



# **MAJOR STRUCTURE COLLAPSE SUBPLAN**

**A SUBPLAN OF THE  
NSW STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
PLAN**

March 2021

## AUTHORISATION

The Major Structure Collapse Subplan has been prepared as a subplan to the New South Wales State Emergency Management Plan (EMPLAN) to detail the control and coordination arrangements for the preparation for, response to, and immediate recovery from a major structure collapse.

This plan has been prepared on behalf of the State Emergency Operations Controller in consultation with Fire and Rescue New South Wales and the State Emergency Management Committee and taking into account provisions of the State Rescue Policy.

This document is endorsed as a subplan to the NSW State Emergency Management Plan (State EMPLAN) by the, State Emergency Management Committee in accordance with the State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989 (as amended), Section 15 (e).

Endorsed:

State Emergency Management Committee

Date: 18 March 2021

## AMENDMENTS

Proposals for amendment or addition to the contents of the NSW Major Structure Collapse Subplan are to be forwarded to:

The Executive Officer  
State Emergency Management Committee  
PO Box 6976  
Silverwater, NSW 2128

## VERSION HISTORY

Version updates are recorded in the following table.

Amendment	
Number	Date
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Complete Review	March 2021

## DISTRIBUTION

This Subplan is to be distributed in electronic format and is available at [www.emergency.nsw.gov.au](http://www.emergency.nsw.gov.au).

## CONTENTS

AUTHORISATION .....	3
AMENDMENTS .....	4
VERSION HISTORY .....	4
DISTRIBUTION.....	4
CONTENTS .....	5
ABBREVIATIONS.....	6
1. INTRODUCTION.....	2
2. AIM.....	2
3. SCOPE.....	2
4. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS .....	3
5. Prevention.....	4
6. PREPARATION .....	6
7. RESPONSE - ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.....	7
7.1 Fire and Rescue NSW.....	7
7.2 State Emergency Operations Controller.....	7
7.3 State Emergency Operations Centre.....	7
7.4 Regional Emergency Operations Controller .....	7
7.5 Site Controller.....	8
7.6 NSW Police Force.....	8
7.7 Rural Fire Service .....	8
7.8 NSW Ambulance .....	8
7.9 State Emergency Service .....	9
7.10 Volunteer Rescue Association of NSW.....	9
7.11 Agriculture and Animal Services Functional Area.....	9
7.12 Engineering Services Functional Area .....	9
7.13 Environmental Services Functional Area .....	9
7.14 Energy and Utilities Services:.....	9
7.15 Health Services Functional Area .....	9
7.16 Local Government .....	9
7.17 Mines Rescue Organisation.....	10
7.18 Welfare Services .....	10
8. RESPONSE .....	10
8.1 Activation .....	10
8.2 Deployment .....	10
8.3 Stand Down .....	11
8.4 Control.....	11
8.5 Liaison .....	11
8.6 Communication.....	11
8.7 Interstate and Overseas Deployment.....	12
9. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS .....	12
9.1 Logistic Support .....	12
9.2 Base of Operations.....	12
9.3 Financial Responsibilities.....	12
10. RECOVERY.....	13
10.1 Removal/Rehabilitation of Structure and surrounds.....	13
10.2 State Recovery Arrangements.....	13
11. REVIEW .....	13
12. GLOSSARY .....	14
13. Appendices .....	19

## ABBREVIATIONS

SC	State Coordinator, VKG Sydney
DVI	Disaster Victim Identification
DVR	Disaster Victim Registration
EMPLAN	NSW State Emergency Management Plan
EOC	Emergency Operations Centre
EMOS	Emergency Management Operations System
EOCON	Emergency Operations Controller
FAC	Functional Area Coordinator
FRNSW	Fire and Rescue NSW
INSARAG	International Search and Rescue Advisory Group
LO	Liaison Officer
RFR	Register.Find.Reunite
REOCON	Regional Emergency Operations Controller
SEMC	State Emergency Management Committee
SEOC	State Emergency Operations Centre
SEOCON	State Emergency Operations Controller
SERCON	State Emergency Recovery Controller
SERM Act	State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989
SRB	State Rescue Board
USAR	Urban Search and Rescue
VKG 1	Police Communications, Sydney

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This subplan has been prepared at the direction of the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) as a state level subplan of the State Emergency Management Plan. This plan details Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) for a major structure collapse(s) or similar emergency in New South Wales.
- 1.2 Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW) is the designated combat agency for major structure collapse or similar emergencies where a USAR activity or response is required in accordance with the State Emergency Management Plan (EMPLAN).
- 1.3 A major structure collapse will generally require a multi-agency, multi-disciplinary coordinated response utilising specialised resources, including emergency services and functional areas.
- 1.4 Structure collapse(s), other than covered by these arrangements, can normally be dealt with using rescue and emergency management arrangements at local level, albeit sometimes requiring limited specialised support e.g. equipment, personnel.
- 1.5 Regional and local plans for major structure collapse can be activated to support this plan as determined by the SEOCAN. Note the principles contained herein and the roles and responsibilities do not change from local to state level plans.
- 1.6 Deployment of specialised resources by a single agency, whether personnel or equipment, normally used for USAR activities may be undertaken and will not constitute a multi-agency Taskforce activation or response.
- 1.7 If the response to a major structure collapse results in establishment and deployment of a multi-agency Taskforce, then the SEOCAN will be notified of the request to establish the task force.
- 1.8 In addition to EEMPLAN and some of its subplans and supporting plans, this subplan provides the framework for USAR operations in events where multiple structure collapses may require multiple response teams including situations where USAR Taskforces from outside of NSW are tasked to the event.

## **2. AIM**

- 2.1 The aim of this subplan is to describe the arrangements for the control and coordination of, the preparation for, response to, and immediate recovery from a major structure collapse. It also details the response to an event where a USAR capability may be required for an event other than a Major Structure Collapse.

## **3. SCOPE**

- 3.1 This subplan details the arrangements for dealing with major structure collapse emergencies that occur in NSW. This may include the search and rescue of trapped or missing person within the collapsed structure or dealing with other external consequences of the event.
- 3.2 This subplan does not deal with structural collapses that can be dealt with using a general land rescue unit and local resources. These events are to be dealt with in accordance with local rescue and emergency management arrangements.
- 3.3 This plan recognises that there will be events that are not major structure collapses where the arrangements in this plan may be used e.g. landslip. In the case of any such event the arrangements in place for major structure collapse may be applied to the event.

- 3.4 This Subplan does not deal with the deployment of the NSW USAR Task Force capability outside of NSW, whether interstate or overseas.

## 4. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

- 4.1 A major structure collapse could occur anywhere in New South Wales. The initial response will come from local emergency services organisations, utilising their normal procedures and equipment. In the event that specialist advice, skills and/or equipment are required, the normal rescue and emergency management arrangements will apply for the provision of that support.
- 4.2 The first arriving rescue unit will assess the scene, undertake immediate actions and provide advice on rescue requirements to the senior Police Officer at the scene.
- 4.3 Initially, Police, in consultation with the responding rescue unit(s) will be responsible for determining whether the structure collapse is an incident which can be handled using normal locally available rescue resources, or an emergency which requires a higher level of management or rescue capability. The State Coordinator (SC) at Police Communications, Sydney (VKG1) is to be informed of the decision and advise the SEOC accordingly.
- 4.4 The 'senior' police officer at the scene will declare the site a Danger Area under the provisions of the SERM Act, this area may be changed or confirmed as required by a senior police officer in consultation with FRNSW.
- 4.5 In the event of a Major Structure Collapse, FRNSW will notify and liaise with the SEOC in relation to USAR activities and the SEOC will be made available to coordinate support as appropriate.
- 4.6 The lowest level of operation for a major structural collapse is Regional level. An Emergency Operations Centre may be opened to control support operations if determined that support can be controlled at the Regional level. When control is exercised by the SEOC, the Regional level will coordinate support as directed.
- 4.7 REOC will appoint a Site Controller who will establish Site Control in consultation with the FRNSW Commander or USAR Commander.
- 4.8 Pending the arrival of the FRNSW Commander, the site controller will assume responsibility for the danger area (including Category 1 USAR operations), in consultation with the accredited rescue unit on site.
- 4.9 FRNSW will liaise with the site controller and control USAR activities within the danger area this includes USAR trained members from other emergency services. Any additional non-USAR resources required will be requested through the Site Controller and/or the EOC.
- 4.10 Emergency services organisations, functional areas and other agencies will deploy any reasonably available resources to support the operation in accordance with this Subplan and normal EMPLAN arrangements at the request of FRNSW, Site Controller(s), REOC or SEOC.
- 4.11 A request to FRNSW for the provision of specialist capability or equipment, if available, will be considered a normal emergency management request and will not constitute a USAR Task Force response or escalate the situation to a major structure collapse response.
- 4.12 USAR capability or resources from other jurisdictions, whether interstate or overseas, must be requested or approved by the SEOC in consultation with Commissioner FRNSW.

## 5. PREVENTION

- 5.1 Measures to prevent major structural collapse emergencies or the escalation of a structural collapse incident are a State priority requiring effective partnerships between agencies, governments, business, industry and the community.
- 5.2 The prevention (mitigation) of a major structural collapse emergency is dealt with through a range of legislative and regulatory controls. They are provided via multiple agencies representing varying aspects of structural collapse prevention.

### **Australian Building Codes Board**

- 5.3 In the regulatory space the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) regulates the construction industry. The ABCB is a joint initiative of all levels of government in Australia. The ABCB promotes efficiency in the design, construction and performance of buildings through the National Construction Code (NCC), and the development of effective regulatory and non-regulatory approaches.

### **National Construction Code**

- 5.4 The NCC is a performance-based code containing all performance requirements for the construction of buildings. It is built around a hierarchy of guidance and code compliance levels, with the Performance Requirements being the minimum level that buildings, building elements must meet. A building will comply with the NCC if it satisfies the Performance Requirements, which are the mandatory requirements of the NCC.
- 5.5 The performance requirements are also supported by general requirements, which cover other aspects of applying the NCC including its interpretation, reference documents, the acceptance of design and construction (including related evidence of suitability/documentation) and the classification of buildings within the NCC.
- 5.6 Within NSW the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 No 203* is the principal document regulating the development of construction.
- 5.7 Part 2 Division 2.1 places the Minister responsible for planning and for the administration of the provisions of this Act allocated to the Minister by an administrative arrangements order under the *Constitution Act 1902*.
- 5.8 Part 2 Division 2.2 provides the Planning Secretary with departmental responsibility for planning and for the administration of the provisions of this Act allocated to the Minister by an administrative arrangements order under the *Constitution Act 1902*.

### **Fire and Rescue NSW Fire Safety Branch**

- 5.9 Fire and Rescue NSW are also major stakeholders in the prevention of structural collapse emergencies within the State of NSW through the Community Safety Division of the organisation. The one of the primary objectives of Community Safety is to minimise the potential consequences of emergencies through the provision of fire safety measures commensurate with identified risks. This is primarily achieved by ensuring compliance with regulatory and legislative obligations that provide fire safety within the built environment.
- 5.10 Fire and Rescue NSW also partners with agencies such as the Public Works Advisory to ensure compliance with construction codes are commensurate with the known risks. They also partner in training initiatives that ensure that all emergency services agencies can effectively respond to and manage a major structural collapse event.



- 5.11 The Fire Safety Policy Unit provide specialist and expert advice to other built environment units as well as industry, Government and planning authorities and FRNSW Operations. The policy unit also sets policy framework to better manage fire and hazardous materials risks associated with the built environment.
- 5.12 The Fire Safety Policy Unit provide:
- a. Engineering expertise (fire, mechanical and structural)
  - b. Policies, guidelines and guidance notes on the built environment
  - c. Training of staff in technical areas
  - d. Research on the built environment to identify improved processes, performances and outcomes.
- 5.13 The Fire Safety Compliance Unit
- a. is responsible for enforcing general compliance of building regulations in existing buildings. The unit comprise of building surveyors who are responsible for ensuring buildings satisfy design requirements with construction techniques and materials meeting specifications.
  - b. investigates fire safety concerns particularly those relating to high public risk buildings such as shared accommodations and entertainment venues. Unit staff will pro-actively and selectively target places of high risk and will issue Fire Orders, including Orders to cease operating or evacuate the premises, as deemed necessary in the public interest.
- 5.14 Fire Safety Advisory Unit
- a. provides consultation services to industry on the Fire Engineering Brief (FEB) and alternative solutions process. An FEB is sometimes prepared during the design phase by engineers, certifying authorities or local government authorities seeking preliminary approval of fire engineering concepts for proposed development having an alternative solution. The FEB is not mandatory; however, the FEB provides early consultation between stakeholders which can streamline the alternative solutions process and construction.
  - b. assesses the alternative solutions for proposed development for the purpose of furnishing an Initial Fire Safety Report (IFSR) under Clause 144 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000*.
- 5.15 The Fire Safety Advisory Unit will:
- a. attend consultation meetings with industry representatives
  - b. review FEB applications and provide technical advice on alternative solutions
  - c. liaise with stakeholders and negotiate on proposed solutions during a project
  - d. assess the alternative solution for the purpose of furnishing an IFSR.

## 6. PREPARATION

### 6.1 Education and Training

- a. Each agency with responsibilities under this subplan is responsible for educating their respective personnel about the arrangements detailed within this document.
- b. The SRB is responsible for endorsing policy and training material for rescue.
- c. FRNSW is responsible for developing material and resources, and as appropriate, delivering training for USAR operations.
- d. FRNSW also partners with agencies such as Public Works Advisory, and the Australian Building Code Board to ensure training and preparation activities are commensurate with the known risks.

### 6.2 Equipment

FRNSW is responsible for establishing and maintaining equipment and resources for USAR activities and the specialised USAR Task Force cache.

### 6.3 Exercises

- a. The arrangements in this plan are to be tested at least each two years.
- b. FRNSW is responsible, in partnership with other agencies, for organising and conducting multi-agency USAR exercises.
- c. Elements may be tested simultaneously or independently.
- d. The need for an exercise may be obviated if this plan has been activated within the previous two-year period.

### 6.4 Review of the plan

These arrangements are to be reviewed after:

- a. any Major Structure Collapse
- b. after any exercise of the arrangements in this Subplan (ref Sect 6.3)
- c. at least every five years after the previous review, or as required by SEOCAN.

## **7. RESPONSE - ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The roles and responsibilities listed below are additional to, or variations to any listed in EMPLAN. Unless mentioned herein, agencies and Functional Areas will perform their respective roles and functions as outlined in EMPLAN or its Subplans and Supporting Plans.

### **7.1 Fire and Rescue NSW**

- a. Perform role of combat agency for major structure collapse operations.
- b. Provide specialist advice regarding USAR operations.
- c. Provide a FRNSW Commander to assist in initial rescue coordination.
- d. Provide and control USAR Task Force(s).
- e. Deploy the USAR Task Force in consultation with the SEOCON.
- f. Provide follow up resources for USAR activities as required.
- g. Deal with fires or hazardous materials emergencies in and near the major structure collapse.
- h. Provide appropriately trained personnel as required.

### **7.2 State Emergency Operations Controller**

- a. Activate SEOC.
- b. Control elements of the support operation not directly under the control of the combat agency.
- c. Liaise with FRNSW regarding the deployment of a USAR Task Force.
- d. Where necessary, authorise and request USAR capability from other jurisdictions, whether from interstate or overseas.
- e. Control elements of the response operation not directly under the control of the combat agency.
- f. Brief the Premier and appropriate Ministers regarding the deployment of USAR resources.

### **7.3 State Emergency Operations Centre**

- a. Advise Emergency Service Organisations and Functional Areas at State level of major structure collapse activities.
- b. Liaise with FRNSW and SEOCON to ensure that deployment of USAR Task Force is coordinated.
- c. Monitor the situation.
- d. Ensure SEOCON is updated regularly.

### **7.4 Regional Emergency Operations Controller**

- a. Activate the EOC as necessary or directed by SEOCON.
- b. Activate EMOS
- c. Support elements of the response operation not directly under the control of the combat agency.
- d. Appoint Site Controller/s to manage impact site/s.
- e. Coordinate the provision of resources to support the USAR Task Force as requested by USAR Task Force Leader.

- f. Ensure that regular briefings and Situation Reports are provided to SEOC.
- g. Coordinate Initial Impact Assessment process.
- h. Inform Regional and/or local emergency services organisations and functional areas of a major structure collapse
- i. Support the combat agency and REOCON as required.

#### **7.5 Site Controller**

- a. Establish Site Control.
- b. Declare a danger area in consultation with FRNSW and other agencies.
- c. Control site operations, including initial rescue operation in cooperation with FRNSW Commander and accredited rescue unit(s).
- d. Upon arrival of the USAR Commander, determine the USAR combat area and continue to support the combat agency.
- e. Establish Base of Operations in consultation with FRNSW Commander
- f. Report to REOCON.

#### **7.6 NSW Police Force**

- a. Provide appropriately trained personnel to support USAR operations.
- b. Provide appropriately trained USAR canine Team(s) to support USAR operations.
- c. Provide appropriately trained staff from the Emergency Management Unit to the USAR Task Force.
- d. Ensure that appropriate area and route security are provided.
- e. Operate DVR (RFR) and DVI systems as required.
- f. Operate a temporary morgue if required.
- g. Activate the public information inquiry centre as appropriate.
- h. Conduct investigations.

#### **7.7 Rural Fire Service**

- a. Provide fire protection and incident ground support when in Rural Fire District or as requested.
- b. Assist with fire protection at hazardous materials incidents as required.
- c. Provide assistance as required when equipment and training is appropriate.
- d. Establish a temporary accommodation centre when requested.

#### **7.8 NSW Ambulance**

- a. Manage casualties and provide medical transport as required.
- b. Provide pre-hospital care and support to major structure collapse operations.
- c. Provide assistance as required when equipment and training is appropriate.
- d. Provide appropriately trained Paramedic members to the USAR Task Force.

## **7.9 State Emergency Service**

- a. Provide USAR Category 1 trained personnel to support structure collapse or USAR operations as required.
- b. Provide assistance as required when equipment and training is appropriate.

## **7.10 Volunteer Rescue Association of NSW**

- a. Provide USAR Category 1 trained personnel to support structure collapse or USAR operations as required.
- b. Provide assistance as required when equipment and training is appropriate.

## **7.11 Agriculture and Animal Services Functional Area**

- a. As necessary, provide for the welfare of any animals which may be involved in a major structure collapse.
- b. Provide information as required pertaining to the impact of the collapse on business as usual.

## **7.12 Engineering Services Functional Area**

- a. As requested, provide engineers and other technical personal to provide technical advice and coordinate engineering support and equipment at major structure collapse and USAR Operations.
- b. Provide appropriately trained engineering members to the USAR Task Force.

## **7.13 Environmental Services Functional Area**

- a. Coordinate the provision of technical advice and services for the management of debris and waste and contaminated materials to minimise any impact on the USAR operations or the environment during emergency response and recovery operations.
- b. Protect the environment during emergency response and recovery operations.
- c. Provide assistance as required when equipment and training is appropriate.

## **7.14 Energy and Utilities Services:**

- a. Coordinate energy and utility services in accordance with the Energy and Utilities Functional Area Supporting Plan.

## **7.15 Health Services Functional Area**

- a. Provide medical officers to support structure collapse or USAR operations as requested.
- b. Provide medical, public health and mental health advice and support for responding agencies and affected community.
- c. Provide assistance as required when equipment and training is appropriate.
- d. Provide appropriately trained members to the USAR Task Force.

## **7.16 Local Government**

- a. Provide support staff to the EOC as requested

- b. Where available, provide resources for identifying and securing an area from general public access to establish a base of operations.
- c. Where available, provide technical advice to the operation.
- d. Provide assistance as required when equipment and training is appropriate.

#### **7.17 Mines Rescue Organisation**

- a. If requested, provide technical advice regarding structure collapse or USAR operations.
- b. Provide assistance as required when equipment and training is appropriate.

#### **7.18 Welfare Services**

Provide the full range of welfare services to victims and their families, as required, in accordance with the Welfare Services Functional Area Supporting Plan.

## **8. RESPONSE**

### **8.1 Activation**

- a. Local emergency response agencies identify that the incident is beyond their capabilities and there is risk to people's lives, property, and/or essential services from building collapse.
- b. The SEOCON will activate the SEOC to the appropriate level and advise the Minister of the situation.
- c. REOCON will appoint a Site Controller.
- d. The REOCON of the emergency management region in which the structure collapse has occurred is responsible for coordinating Regional emergency management resources to support the operation as required.
- e. FRNSW will appoint the FRNSW Commander who will liaise with the Site Controller.
- f. USAR Reconnaissance Team will be deployed and establish the level of response.
- g. SEOC disseminates operational information to all emergency services and functional areas as directed by the SEOCON.
- h. SEOC arranges or media and community information to be coordinated and disseminated throughout the operations.

### **8.2 Deployment**

- a. Site Controller establishes Site Control.
- b. FRNSW Commander and USAR resources deploy and establish communications with Site Control.
- c. Establishes the Base of Operations.
- d. FRNSW to evaluate building safety and integrity prior to commencing rescue operations.

### **8.3 Stand Down**

- a. When the FRNSW Commander in control of the danger area is satisfied that USAR tasks have been completed the area will be handed over to the Site Controller.
- b. The Base of Operations and any other infrastructure established to support the USAR operation will be demobilised, unless required for further non-USAR operational activities.
- c. When appropriate, REOCON/SEOCON will hand over the site(s) to other appropriate agencies or authorities for investigations or otherwise dependent upon circumstances (e.g. NSWPF, SafeWork NSW, owner or insurance company etc) or, where recovery operations are to be conducted, to the State Emergency Recovery Controller (SERCON).
- d. The SEOCON/REOCON will:
  - i Advise stand-down, through SEOC, to agencies involved.
  - ii Arrange for the media and the community to be advised of the cessation of operations and any transition arrangements.
  - iii Arrange for multi-agency debrief(s) to review response.

### **8.4 Control**

- a. FRNSW is the combat agency for major structure collapse(s) with actual or potential risk to people's lives, property and/or essential services from building collapse.
- b. The SEOCON may delegate to the REOCON of the emergency management region involved, support of the non-USAR emergency management activities.
- c. A Site Controller, appointed by and responsible to the REOCON, will control the on-ground activities at the Site. There may be multiple structure collapses at the one Site.
- d. FRNSW will control USAR operations in the danger area. There will be a FRNSW Commander appointed for each danger area who will maintain communication with the respective Site Controller.
- e. Management of the activities at the scene(s) will be undertaken by NSW Police Force until the appointment of a Site Controller(s) who will then control the activities and agencies at the Site(s).
- f. Whilst maintaining internal command structures, Emergency Service Organisations and Functional Areas are under operational control of the Site Controller whilst operating at the Site but retain command of their own resources.

### **8.5 Liaison**

Emergency Service Organisations, functional areas and other agencies involved in the operation are to provide liaison officers, as requested to:

- a. SEOC.
- b. REOC.
- c. Site Control.

### **8.6 Communication**

- a. Emergency service organisations and functional areas are responsible for providing and establishing their own internal communications requirements.

- b. Police are responsible for providing communications requirements for Site Control.
- c. Site Controller is responsible for establishing communication/liason between agencies at the site.
- d. REOCON is responsible for ensuring communication is established between Site Control and REOC including distribution to SEOC.

## **8.7 Interstate and Overseas Deployment**

Interstate and Overseas deployments are not subject to this plan. Any requests for assistance will be subject to conditions agreed between the NSW Government and the requesting State or territory and/or the Australian Government.

# **9. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS**

## **9.1 Logistic Support**

- a. Emergency services organisations and functional areas are responsible for their own logistic support in the first instance. Additional support may be coordinated by the SEOC/EOC.
- b. Movement of equipment and personnel into the danger area must be approved by the EOCON in consultation with the Site Controller.

## **9.2 Base of Operations**

Major structure collapse operations generally require large numbers of personnel and considerable equipment.

The EOCON in conjunction with FRNSW Commander will be responsible to establish the Base of Operations.

When establishing the Support Base, consider the following requirements:

- a. Accommodation and welfare facilities for USAR attached personnel.
- b. Ablution facilities.
- c. Areas for vehicles and equipment, preferably allocated by service.
- d. Transport/transshipment facilities.
- e. Helicopter landing site.
- f. First aid station.
- g. Fuel storage.
- h. Site security.
- i. Proximity to danger area and area of operation.

The FRNSW Commander may establish a forward Base of Operations remote from the Main Base of Operations to facilitate direct operational requirements of the USAR operation response.

It should be noted that USAR Task Forces are self-sufficient for a minimum period of ten (10) days.

## **9.3 Financial Responsibilities**

Agencies contributing personnel and/or resources to any structure collapse operation are responsible for meeting their own costs for both training and operation.



Expenditure of funds by Emergency Service Organisations or Functional Areas during emergency response and/or recovery operations is to be met in the first instance by the providers of resources from within their normal operating budgets. Should expenditure be of such a magnitude as to prevent the providing agencies/functional areas from continuing their normal operations for the remainder of the financial year, NSW Treasury may provide supplementation, however Departments cannot be guaranteed that funding will be provided.

## **10. RECOVERY**

### **10.1 Removal/Rehabilitation of Structure and surrounds**

Following any response to a structure collapse, including a major structure collapse, when the property has been handed back to the owner or agent (including an insurer) any ongoing stabilisation, securing, demolition, restoration, rehabilitation, reconstruction, removal of debris or materials etc whether caused by the original happening or as a result of the response, will be the responsibility of the owner.

### **10.2 State Recovery Arrangements**

The arrangements for recovery operations in New South Wales are outlined in the NSW State EMPLAN and further described in the State Recovery Plan.

The New South Wales Recovery Plan outlines the strategic intent, responsibilities, authorities and the mechanisms for disaster recovery in New South Wales. The Recovery Plan, together with the guidelines, allow for the development and implementation of a planned recovery following a natural disaster or other emergency.

This process is overseen by the State Emergency Recovery Controller (SERCON) in accordance with clause 20B of the SERM Act 1989.

Following a major structure collapse, the SEOCON will liaise with the SERCON to discuss recovery arrangements as detailed in the State Recovery Plan.

## **11. REVIEW**

These arrangements are to be reviewed after:

- a. any Major Structure Collapse,
- b. after any exercise of the arrangements in this Subplan (ref Sect 5.3),
- c. at least every five years after the previous review, or
- d. as required by SEOCON

## 12. GLOSSARY

### **Base of Operations (BOO)**

A USAR Base of Operations is established by the USAR Team to provide logistical support to the Team. The base may contain equipment and temporary accommodation to support the team for the duration of the incident. A USAR Command and Control element will also be located at the BOO.

### **Building**

Permanent or temporary structure enclosed within exterior walls, floor and a roof, and including all attached apparatus, equipment, and fixtures that cannot be removed without cutting into the floor, roof or walls.

### **Casualty**

A person injured as the result of an incident or emergency.

### **Collapse**

Means the failure of a structure or component to maintain its structural integrity.

### **Command**

Means the direction of members and resources of an agency/organisation in the performance of the agency/organisation's roles and tasks (*Source: SERM Act*).

Authority to command is established by legislation or by agreement with the agency/organisation. Command relates to agencies/organisations only and operates vertically within the agency/organisation.

### **Combat Agency**

Means the agency identified in the State Emergency Management Plan (EMPLAN) as the agency primarily responsible for controlling the response to a particular emergency. (*Source: SERM Act*).

### **Control**

Means the overall direction of the activities, agencies or individuals concerned. (*Source: SERM Act*).

Control operates horizontally across all agencies/organisations, functions and individuals. Situations are controlled.

### **Coordination**

Means the bringing together of agencies and individuals to ensure effective emergency or rescue management but does not include the control of agencies and individuals by direction. (*Source: SERM Act*).

### **Danger Area**

Means the area specified by a senior police officer as the area affected by an emergency. (*Source: SERM Act*).

A danger area will be declared at the scene of a major structure collapse where a responding team(s) are required to undertake USAR activities.

Where several structures collapse in close proximity, then they may be grouped into one or more Danger Areas.

Once present, FRNSW will control the USAR activities inside the Danger Area and the Site Controller will control the Site and the overall operation

### **Disaster Victim Identification (DVI)**

The process used to establish the identity of deceased persons. It is a function of the NSW Police Force Forensic Services Group (as agents of the State Coroner).

### **Disaster Victim Registration (DVR)**

The process used to record the movements or intended movements of displaced

persons, whether injured or not, and other relevant details necessary for Police operations, as well as ensuring that inquiries from concerned friends and relatives can be dealt with expediently.

Police are responsible for initiating and controlling the registration system.

### **Register.Find.Reunite (RFR)**

The Register Find Reunite (RFR) system is an online service designed to connect friends and family following a disaster. It is the current DVR system used by the NSWPF.

### **Emergency**

**Emergency** means an emergency due to an actual or imminent occurrence (such as fire, flood, storm, earthquake, explosion, terrorist act, accident, epidemic or warlike action) which:

- a. endangers, or threatens to endanger, the safety or health of persons or animals in the State, or
- b. destroys or damages, or threatens to destroy or damage, property in the State, or
- c. causes a failure of, or a significant disruption to, an essential service or infrastructure,
- d. being an emergency that requires a significant and co-ordinated response.
- e. For the purposes of the definition of emergency, property in the State includes any part of the environment of the State. Accordingly, a reference in this Act to:
  - i threats or danger to property includes a reference to threats or danger to the environment, and
  - ii the protection of property includes a reference to the protection of the environment.”

(Source: *SERM Act*).

### **Emergency Operations Centre (EOC)**

Means a centre established at state, regional or local level as a centre of communication and as a centre for the coordination of operations and support during an emergency. (Source: *SERM Act*)

### **Emergency Management Operations System (EMOS)**

The Emergency Management Operations System (EMOS) has been developed to assist Emergency Operations Centres (EOC) to collect, collate, react to and disseminate operational information during times of emergency

### **Emergency Operations Controller (EOCON)**

The member of the NSW Police Force who has been appointed as Local, Regional or State Emergency Operations Controller. (Source: *SERM Act*).

### **Fire and Rescue NSW Commander**

In this Subplan means the senior FRNSW officer, present at the Site, in command of FRNSW personnel and resources and structure collapse team/s.

### **Functional Area**

A category of services involved in preparations for an emergency, including the following:

- Agriculture and Animal Services
- Communication Services
- Energy and Utility Services
- Engineering Services
- Environmental Services
- Health Services

- Public Information Services
- Transport Services
- Welfare Services

(Source: *SERM Act*).

### **Functional Area Coordinator (FAC)**

In this plan means the nominated coordinator of a Functional Area, tasked to coordinate the provision of Functional Area support and resources for emergency response and recovery operations, who, by agreement of Participating and Supporting Organisations within the Functional Area, has the authority to commit the resources of those utility. (Source: *EMPLAN*).

### **Lead Agency**

Means the agency who has overall leadership in a given situation. It could be a combat agency, a Functional Area or another agency (eg. In a recovery). (Source: *EMPLAN*).

### **Liaison Officer**

In this plan means a person, nominated or appointed by an organisation or functional area, to represent that organisation or functional area at a control centre, emergency operations centre or coordination centre. A liaison officer maintains communications with and conveys directions/requests to their organisation or functional area, and provides advice on the status, capabilities, actions and requirements of their organisation or functional area.

### **Local Resources**

In this plan refers to resources or capability that is readily accessible or available to the EOCON managing the event, whether or not based in the local government area.

### **Major Structure Collapse**

In this plan, a Structure Collapse becomes a Major Structure Collapse when it requires a coordinated multi-agency, multi-disciplinary response capability for search and rescue purposes or to control further collapse/damage or to deal with other consequences which is beyond the capability of the local resources.

### **Recovery**

In relation to an emergency includes the process of returning an affected community to its proper level of functioning after an emergency. (Source: *SERM Act*).

### **Regional Emergency Operations Controller (REOCON)**

Means the Region Commander of Police appointed by the Commissioner of Police, as the Regional Emergency Operations Controller for the emergency management region. (Source: *SERM Act*).

### **Rescue Unit**

A unit (comprising a group of persons) which carries out rescue operations for the protection of the public or a section of the public. (Source: *SERM Act*)

### **Response**

In relation to an emergency includes the process of combating an emergency and of providing immediate relief for persons affected by an emergency. (Source: *SERM Act*).

### **Senior Police Officer**

In this plan means a police officer of or above the rank of sergeant or a police officer of a class prescribed as being within this definition by the regulations. (Source: *SERM Act*).

### **Site**

In this plan means the area at the scene of an event normally contained within the 'Outer Perimeter'

### **Site Controller**

a police officer appointed by and subject to the direction of an emergency operations controller to be responsible for determining the site, establishing site control and controlling on the ground response to an emergency. Until the Emergency Operations Controller appoints a Site Controller, the Senior Police Officer will assume control (Source: *EMPLAN*).

### **State Emergency Operations Controller (SEOCN)**

In this subplan means the person designated by the Governor, on the recommendation of the Minister as the person for the time being holding or acting in that position.

The SEOCN is responsible for controlling, in accordance with the SERM Act, the response to an emergency that affects more than one region or for which the SEOCN assumes responsibility.

### **State Emergency Recovery Controller (SERCON)**

In this subplan means the Secretary of the Department of Justice or a senior executive of the Department of Justice designated by the Secretary.

The SERCON is responsible for controlling, in accordance with the SERM Act, the recovery from an emergency that affects more than one region or for which the SERCON assumes responsibility.

### **Structure**

Construction or framework of identifiable elements (components, entities, factors, members, parts, steps, etc.) which gives form and stability, and resists stresses and strains. Structures have defined boundaries within which each element is physically or functionally connected to the other elements, and the elements themselves and their interrelationships are taken to be either fixed (permanent) or changing only occasionally or slowly.

In this plan, a structure may include a wall, a levee, or an earthen embankment which may be man-made or natural.

### **Support Base**

In this plan means an area established for logistical support to the USAR Task Force.

### **Urban Search and Rescue (USAR)**

In this plan, USAR refers to an activity or task which is required to be performed and requires the application of an integrated multi-disciplinary response capability which is beyond the normal capability of local rescue units to locate, provide initial medical care and remove entrapped persons from damaged structures and other environments in a safe and expeditious manner.

### **Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Canine Team**

In this plan means a Canine Team trained to engage in Urban Search and Rescue activities to locate live human victims entrapped in and under or in the vicinity of collapsed structures.

### **USAR Operators**

Means personnel competent in USAR procedures to the following levels:

- Category 1 - trained as a first responder and able to apply initial surface rescue techniques at a collapse emergency.
- Category 2 - trained in highly specialist rescue techniques associated with structural collapse.

### **USAR Task Force**

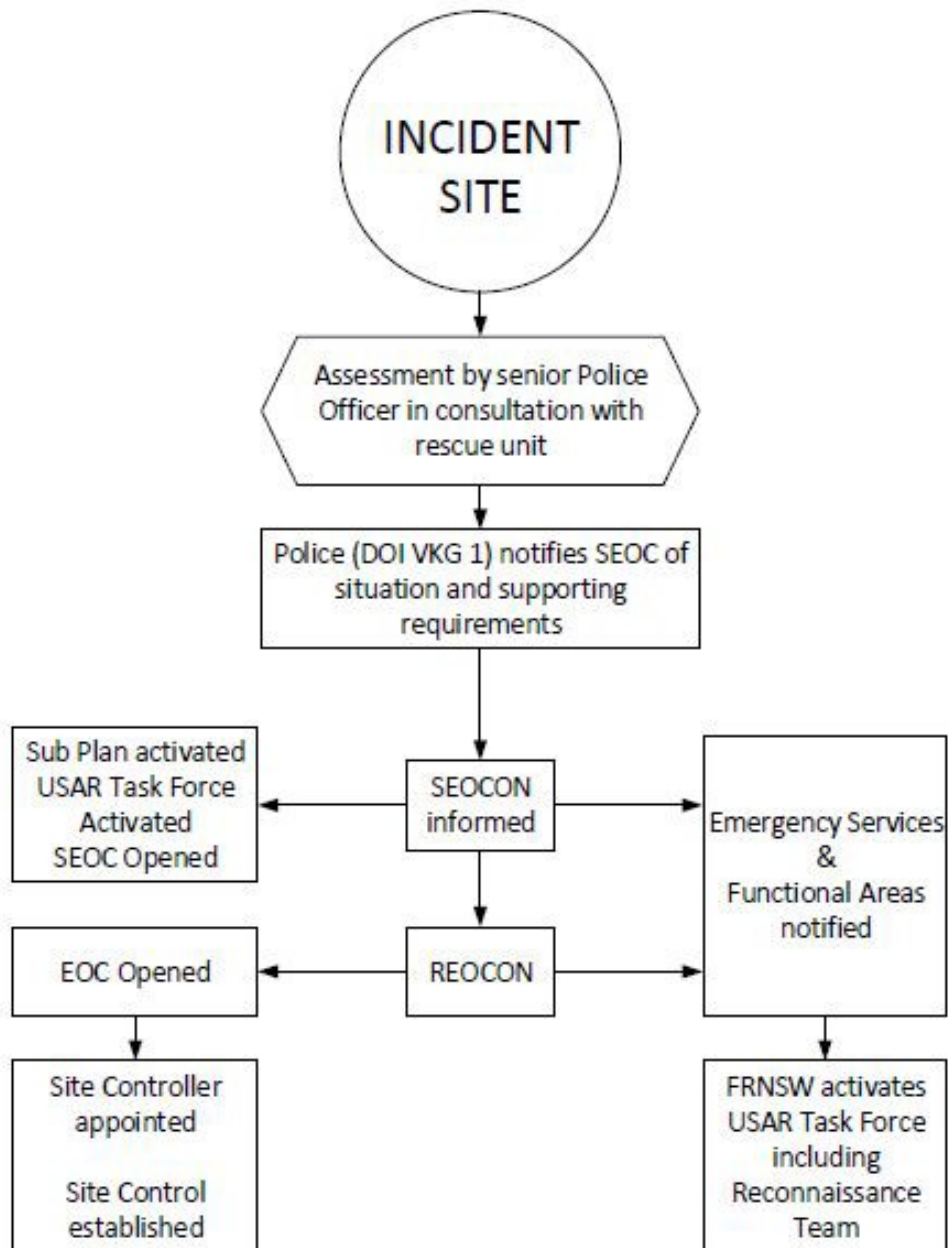
In this plan refers to a multi-disciplinary taskforce assembled under the INSARAG Guidelines with a capability to respond to and perform a range of USAR and disaster assistance tasks but in particular, urban search and rescue at major structure collapses.

Whilst most responses to major structure collapses will be performed within the normal NSW emergency management (*EMPLAN*) arrangements, the possibility exists of

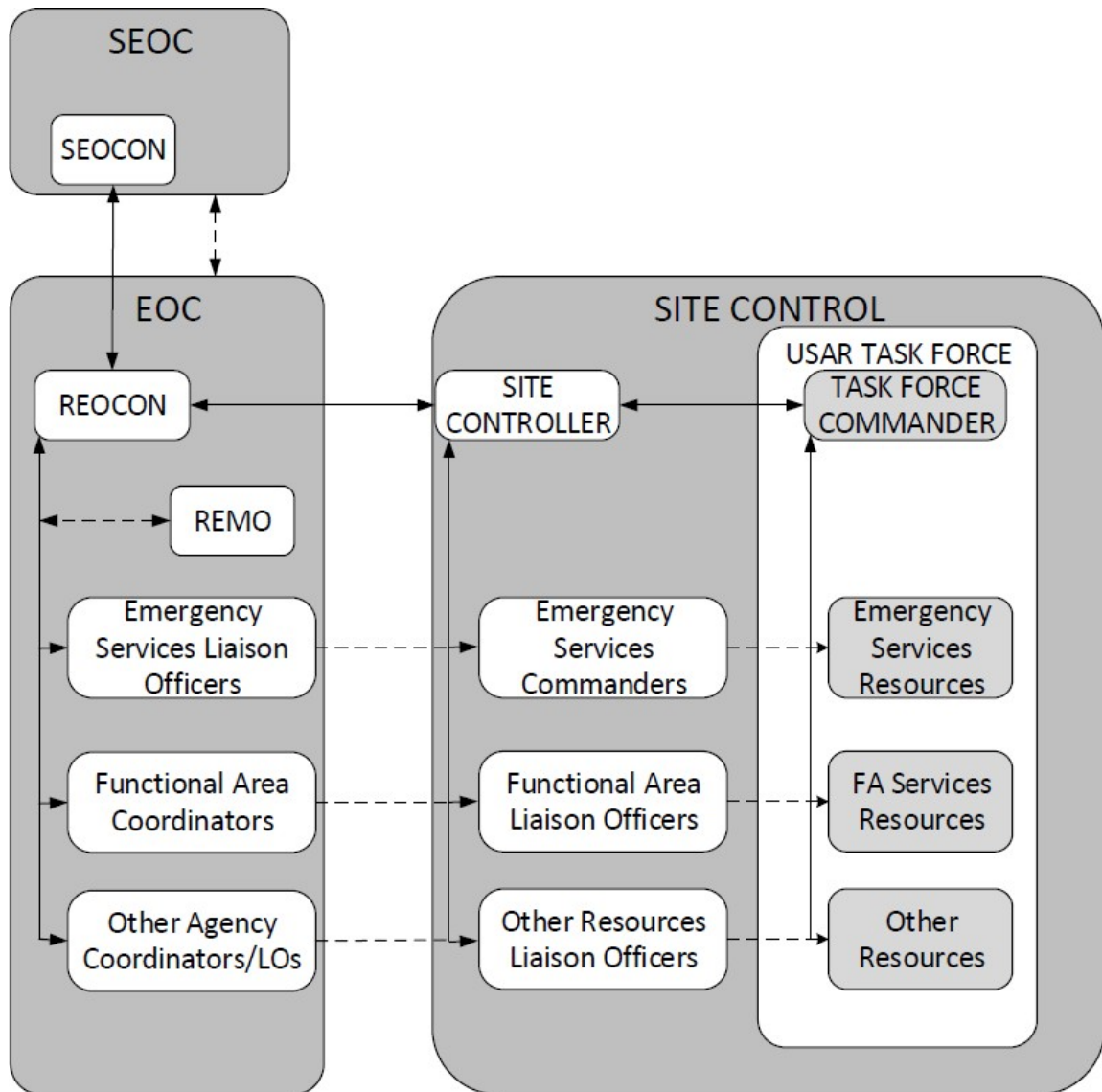
establish USAR Taskforces within NSW or to receive USAR Taskforces responding from outside of NSW.

### 13. APPENDICES

#### 12.1 APPENDIX 1 - NOTIFICATION & ACTION SEQUENCE



## 12.2 APPENDIX 2 - ORGANISATION CHART





### 12.3 APPENDIX 3 - USAR ORGANISATION CHART

