

What does **Council** do before, during and after an emergency?

BEFORE

What does council do to mitigate the affects of, and prepare for an emergency?

- **Risk management** – Council conducts risk assessments to understand the risks that we face.
- Implement **risk reduction and prevention measures**, such as managing compliance with planning and building codes, fire prevention inspections on private property and roadside fuel management.
- Prepare, maintain, test & exercise emergency management plans and procedures within the **Municipal Emergency Management Plan** and all associated sub-plans including the **Relief and Recovery Plan, Municipal Fire Management Plan, Flood Emergency Plan, Heatwave Plan, Pandemic Plan** and **Animal and Stock Emergency Welfare Plan**.
- Appoint staff to identified emergency management roles and ensure they receive training and are available to perform roles and responsibilities.
- Contribute to **community education and awareness programs** to improve individuals preparedness and community resilience.
- Identify and prepare Emergency Relief Centres, Places of Last Resort (Neighbourhood Safer Places) and recovery centres.

DURING

Depending on the nature of the emergency Council will:

- Support response agencies – **Victoria Police, CFA, SES, DHHS or DELWP**– usually through providing resources such as local knowledge and information, plant and machinery, experienced staff, environmental health and waste management services, etc. 24 hours, 7 days per week.
- Provide an **Emergency Management Liaison Officer (EMLO)** to work in an **Incident Control Centre (ICC)**, which brings together key agencies and may operate 24 hours a day.
- Activate internal processes to coordinate the provision of Council and community resources for the response, relief and recovery efforts.

- Support the community through broadcasting information regularly, arranging and attending community meetings and being on hand to answer questions (monitor the **Council website** and **Facebook** page).
- Council may also be required to coordinate **spontaneous volunteers** and deal with material goods that are donated (the preference is to donate cash or respond to requests for specific donations e.g. hay).
- Council may continue to provide assistance during response and recovery (e.g. road clearing, animal welfare services, tree clearing etc.).
- If directed, open and operate **Emergency Relief Centres** - if there is a major emergency in the Mansfield Shire or surrounding areas we may open a relief centre in a council building or public hall at the direction of the Incident Controller. There will be a range of services available to help people affected by the emergency and this may include providing food and water, accommodation, support services and access to grants and financial aid, advice and services.

Services will also be provided after single incidents whenever needed e.g. supporting a family after fire or storm damages their home.

AFTER

This is where Council takes the lead role:

- Coordinate recovery services such as clean-up, repair and restoration activities and manage environmental health issues, such as food and sanitation safety, water supply replenishment and assisting community to 'get back on their feet.'
- Support the establishment of a community led recovery committee.
- Recoup costs through applying to state and federal funding programs.
- Support ongoing recovery activities in conjunction with government agencies including restoration of agricultural and public land.
- Provide advice and referral of affected residents to community service organisations.
- Support businesses to rebuild and recover.
- Advocate on behalf of our communities.

Recovery can take years and it is recognised that it is very important that the community leads – Council has the closest relationship to the community so will be there...every step of the way.