



STATEMENT OF THE CHIEF OFFICERS OF THE EMERGENCY SERVICES PRINCIPLES OF INITIAL DISPATCH AND RESPONSE TO EMERGENCY INCIDENTS

INTENT

It is the intent of the Chief Officers' of the **Emergency Services Sector (ESS)** to confirm the agreed principles to be used in the initial dispatch of resources to all emergency incidents.

PRINCIPLES OF INITIAL DISPATCH TO EMERGENCY INCIDENTS

1. **Community focussed** – the ESS will ensure that all decisions and activities undertaken will be on the basis of community outcomes and best represents public value
2. **The closest, fastest and most appropriate resources will be initially responded to all incidents**
3. **The ESS recognises the fundamental value that the sector's Volunteers provide to the community and will ensure that Volunteers needs and interests are considered when adopting or reviewing practices and policies that might reasonably be expected to affect them**

Response from other agencies into another service's legislative area will function as defined within the Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005. The application of these principles will not affect the legislated responsibilities of any service.

Agencies are required to ensure that these response principles are applied to all resources dispatched to any incident.

This document supersedes all other versions of the Statement of the Chief Officers of the Emergency Services Principles of Dispatch and response to Emergency Incidents.



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BACKGROUND

The Chief Officers' principles of dispatch to emergency incidents identifies that "The closest, fastest and most appropriate resources will be initially responded to incidents".

These principles are designed to be consistent with the intent of the vision and mission statements of the three Emergency Service Organisations (ESO) and ensure the best possible outcomes for the community.

PURPOSE

Provision of emergency services to the South Australian community will always be based on the principle of responding closest, fastest and most appropriate resources on the initial dispatch providing the community the highest level of service delivery response for any emergency in as short as possible time frame.

This principle will inform the operational response planning of the South Australian Emergency Service Organisations (ESO).

AIM

The Sector Strategic Operations Committee, under the authorisation of the Chief Officers will continuously review all ESZ response protocols within the state.

The aim of this process is to ensure that the Chief Officers Principles of Dispatch to Emergency Incidents are applied in all response protocols, consistent across the state.

To determine the resources to deploy, the variables of closeness, the response time and appropriateness will be considered. The resources deployed will be the best mix of these three variables to best provide for firefighter and emergency service worker safety and public value.

Although the initial deployment may involve resources from any ESO, the agency with the legislated authority and/or the Control Agency (as per the State Emergency Management Plan) for the area where an incident has occurred must be included in the response and can be additional to the closest, fastest most appropriate.

APPLICATION METHODOLOGY

INITIAL DISPATCH – Statement Parameters

The resources recommended by SACAD for dispatch. This includes those resources in multiple alarm response plans, but does not include specific resources requested by the incident controller.

CLOSEST - Statement Parameters

1. Resources nearest the incident in relation to actual road kilometres regardless of agency.
2. Response to Critical / Major Infrastructure will be addressed in specific local area response plans.
3. The appropriate closest response will not be restricted by gazetted areas.

FASTEST – Statement Parameters:

1. Fastest refers to the fastest time from initial dispatch to arrival.
2. Full time on station/unit staffing on average is five (5) minutes faster to respond than off station/unit staffing.

NB. 5 minutes is recommended in lieu of any other time factor evidence and may be adjusted for local response plans when longitudinal response data is provided.

MOST APPROPRIATE – Statement Parameters:

1. The crews with the most appropriate capability (training, equipment and appliance) to safely deal with the initial response.
2. Crews with specialist capability relevant to the incident will be deemed as more appropriate than a generalist response.
3. Where a decision must be made between crews of the same staffing type, the crew closest and fastest will be selected.
4. Appropriateness considers what best provides for firefighter/emergency service worker safety and best provides public value.

Hazard Specific Capability (including Command and Control), Training and Equipment Requirements (to be determined in consultation with Control Agencies and Hazard Leaders) e.g.

FLOOD

STORM

RURAL FIRE

URBAN FIRE – OFFENSIVE

URBAN FIRE - DEFENSIVE

HAZMAT

RAPID DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

TECHNICAL RESCUE

- Swift Water Rescue
- Vertical Rescue
- Confined Space Rescue
- Trench Rescue
- Urban Search and Rescue
- Vehicle Accident Rescue
- Marine Rescue
- Large Animal Rescue
- Domestic Rescue from Height
- Land Search Rescue
- Search Control