



WHO Awards for Healthy Cities 2008

Submission for: Making our cities safer through health emergency preparedness and response planning

From: Logan City Council

Address: PO Box 3226
Logan City DC
Queensland
Australia 4114

Contact Person: Michael Asnicar

Contact Phone: +61 7 3412 5052

Contact Email: logan@council.qld.gov.au

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Submitted to:

Dr Arturo Pesigan
Emergency and Humanitarian Action
Regional Office for the Western Pacific
World Health Organization
P.O. Box 2932 (U.N. Avenue)
1000 Manila, Philippines
Fax: +63(2) 521-1036
E-mail: pesigana@wpro.who.int

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BACKGROUND

Disasters and emergencies do not only take a toll in lives, but they can have serious economic consequences. Utilities and infrastructure, as well as development projects, can be severely damaged by an emergency event on a city that has inadequately prepared for such eventuality, including if the city has not taken measures to prevent or mitigate disasters.

Approaches towards disaster prevention, risk reduction and emergency preparedness are more likely to be successful if they have been community based, inter-sectoral and participatory in approach. A key component to such is the development of practical, technically sound and well understood disaster or emergency management plans.

Such plans should promote all-hazards and comprehensive approaches to active and participatory disaster management, and not just be a document that sits on a shelf. Planning and implementation of such plans should be collaborative, multidisciplinary and intersectoral. Therefore, throughout the mitigation, prevention, preparedness, response and recovery aspects of disaster management planning, communication with government agencies, NGOs and community members is vital. The benefits include:

- enhanced understanding of the community's risk exposure to different threats and its resultant vulnerabilities;
- improved mechanisms and procedures to respond and recover from disasters or emergencies; and
- safer communities.

INTRODUCTION

Like the rest of Australia, Logan is not immune to the threat of disasters such as:

- flood
- storm and tempest
- major transport accident (road, rail, air)
- fire
- hazardous substances accidents
- public health
- lost/injured persons
- earthquakes

This submission provides an overview of Logan City Council's integrated approach to disaster management planning and response, highlighting key planning documents such as the City of Logan Local Disaster Management Plan and innovative community education and resources materials produced by the Local Disaster Management Group.

LOGAN CITY COUNCIL - INTEGRATED DISASTER MANAGEMENT PLANNING AND RESPONSE

The City of Logan Local Disaster Management Plan is Council's key disaster planning and response document. It has been developed and continuously improved by the City of Logan Local Disaster Management Group, which meets every three months and is chaired by the Mayor. Members of the Group include:

- Council officers
- Logan City State Emergency Service
- Queensland Police Service
- Queensland Ambulance Service
- Queensland Fire and Rescue Service
- Logan Hospital
- Energex
- Telstra
- Emergency Management Queensland
- Department of Communities

This plan would be activated on the determination of the Mayor, acting on the advice of Council's disaster management personnel. It is a comprehensive plan which covers the following:

- Description of Logan City (including maps)
- Threats and their management
- Operational responsibilities
- Concept of Operations
- Implementation of Plan
- Local Government Disaster Management Structure
- Exercises
- Disaster Coordination Centre
- Public Education and Information

Further, the plan contains threat specific sub-plans, evacuation sub-plans, and **public health and welfare** sub-plans.

A copy of the Logan Disaster Management Plan and Public Health & Welfare Sub-plans are included in **Attachment 1**.

Council has conducted significant research into developing a risk register of the City. This will be incorporated into the plan, as will disaster management strategies emanating from the risk studies completed.

Council is also represented on district and State disaster management groups and committees co-ordinated by State Government agencies, proactively enhancing Council's ability to integrate with such agencies should disasters escalate beyond local level.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION & INFORMATION

Preparing for Natural Disasters

Council has recently produced an innovative community education booklet called *'Preparing for Natural Disasters - A Guide for residents living in Logan City'*.

This booklet outlines commonsense steps everyone can take to minimise the threat that natural disaster events such as:

- Severe storms/cyclones/lightning
- Floods
- Bushfires
- Heatwaves
- Landslides
- Earthquakes

pose to people, animals and property.

This brochure provides advice on how you can cope when these natural disasters strike, and what to do – and not to do – afterwards.

It also gives you a guide to what you need in an emergency kit, as well as a list of emergency contact numbers.

Importantly, this booklet has been produced in **11 different languages**, that besides English, cater for 10 of the most English deficient non-english speaking residents of Logan City. The languages are:

- English
- Bosnian
- Chinese
- Hindi
- Hmong
- Romanian
- Samoan
- Spanish
- Tagalog
- Tongan
- Vietnamese

By using the advice in the booklet, the community will be providing valuable assistance to Logan City Council in its own preparations for coping with natural disasters and reducing their consequences in Logan. The City of Logan Local Disaster Management Group, comprising representatives from Logan City Council, emergency services and utility providers, meets regularly to ensure that disaster management planning for Logan is on course. This booklet recognises that this process is very much complemented by the role that each and every individual can play in preparing and responding to disasters.

A copy of the booklet is contained in **Attachment 2**.

Website

Further to this booklet, Council provides a comprehensive suite of information to residents on its website:

<http://www.logan.qld.gov.au/LCC/residents/disasters>

Extracts from the website are contained in **Attachment 3**.