



Shire of  
Serpentine  
Jarrahdale

# Exercise Scorcher Post Exercise Report

13 December 2022



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## Executive Summary

“Exercise Scorcher” was held at the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale on Tuesday 13 December 2022 with members of the Local Emergency Management Committee and Shire Officers.

The exercise was designed to:

- raise awareness of emergency management capabilities, roles and responsibilities to enhance the preparedness and resilience of the Serpentine Jarrahdale community; and
- identify new strategies and existing gaps to improve the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale local emergency management arrangements.

The scenario for “Exercise Scorcher” was built on a past Heatwave event in the Perth metropolitan area where power supply was also affected. The exercise was a discussion exercise where participants were provided with questions to formulate and present a response on behalf of their agency or local government.

The capability areas from the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) Emergency Management Capability Framework were used as a measure for evaluation for the exercise. Qualitative information was collected during the exercise from participants and exercise evaluators.

The exercise provided an excellent opportunity for multi-agency networking and relationship building, with many participants sharing their processes, capabilities and limitations during discussions. This exercise report outlines some of the discussion and outcomes from the exercise.

## Introduction

### Exercise Aim

The aim of the exercise was to adopt a capability-based exercise to:

- raise awareness of emergency management capabilities, roles and responsibilities to enhance the preparedness and resilience of the Serpentine Jarrahdale community; and
- identify new strategies and existing gaps to improve the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale local emergency management arrangements.

### Exercise Capability Areas of Focus

“Exercise Scorcher” will explore capability areas of the State Emergency Management Capability Framework and provide opportunities for discussion around Business Continuity, Essential Services Protection, Welfare, Command, Control and Coordination, Impact Management and Recovery Coordination.

## Participants

The participants in the exercise were members of the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale Local Emergency Management Committee and Officers of the Shire as shown at Appendix A.

All participants were given notice of the exercise and were required to be prepared to respond upon activation with their relevant materials, plans and procedures that would be enacted in such a scenario.

## Date and duration

- 13 December 2022 from 1400 - 1500hrs.

## Exercise Format

The exercise was facilitated by an Officer from the Shire as a discussion exercise with observations and evaluation undertaken by the metropolitan District Emergency Management Advisor.

Participants were asked to consider and respond to the following questions.

1. Note immediate concerns for yourself and your family?
2. Use the Impact Checklist to identify areas of anticipated impact? (all environments)
3. Focus on your groups nominated impact environment (Social, Natural, Economic or Built).
  - a) What are the areas of greatest concern and why?
  - b) What plans and resources are in place to minimise impacts from this event?
4. Do you have any recommended changes or inclusions to arrangements, resources or response measures to reduce the impacts of this event for this local government?

## Exercise Scenario

The Bureau of Meteorology has forecast a heatwave event for the Perth Metropolitan area. The 5 day forecast from Sunday 29 January to Thursday 2 February 2023 is:

- Predicted Min temps ranging from 21 – 25 degrees
- Predicted Max daily temps ranging from 39 – 42 degrees

The Bureau Heatwave service is forecasting Extreme Heatwave conditions where the EHF>3 triggering the activation of the State Hazard Plan Heatwave.

On 30 January, extreme heat and electrical overload causes widespread power outages. Western Power has confirmed 450,000 customers without power, extreme heat, staff and contractor shortages are delaying response. Estimated restoration time around 5-7 days. Communications networks are severely impacted, with widespread mobile and NBN outages.

## Outcomes

A summary of outcomes is provided in the table below. These have been deduced from the insights observed during the exercise.

Capability Area	Core Capability and Achievement Objective	Outcomes/Lessons identified
Essential Services Protection	4.5 Planning for the continuity or rapid restoration of essential services are in place including: water, food distribution, power, sewerage, telecommunications, fuel, and local government services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This was not fully assessed.</li> <li>• The discussion around business continuity implies that plans are in place to protect essential services and ensure business continuity can take place.</li> <li>• The Shire staff and exercise participants were of aware of coordinating messaging with the Controlling Agency in the first instance.</li> <li>• It was noted that communication will occur through a tiered approach: to agencies with roles and responsibilities under the SHP- heatwave, to agencies and organisations that provide care and support to vulnerable populations, to the general public.</li> <li>• The Shire of SJ stated they would refer to the Department of Health's key messaging rather than creating their own heatwave content.</li> </ul>
Business Continuity	4.8 Business continuity plans are in place across government, industry and business and consider hazard specific risks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members advised business continuity plans are in place across government, industry and business and consider hazard specific risks.</li> <li>• It was noted that for the hazard of heatwave there is enough lead time so that the sector can activate appropriate pre - established plans.</li> </ul>

Command, Control and Co-ordination	6.1 Pre-established and well understood protocols and structures exist that define the interrelationships between stakeholders during an event and facilitate effective command, control, and coordination.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This was not fully assessed.</li> <li>• Members discussed their roles and responsibilities as outlined in each of the State Hazard Plan for Heatwave and Energy Supply Disruption.</li> </ul>
Welfare	7.2 Welfare and social services are available, timely and sufficient during or immediately after an emergency event. This includes critical support services and communication plans to inform affected people of impacts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vulnerable groups (elderly, disabilities, young, rough sleepers) in the community were identified as needing the most support during the effects of this hazard.</li> <li>• The Department of Communities stated the relief centres would be discouraged as large number of bodies in the centres is not conducive to minimising the impacts of the hazard.</li> <li>• Shopping centres with industrial air conditioners would potentially be encouraged.</li> <li>• Animal welfare concerned members and discussion was had on how this might be managed.</li> <li>• The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) discussed how the State Animal Welfare Support Plan would be activated and what support could be provided at a local level.</li> </ul>
Impact Management and Recovery Coordination	7.3 Agencies have the ability to undertake and complete comprehensive impact assessments across the natural, built, social and economic environments. These findings inform recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Groups understood the four environments in recovery – social, natural, economic, and built. Recovery issues would be discussed and coordinated through these four environments.</li> <li>• Many impacts were discussed including:</li> <li>• <u>SOCIAL</u>: staying hydrated, no communication so concerned on how to get information out, delayed response</li> </ul>

	<p>coordination and future emergency management planning.</p>	<p>by volunteers, food spoilage, Cooking without power, no EFT services, workforce implication-childcare, layers over community not isolated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>BUILT</u>: reliance on power, traffic management, safety, hospitals, aged care, passenger and freight rail, traffic signals and signage. <u>ECONOMIC</u>: retail and fuel supply, Business, supply chain disruption, fatigue management, loss of livestock, reduced staffing on farms.</li> <li>• <u>NATURAL</u>: dead animals, contamination, water catchment- Increased activity @ SJ Falls, State Forest- Increased risk of bushfire.</li> <li>• The Impact checklist was used to identify areas of impact.</li> <li>• Members were able to justify their greatest areas of concern.</li> <li>• Local government discussed potentially activating a recovery centre and assist with an outreach program for vulnerable groups in the community.</li> </ul>
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Impact Environment Comments by Participants	
Impact Environment	Summary of Comments
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No power, no communications = no access to money to purchase food, fuel, personal requisites.</li> <li>• Businesses shut down, loss of income.</li> <li>• Livestock deaths.</li> <li>• Food wastage/spoilage.</li> <li>• Staff affected/illness or caring for family – unable to work.</li> <li>• Supply and distribution chain impacts.</li> <li>• Disruption to communication networks affects the ability to contact staff or volunteers.</li> </ul>
Natural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of water, evaporation.</li> <li>• Higher risk of fire.</li> <li>• Dead animals, increase in pests and odours, groundwater contamination.</li> <li>• Water-borne disease.</li> </ul>
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Death, illness, fatigue.</li> <li>• Increase in need for health services and assistance.</li> <li>• Increased traffic, people looking for cooler places and checking on people.</li> <li>• Higher demand on resources for welfare checks.</li> </ul>
Built	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large population in one area. Large urban development with no trees.</li> <li>• Building materials and colours increasing heat in houses, increasing reliance on air-conditioning. Unable to cool homes if no power available.</li> <li>• Traffic management, increase in resources at signaled intersections. Accidents.</li> <li>• Public transport impacted – power and heat affecting infrastructure.</li> <li>• Pumps to water tanks unable to provide water to residences.</li> <li>• Freight/delivery.</li> <li>• Electrical supply underpins almost all key services and utilities.</li> <li>• Disruption to communication networks affects the ability to coordinate key messages to manage the issue.</li> </ul>



## Gaps and Considerations

1. Identify key assets that would be vulnerable to loss of power. Investigate and develop processes to provide back-up power to key Shire assets including fuel access arrangements for key asset generators. Recommend this be included as an operational appendix to the LEMA and embedded in the Shire's Business Continuity Plan.
2. Source Department of Health preparedness messaging. Prepare communications assets and develop a Heatwave Communication Plan to alert the community and key vulnerable cohorts ie aged care, senior's groups and community/agency networks. Recommend this be included as an operational appendix to the LEMA.
3. Consider and prepare for other methods of communicating Heatwave messaging during power outage (boots on the ground, variable message signage, fixed corflute signage, flyer drop, information brochures). Recommend this be included in the Heatwave Communications Plan as an operational appendix to the LEMA.
4. Promote energy efficient dwelling construction and consider developing a policy to support this.

The Local Emergency Management Committee recommends that the Shire prepare plans, process and policy to address the identified gaps to support the Shire's Local Emergency Management Arrangements.

## Conclusion

"Exercise Scorcher" was conducted to raise awareness of emergency management capabilities, responsibilities and processes to enhance the preparedness and resilience of the Serpentine-Jarrahdale community and to identify new strategies and existing gaps to improve the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale local emergency management arrangements.

The exercise provided an excellent opportunity for multi-agency networking and relationship building, with many participants sharing their processes, capabilities and limitations during discussions.

The "Exercise Scorcher" Post Exercise Report will be submitted to the East Metropolitan District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC) for noting.

## Appendix A. Exercise Participants

### SHIRE OF SERPENTINE-JARRAHDAL LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 13 DECEMBER 2022

Agency/Local Government	Name of participant
<b>LEMC</b>	
Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale	Cr Michelle Rich
Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale	Cr Dave Atwell
Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale	Rebecca Steinki
Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale	Leigh Mulholland
WA Police	Snr Sgt Richard Moore
Department of Communities	Ryan Hamblion
St John Ambulance	Brooke Cook
Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development	Felicity Wright
Serpentine Jarrahdale State Emergency Service	Keith Jackson
Department of Justice – Karnet Prison Farm	Mark Cundell
Sport Aircraft Builders Club Inc	Dave Olney
Department of Fire and Emergency Services	Paul Postma (DO) Quinta La Rosa (DEMA)
Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale	David Richer
Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale	Thomas Vassallo
Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale	Darren Kane
Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale	Nino Scidone
Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale	Jason Parker
<b>Shire Officers</b>	
Shire Environmental Health Officers	Matt Sargeson Nadiya Rahman
Shire Community Safety Officer	Marissa Charles
Shire Community Development Officers	Lisa Ingram Julie Sansom