

CODE OF PRACTICE 8

BROADCAST OF EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Purpose

- 8.1 The purpose of this code is to ensure licensees have procedures in place to enable the timely and accurate broadcast of emergency information.

Broadcast of emergency information

- 8.2 A licensee will, in consultation with appropriate emergency and essential service organisations, implement a set of internal procedures to enable the timely and accurate broadcast of warnings and information supplied by such organisations relating to an existing or threatened emergency.
- 8.3 A designated position in relation to each station is to be identified as the contact officer during business and non-business hours for all matters relative to this code.
- 8.4 It is recognised that compliance by the licensee with clause 8.2 of this code is dependent upon the co-operation of the emergency or essential service organisations. A licensee will not be regarded as in breach of this code if any emergency or essential service organisation declines or fails to respond to the licensee's request to consult or provide relevant information.
- 8.5 In developing internal procedures pursuant to clause 8.2, a licensee will not be responsible for inaccurate information provided by any emergency or essential service organisation or for the failure of an emergency or essential service organisation to comply with the procedures.
- 8.6 A licensee will review and, where necessary, update procedures annually.

Guidelines on Broadcast of Emergency Information

These guidelines are to assist in defining an emergency and identifying appropriate emergency service organisations – these guidelines do not form part of the code.

‘Emergencies’ are generally regarded as situations in which there is an imminent or actual threat within the community, whereby life or property are at risk and which requires a significant and co-ordinated response by emergency or essential service organisations.

A range of emergency and essential service organisations will be relevant for each licence area. As a general guide, emergency or essential service organisations include Police, Fire, Rural Fire, Ambulance, State Emergency Service (SES), water, port or health authorities and the Bureau of Meteorology. The licensee and appropriate emergency or essential service organisations in the licence area should jointly identify, develop and maintain effective lines of communication.

A licence area may have an Emergency Management Committee/Counter Disaster Council or equivalent organisation formed under State/Territory legislation, which is responsible for issuing guidelines to identify key emergency organisations and procedures for broadcasting emergency information. If so, it may be useful to become familiar with such guidelines and procedures.