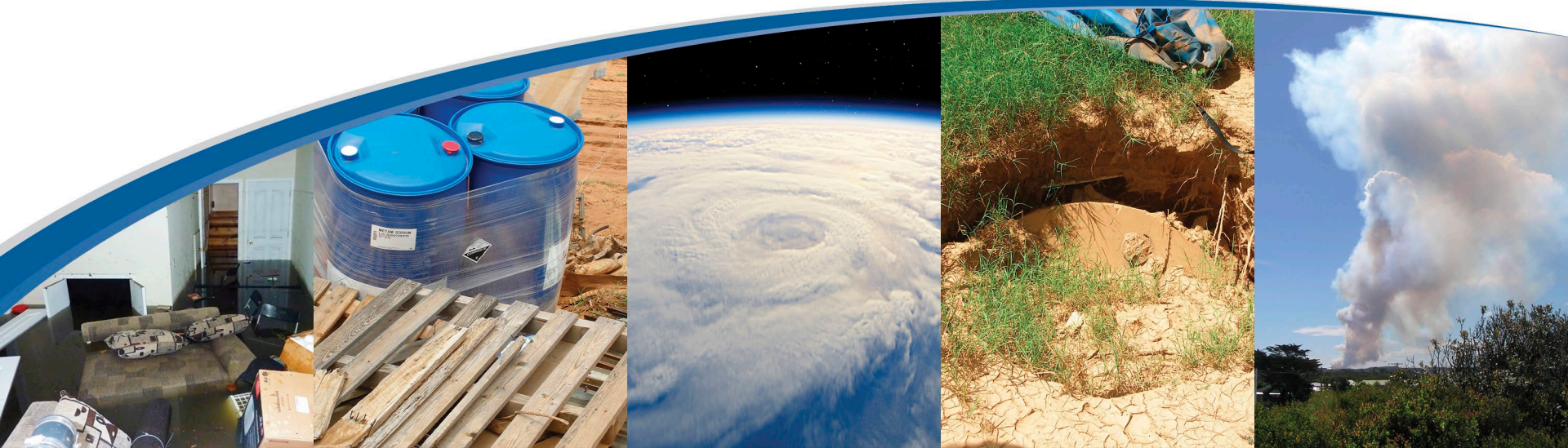




Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**
Environmental Health

Emergency management – role of the Environmental Health Directorate



Environmental Health Directorate

Jane Cook

Manager

System Performance

Vic Andrich

Team Leader

System Performance



EHD Emergency Response Unit



SUPPORT



COORDINATION



RESPONSE



Emergency management plans

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) arranges for the preparation of emergency management plans for Western Australia.

Last updated: 12 October 2023

Under section 18 of the [Emergency Management Act 2005](#) the SEMC is required to arrange for the preparation of emergency management plans as considered necessary.

The plans below support the emergency management arrangements for WA.

Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) also support the arrangements.

For review schedules and details of amendments, [see our amendments section](#).

Related information

- [State Emergency Management Framework](#)

Provided by

State Emergency Management Committee

Contact

Email: semc.policy/legislation@dfes.wa.gov.au

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State Emergency Management Plan

This plan documents the all-hazard emergency management arrangements in WA and identifies the roles and responsibilities of public authorities and other organisations that support these arrangements.

[State Emergency Management Plan](#) >

SHERP

State Health Emergency Response Plan

Version 1

health.wa.gov.au



RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	APPROVED BY	RESOLUTION NUMBER	DATE OF APPROVAL	VERSION NUMBER	DATE OF EFFECT
State Emergency Management Committee Business Unit	State Emergency Management Committee	77/2023	4 OCTOBER 2023	3.00	31 OCTOBER 2023
			REVIEW DATE		JUNE 2026

Once printed, this is an uncontrolled version of the document. The current version is available on the [State Emergency Management Committee website](#).

EHD Emergency Response Unit (ERU)

Strategic preparedness initiatives

EHD Emergency
Response Plan and
Handbook

Developing
emergency incident
response training for
EH professionals

Providing input into
State and National EM
Plans

Maintaining an up-to-
date after hours
emergency contact list
for local governments

Increasing EHD staff
skills and knowledge

Input into resources
and tools

enHealth guidance – Disaster and emergency management for environmental health practitioners | Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care

Disaster and Emergency
Management for
Environmental Health
Practitioners

*A guide for environmental health practitioners in managing disasters
and emergencies in Australian settings*

- EHD provided considerable input to the development of this resource
- It provides practical guidance to environmental health practitioners

Key response activities

- Pre-event heads up
- Briefings, Situation Reports, Reporting
- Liaison within DOH – OCHO, SHIC, DPMD, Communications, CDCD,
- Liaison with state agencies –DFES, Water Corp, DoC, WAPOL, DWER,
- Liaison with local government, EHOs
- EHD officer deployment to support local government EHO if required
- Input into to communication materials, media enquiries, social media
- Coordination of specific messaging/liaison with DOH Communications



Key response activities

- Coordination of technical input from EHD teams on issues
- **Water Team** – Water Corporation (drinking water)
Joint Agency Coordination Plan, Joint Agency Coordination Team
Licensed Service providers – BAU early detection
Onsite sewerage system advice management
- **Biological Applied EH Hazards**
Mosquito borne viruses, surveillance, management advice
Emergency repellent, mosquito net supplies
Mould management advice
- **Chemical Hazards Team**
Asbestos management
Chemical hazard risk assessment, management



Pre deployment activities

- EHD officers engaging with LG EHO as to needs, schedule of activities, key meetings, technical advice and support required
- Liaising with other on-ground agencies
- Liaising with DOH Comms about media opportunities, consistent and meaningful messaging
- Sorting EHD logistics travel arrangements, accommodation, approvals, role & responsibilities, materials required
- WHS assessments



Deployment activities

- Not to 'take over' but rather to assist and support LG EHO
- Develop an EHD in person appreciation of the situation and issues
- Provide direct input and advice on public health matters
- Complete inspections, assessments and advice on re-opening of premises/buildings
- Media and community meetings – public health messaging
- Presentations and training as necessary
- Assist in coordinating liaison and resources between agencies on the ground





Public



Department of Health



[Home](#) [Health conditions](#) [Healthy living](#) [Safety and first aid](#) [Treatments and tests](#) [News](#)

[Home](#) > [Safety and first aid](#) > [Natural disasters and weather](#)

Natural disasters and weather

This section will give you information the hazards you may face and the precautions you should take during and after a natural disaster.

After a bushfire	Hazards after a flood
Heatwave	Smoke hazards from bushfire

- > [After a bushfire – hazards on your property](#)
- > [Burying dead animals](#)
- > [Damaged chemicals, poison and pesticides](#)
- > [Emergency treatment of drinking water supplies](#)
- > [Hazards after a flood](#)
- > [Fire damaged asbestos](#)
- > [Fire damaged on-site wastewater systems](#)
- > [Flood damaged on site wastewater systems](#)
- > [Prepare for a heatwave](#)
- > [Recovering after the flood – clean-up for households](#)
- > [Rainwater tank contamination](#)
- > [Recreational waters and fishing after a flood](#)
- > [Smoke hazards from bushfires](#)
- > [Cleaning-up ash from CCA treated timber](#)
- > [Swimming pool contamination](#)

Environmental Health Professionals

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Department of Health

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[Home](#) > [Health for...](#) > [Environmental Health practitioners](#) > [Disaster Management](#)



Health for...

[Health professionals](#)

[Environmental Health practitioners](#)

[Researchers and educators](#)

[Licensing and industry](#)

Disaster Management

In WA, [emergency management](#) is coordinated by the State Emergency Management Committee.

This section contains information about disaster and emergency management appropriate for local government Environmental Health Practitioners.

The [Disaster and Emergency Management for Environmental Health Practitioners Guide \(external site\)](#) provides valuable information for Practitioners with limited exposure to disaster management, providing an overview and appreciation of planning and response efforts. Disaster management planners can also use this guide to gain a better appreciation of environmental health and how this can be incorporated within systems and local planning.

The [enHealth Risk Communication Guidance \(external site\)](#) outlines the principles of risk communication to assist environmental public health practitioners to understand and prepare for communicating risks to the public.

Additional information for [health professionals](#) is also available.

- [Cyclones and flooding](#)
- [Fire damage and smoke](#)
- [Heatwave](#)
- [Outbreak and incident management](#)
- [Public events](#)
- [Training](#)

[wa.gov.au](#)

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Fire damage and smoke

EH Professionals:

- [Environmental health risks during and after a bushfire](#)

Public:

- [After a bushfire – hazards on your property](#) (healthywa.wa.gov.au)
- [Smoke hazards from bushfires](#) (healthywa.wa.gov.au)

Government of Western Australia
Department of Health

Cleaning up safely after a bushfire

Stay safe – don't enter your property until emergency services give you the all clear. Be aware of hazards following a bushfire, and keep your children and pets away during clean-up.

Electricity and gas
Wait until emergency services confirm power and gas are turned off.
If you see a downed powerline or damaged electrical assets stay at least 8 metres away and call Western Power on 13 13 13 or Horizon Power on 13 23 131 to report the hazard.

Insurance and renters
Contact your insurance company as soon as possible and find out what you need to do. If you're not insured, you may need to organise clean-up yourself. If you are renting, talk to your property manager as soon as possible.

Be aware of hazards
Be aware that hot coals and other hazardous materials may be hidden under the rubble. Buildings and other structures may be unstable to enter or walk on.
Ash and dust may get up by entering the property.

Wear personal protection
Everyone should wear:
• thick rubber gloves
• a P2 face mask
• closed footwear
• disposable coveralls or old clothes with long sleeves and trousers to protect your skin
• protective eye wear
Wash hands and face thoroughly after cleaning up.
Clean or dispose of your protective clothing after use.

Rubbish
Contact your local government to find out how waste collection is being managed and where you can take it, including building rubble.
Sort waste into separate piles for collection or transport. For example, separate chemicals, green waste and general waste into separate piles.

Department of Health

Stay safe from bushfire smoke

- Stay indoors and avoid outdoor activities
- Use a carbon filter air purifier
- Avoid outdoor activities
- If you're in a car, keep windows closed
- Stay indoors and avoid outdoor activities
- Use a carbon filter air purifier
- Avoid outdoor activities
- If you're in a car, keep windows closed

Smoke causes health problems, particularly in people who are elderly, young and those with pre-existing illnesses.
For more information visit Healthywa.wa.gov.au
If feeling unwell call Healthdirect on 1800 022 222 or see your doctor.

Floods and cyclones

EH Professionals:

- [Environmental health risks during and after a bushfire](https://www.health.wa.gov.au)

Public:

- [Hazards after a flood \(healthywa.wa.gov.au\)](https://www.health.wa.gov.au)
- [Environmental health risks following cyclones and floods](https://www.health.wa.gov.au)

Government of Western Australia
Department of Health

Tips for cleaning up safely after a flood

Keep children and pets away from your house until it is clean and safe

Electricity and gas
Electricity and gas supplies may be damaged.
To report on electrical faults, call the National Fire on 112 21 21.
Do not switch an electricity or gas unit on or off until you have been advised to do so by a licensed electrician or gas fitter who has checked.

If you smell gas in the home, turn off all appliances, shut down and seal off the gas meter, open all windows, and call a licensed gas fitter.
Do not use matches or lighters in case there has been a gas or fuel leak.

Insurance
Check if your home and contents insurer needs you to file a claim or take photos before you start your clean-up.

Wear personal protection
Everyone, including children, must wear thick rubber gloves, a face mask, clothes or suit that have been cleaned above the clean up area.
Wear goggles to create, hear or pressure wash.

Wash hands
Wash hands after work with soap and clean water or use alcohol hand sanitizer by rubbing your gloves and hands, and before touching the food preparation of eating food. Do not touch your face with dirty hands.
Cover open cuts and wounds with waterproof bandages. Keep the cleaning area and dry. Seek medical attention if required.

healthywa.wa.gov.au

Government of Western Australia
Department of Health

Mould can make you sick

Don't risk your health. Clean up safely after flood damage.

Flooding and extreme rainfall can increase the risk of mould and dampness in your home.

Check for mould
Mould can grow anywhere, but common spots are:

- bathroom
- kitchen
- laundry room
- in the roof
- behind fixtures

Dry things out
Mould can grow if things are not fully dried out.

- Open windows if the weather allows.
- Take your furniture and other things to dry outside.
- If things get wet, clean them in the washing machine and fluffify, if they are already, throw them in the bin.

Clean up tips

- Use a face mask, gloves and thick rubber gloves to protect yourself.
- Use a scrubbing brush - mould needs to be well scrubbed off.
- Clean mould you can see - a mix of parts per million and 2 parts water OR - use bleach water if enough not available. Bleach-based cleaning products may be used but they are not recommended because you must stop physically scrubbing the affected surface to remove the mould.

Important

- Don't use different cleaning products.
- Don't mix vinegar and bleach.
- Bleach-based products can irritate your skin, eyes and lungs.

If the mould is really bad, check with your insurer or landlord. Professional cleaners may be needed.

healthywa.wa.gov.au

Government of Western Australia
Department of Health

Broken asbestos cement?

Don't risk your health. Clean up safely after flood damage.

Leave it! Use a licensed asbestos removalist:

- the asbestos cement is badly damaged
- you need to remove a large amount
- the asbestos containing material crumbles under hand pressure
- you don't have appropriate protective clothes or equipment
- there are other hazards.

Keep others away with a sign saying "Danger - Asbestos" and barrier tape, if available.

If you want to remove a small amount of broken (but still intact) asbestos cement sheets on your property, it's important to follow the right steps to keep you and your family safe.

Visit [healthywa.wa.gov.au/floods](https://www.health.wa.gov.au/floods) for advice on safe removal of small amounts of asbestos cement.

healthywa.wa.gov.au

Heatwave

EH professionals:

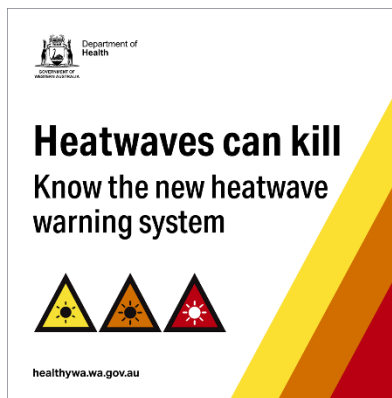
- [Heatwave strategies for local government \(health.wa.gov.au\)](https://health.wa.gov.au)
- [New heatwave warning system awareness campaign \(health.wa.gov.au\)](https://health.wa.gov.au)

For public:

- [Heatwaves – be prepared for extreme heat \(healthywa.wa.gov.au\)](https://healthywa.wa.gov.au)



New heatwave warning system 2022 (60 sec)



Department of Health






Heatwaves – be prepared for extreme heat

- > Heatwaves can occur in any location.
- > Heatwaves occur when the minimum and maximum temperatures are much hotter than usual for three or more days at a location.
- > The heatwave warning system gives you information once it has been forecast by the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) (external site).







Heatwave alert warning levels

The Australian Warning System (external site) is a new national approach to information and calls to actions for hazards including extreme heat.

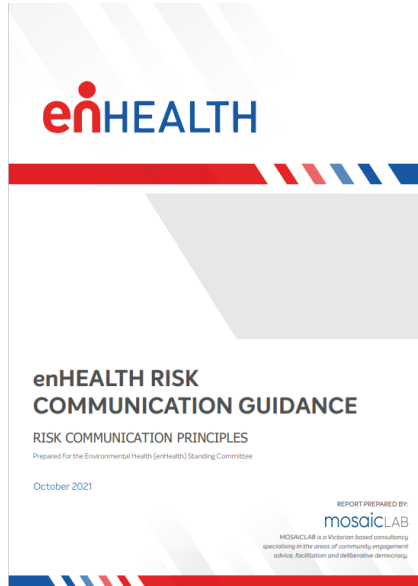
Heatwave alerts have three warning levels indicating the increasing risk to your health. It is important to stay up-to-date with relevant alerts to help you prepare for and limit the impact of extreme heat.

 <p>Advice – stay up-to-date</p> <p>Prepare now for a heatwave that will affect your area in the coming days.</p> <p>Stay-up-to-date in case the situation changes.</p>	 <p>Watch and act - start taking action</p> <p>Conditions are changing</p> <p>You need to start taking action and prepare for very hot conditions.</p>	 <p>Emergency warning - act immediately</p> <p>You need to act immediately.</p> <p>Drink water, stay indoors or seek out air-conditioned places. Be aware of heat stress, and check on family and friends, especially the elderly.</p>
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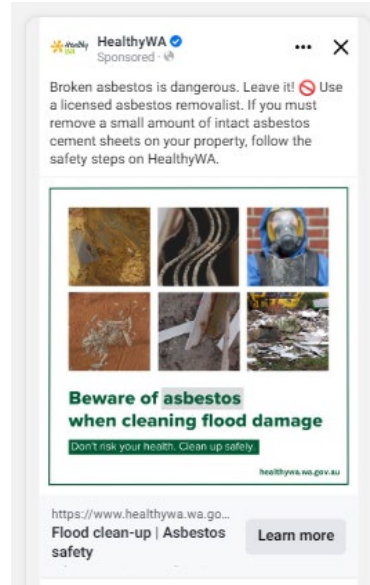
Staying healthy in the heat

 <p>Prepare for a heatwave</p> <p>Ready yourself, family and home for heatwaves.</p>	 <p>During a heatwave</p> <p>Stay safe and healthy during a heatwave.</p>	 <p>After a heatwave</p> <p>Stay healthy after hot weather or extreme heat.</p>
 <p>Health impacts</p> <p>Signs, symptoms and how to manage.</p>	 <p>People at risk</p> <p>Higher risk cohorts during a heatwave.</p>	 <p>Information for carers</p> <p>Caring during extreme heat periods.</p>

Risk communication support



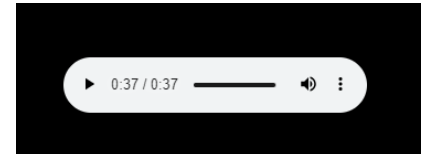
enHealth resource



Social media



Application of mosquito repellent (Kriol)



Other languages – audio / video

In development...

- Public Health Guidelines for Evacuation Centres
- PH Registrar input into Guidelines for Managing Mould
- Input into National Health Emergency Response Plan (Department of Health Aged Care)
- EH Responding to emergencies and incidents for EH professionals Handbook

Training and partnerships

- Remained subscribed to the Environmental Health e-news
- Improve our partnerships with existing organisations to embed ongoing EH training e.g. WALGA

