

Tank FM Emergency Broadcast/Programming Response Policy October 2020

Pre-amble: Tank FM will attempt to respond accordingly to all emergencies as they occur. Because of the different nature of any given emergency an appropriate response is required.

Emergencies include floods, fires, major weather events, aviation incidents, major road trauma (like the Clybucca Bus collision), hostage/terrorism incidents, severe earthquakes and Tsunamis.

Tank FM uses a sliding scale of response to emergencies as set out below.

Policy:

The broadcast of emergency information is to be from official sources only, these include Kempsey Shire Council, Bureau of Meteorology, Rural Fire Service, Police Department, State Emergency Service.

Anecdotal information (e.g.: farmer Brown ringing in saying the local bridge is under water) will be acknowledged as an UNCONFIRMED REPORT.

The Emergency levels described below will be triggered by emergency services incident reports and set by anyone from the Tank FM Management Executive or the Programming Committee Chairperson.

Level 1.

Declaration: Green Alert!

- * Minor or localised flooding.
- * Bush fires not affecting property.
- * Minor aviation incidents etc.

Actions:

1. Programming as normal.
2. **Alert** issued by the Tank FM Executive, to all of all management, programming, technical support and presenters of the emergency status.
3. Monitor media releases and broadcast information from official sources only, as part of normal broadcasting. Incident information broadcast **updates every 30 minutes.**
4. Ensure the presenter emergency contact list and roster system is put on stand- by.
5. Management may decide to increase the level of the emergency based on emergency services projections of the emergency.
6. Monitor quick link information available for presenters with the aim of potentially increasing the number of these items from emergency services.

Anecdotal information will be acknowledged as an UNCONFIRMED REPORT.

If the emergency is officially upgraded by emergency services Tank FM's response is upgraded to:

Level 2.

Declaration: **Yellow Alert!**

*Medium level flooding affecting parts of the valley and threatening properties with some road closures.

*Major bush fires threatening properties.

*Major aviation incidents involving property damage.

*Major road trauma.

*Medium level earthquake with injuries and property damage, or Tsunami.

*Hostage/terrorism incidents.

Actions:

1. **Normal programming disrupted.**

2. **Alert** issued by the Tank FM Executive, to all of management, programming, technical support and presenters of the emergency status.

3. Introduce the use of two studios in co-ordination, as part of the emergency event management, one studio used for normal show presentation, with the second manned studio used to broadcast emergency information.

4. Emergency presenter contact list and roster system is enacted.

5. Monitor on the studio TV, the ABC News, as the ABC is the official emergency broadcaster.

6. The Management Executive or Programming Committee Chairperson determine the daily coverage of emergency broadcasting, whether this be during normal live programme scheduling only, or extended to 19 hours (5am to 12am).

7. Monitor all media releases and consult Kempsey Shire Council, RFS, BOM & SES etc. websites and Facebook pages for extended information and broadcast **updates every 15-30 minutes** or as required and letting listeners know when the next update will occur. Management may decide whether to go to 19 hour or 24 hr emergency coverage broadcast based on emergency service projections of the emergency.

8. Review whether to increase the sources of information available.

9. Make contact with emergency service managers to ensure the latest information is made available.

10. Organise a system of regular interviews.

11. Management may decide to change the level of the emergency based on emergency service projections of the emergency.

Anecdotal information will be acknowledged as an UUCONFIRMED REPORT.

If the emergency is officially upgraded by emergency services Tank FM's response is upgraded to:

Level 3.

Declaration: Orange Alert!

- *Emergency events such as serious weather events. Intense weather systems.
- *Major level flooding events including escalation of conditions such as inundation of towns. Evacuations of some areas enacted. Evacuation centres opening. Significant road closures, animal stock evacuations.
- *Major bush fires impacting the community. Serious fires in areas of the community. Significant property loss. Lives endangered. Significant road closures. Evacuation recommended to evacuation centres now open. Animal stock evacuations.
- *Major aviation incidents involving loss of property/lives. Significant community impact.
- *Very major road trauma impacting on the community.
- *Serious level earthquake with injuries/lives lost and property damage or major tsunami event locally.
- *Serious hostage dramas and /or terrorist events.

Actions:

1. Normal programming suspended. Management orders 19 hrs of live emergency broadcasting (5am till 12am inclusive) with updates every 15 minutes from official sources. This occurs under these conditions until either the event is downgraded to level 2, or 1 or upgraded to Level 4.

Level 3 is an interim level and is closely monitored to be upgraded or downgraded as required.

- 2. Alert** issued by the Tank FM Executive, management, programming, technical support and presenters of the emergency status.
- The use of two studios in co-ordination continues, as part of the emergency event management, one studio for show presentation, with the second manned studio used to broadcast emergency information.
- Emergency presenter contact list and roster system continues to be used to maintain coverage of the event. Relief presenter rosters may need to be enacted.
- Monitor on the studio TV, the ABC News, as the ABC is the official emergency broadcaster.
- Monitor all media releases and consult Kempsey Shire Council, RFS, BOM & SES etc. websites and Facebook pages for extended information and broadcast **updates every 15 minutes** and letting listeners know when the next update will occur.
- Review information sources available.
- Maintain contact with emergency service managers to ensure the latest information is made available.
- Maintain a system of regular interviews.

Anecdotal information will be acknowledged as an UNCONFIRMED REPORT.

If the emergency is officially upgraded by emergency services Tank FM's response is upgraded to:

Level 4.

Declaration: **Red Alert!**

* Extended emergencies of various kinds. Major disruption to normal circumstances. Either a local or regional event.

*Prolonged serious weather events (Cyclones). Intense weather systems possibly stalling.

*Major flooding events including town inundations. Properties/lives lost or under serious threat. Evacuations enacted and continuation of evacuation events. Significant road closures, animal evacuations.

*Major bush fires impacting the community. Catastrophic fires destroying property and lives lost. Significant road closures. Communities cut off and evacuations orders in force. Evacuation centres open.

*Major aviation event involving significant loss of property/lives. Substantial community impact.

*Very major road trauma impacting the broader community and impacting road networks.

*Major earthquake or Tsunami, major hostage dramas and/or significant terrorism events.

Actions:

1.Normal programming suspended. Management orders 24 hr of emergency broadcasting with updates broadcast regularly from official sources only, until the event has been down-graded.

2. **Alert** issued by the Tank FM Executive to all of management, programming, technical support and presenters of the emergency status.

3. The use of two studios in co-ordination continues, as part of the emergency event management, one studio for show presentation, with the second manned studio used to broadcast emergency information.

4. Emergency presenter contact list and roster system continues to be used to maintain coverage of the event. Relief presenter rosters may need to be enacted.

5. Monitor on the studio TV, the ABC news, as the ABC is the official emergency broadcaster.

6. Monitor all media releases and consult Kempsey Shire Council, RFS, BOM &SES etc websites and Facebook pages for extended information and broadcast **updates every 15 minutes** and letting listeners know when the next update will occur.

7. Review and maintain the sources of information.

8. Maintain contact with the emergency service managers with regular interviews.

9. Maintain interviews with all relevant parties.

10. Management in association with emergency service information will declare when the event is closed and normal programming is restored.

Anecdotal information will be acknowledged as an UNCONFIRMED REPORT.

If the emergency is officially downgraded Tank FM's response is similarly downgraded.