

Emergency Incident Management Team (IMT) Training Review

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Introduction

There has been considerable change in the operational, political and technical environment in which Australia's fire and other emergency services function. The recent devastating Victorian Bushfires of February 2009 and subsequent Royal Commission have contributed greatly to the way in which Australian fire and rescue services are organised, managed and delivered.



Whilst training of Incident Management Team (IMT) personnel and the exercising of Incident Control Centre functionality are acknowledged as crucial throughout the emergency management sector detailed examination of current training and delivery practice, and recent incident management performance suggests that an urgent review of IMT training processes, structure and frameworks across the sector is required.

Research Aim

This research aims to investigate the training requirements for effective Incident Management Teams (IMT) performance, to assess

suitability of existing frameworks for current and future use and to identify gaps in existing research-based knowledge relating to the development of new IMT training approaches to meet future needs.

Establishing IMT training requirements is critical for operational consistency and improved emergency management capability. It will also support the goal that any member of any emergency management agency can walk into any emergency management centre and be seamlessly integrated into the IMT thus enabling improved operational efficiency and enhanced communications.



Research Questions

The research will increase understanding of the training need and requirements for IMT effectiveness by addressing the following questions;

- What are the current approaches used in IMT training in the Australian Emergency Management sector and how do these compare to IMT training internationally?

- What enhances and inhibits learning in IMT training particularly in volunteer based emergency services
- To what degree do existing IMT training frameworks meet the learning to enable needs of effective IMT performance for future large scale complex events in volunteer based emergency services?
- What is the impact of volunteerism on training for IMT performance?
- In what ways will training frameworks need to change to enhance future IMT effectiveness in volunteer based emergency management agencies?

Research Design

This project is in its preliminary stages. The research involves both qualitative and quantitative methods. A literature review is underway and, following a synthesis of the key findings from previous inquiries, a mix of methodologies will be developed including interviews, observation, survey for further analysis. Suggestions or input on research is welcome

