disaster Management Groups in their area, at all times. Not bogged down to one area. Area & Regional Directors work full time in disaster management, training and mentoring disaster managers. Local Controllers and Local Disaster Management Groups only deal with disasters part time.

5. Communications

5.1

UHF two way radios
Mobile Phones
Fixed line phones
Computers / Internet

5.2

Yes
Uhf radios failed due to radio dead spots.
Childers Flood boat failed due to the microphone getting wet. During Evacuations in Bundaberg
Mobile phones failed due to getting wet and non-service areas

5.3

No not that I am aware of. Mobile phones are the only option we have.

6. Funding

6.1

Local government supply most of the funding, State give a small portion

6.2

Yes the unit did apply for a fahcsia grant. The process was quite simple

6.3

Yes I do have input on how funding is used.

6.4

The funding currently received by my unit is not adequate. I am not told how much my budget is or asked if I have any needs, and therefore the simple things like adding disabled toilets relays on when local government feels it is important.

6.5

No I believe the Unit executive should have vision of the funding.

6.6

- (a) Helping community groups with traffic management or first aid
- (b) 2%
- (c) Yes organising volunteers to take more time out of there personal lives creates some problems

7. Other

7.1

If SES members where trained to an industry standard we may be able to retain members. So many members have told me that they don't have the time to waste redoing courses that they already hold the qualification for in industry. SES needs to set industry training as a minimum and train above that. Industry training should be the basis.

7.2

I am proud to serve as an SES member. SES has 2 masters (Local Government and EMQ) and that causes problems. A lot of the issues that SES have could be resolved by having 1 master. Every Local government have a different way of operating. EMQ operate differently in each region. SES need one master, we all wear one uniform and need to be one.

"We the SES, led by EMQ, are doing the impossible for the public. We have done so much, with so little, for so long, we are now qualified to do anything, with nothing."