



Australian Government

Attorney-General's Department



Recognising people and organisations  
for best practice and innovation in  
emergency management

*“safer sustainable communities”*

The National Judging  
Panel for the 2003  
Australian Safer  
Communities Awards  
comprised:

**Morrie Bradley**  
EMA/chair

**Geoffrey Crawford**  
Australian Broadcasting  
Corporation

**Martine Letts**  
Australian Red Cross

**Ian Manock**  
Charles Sturt University

**Leanne Hardwicke**  
The Institution of  
Engineers Australia

## Cooperation shines through for winners

The National Judges Panel for the 2003 Australian Safer Communities Awards saw cooperation between emergency service organisations, their community involvement and originality as key factors of this year's winning entries.

"The most evident element across the range of entries was the degree to which services talked to each other and cooperated with planning and execution of emergency service programs," the judges said.

The variety of challenges met by the 33 award finalists in the 2003 Australian Safer Communities Awards ranged across the perennial Australian hazards, to the consequences of terrorist bombings and health service issues, and projects involving teenagers and citizens with disabilities.

While two catastrophic events – the Bali bombings of 12 October 2002 and the Canberra firestorm of 18 January 2003 – were dominating themes this year, there were also several smaller innovative projects that the judges declared worthy of awards.

"Entries showed evidence of strong leadership and courage of conviction in some extremely stressful times," the judges said.

"To see the Royal Darwin Hospital's strong Post-Disaster entry '36 Defining Hours' among this year's awards finalists, was very satisfying.

"This was particularly the case considering that last year the Hospital's entry in the Pre-Disaster category had been chosen as a winner. To have such a thorough emergency plan in place and to have practiced procedures with Defence Force personnel and other services, was an essential element in the Hospital's handling of victims last October."

Involvement of volunteers was a strong element throughout the entries this year.

The judges agreed that many of the entries emphasised the vital role of volunteers in preventing, responding to and recovering from disasters.

"A Highly Commended award to a suburban residents' group in Canberra, formed in January to provide on-the-ground support and care for the hundreds of people displaced as a result of the devastating fires, is clear evidence that the Australian spirit of helping one another is alive and well across the nation," the judges said.

Originality and innovation were also evident in a number of entries.

The combined effort of the West Australian local government authority of Gosnells in outer eastern Perth, with local police and fire services, to provide Home Safety Audits for residents with disabilities, was another to be Highly Commended.

Technology came to the forefront with the GeoInsight Project – entered by the ACT's Emergency Services Bureau (ESB). This showed how an Australian Government grant can be employed to provide awareness and understanding of important spatial data in planning emergency programs.

Once again a university research establishment has applied its expertise to the bushfire mitigation task. Deakin University's School of Architecture and Building has been looking at how firebrand and ember attacks around homes and other buildings can be affected by differences in air pressure.

An entry from Alice Springs, where a secondary college has established a Cadet Emergency Service Unit, was noted by the judges.

"This project showed that exposing the idea of community interest and support at an early age, presents an opportunity to boost the volunteer element of emergency service involvement," the judges said.

The use of multi-media shone through this year, from the minimal resources of amateur video camera enthusiasts to tell a story of bushfire crisis, to the combined resources of radio, television and the internet by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) in Canberra.

The judges gave particular praise to the ABC for its implementation of plans and dedication of staff, to keep the residents of Canberra informed throughout the January 2003 fires that raged through the nation's capital.



### Attorney-General pays tribute to 'unsung heroes' making our communities safer

One of the things that has become obvious to me in recent weeks as I have learnt about my new portfolio is the incredible work being carried out by a wide range of agencies to protect our community and our national security.

Those of us in the general public not usually exposed to the emergency management sector could be forgiven for the misconception that many of these organisations and the people in them spring into action only when disaster strikes.

Gathering here at Parliament House in Canberra for the *2003 Australian Safer Community Awards* brings to the fore the largely unseen work of many people helping to shape Australia's awareness of threats to our safety and enhance our ability to deal with potential risks.

The winning initiatives being recognised today are 'the best of the best' of a great number of organisations and people who work every day of the year to keep Australian communities safe in one form or another. Emergency services providers, Federal and State agencies, Local Governments, non-government organisations, private businesses, the education sector and media representatives all have demonstrated a willingness and capacity to go above and beyond the call of duty when needed.

It also is pleasing to note emergency management has been strongly supported by researchers who contribute to planning, preparation, education and training, and mitigation projects.

Given the vital nature of their work and the calibre of the agencies and individuals involved, I must say I am somewhat relieved as Attorney-General to have been asked to congratulate rather than select the final winners from such an outstanding list of entrants.

While the nature of awards is such that only a select few can ultimately be singled out for recognition, it goes without saying that as a Government and a nation we are extremely grateful for the substantial work undertaken on our behalf – most of the time without us even knowing it!

I am sure the recipients of this year's Awards will prove to be beacons for the emergency management community as they show the path to new ways of keeping communities safe. And like a beacon, they will attract attention.

By focusing on their achievements in this way, we hope other emergency management organisations in partnership with the business sector, communities across the country, leaders in education and the media are inspired to take up these award-winning ideas.

Congratulations must also go to the team at Emergency Management Australia (EMA) for initiating the awards in 2000 to progress the vision of creating 'safer sustainable communities' – surely a common goal for us all.

The Hon. Philip Ruddock MP  
Attorney-General

6 November 2003

### High standard continues...

I continue to be impressed by the high standard of entries for the Australian Safer Communities Awards.

Since EMA inaugurated the Awards in 2000, private and public sector organisations and individuals involved in emergency management across Australia have submitted some 265 entries to State and Territory authorities for local judging and Awards.

Of these, a total of 58 have been further recognised by the Australian Government for their excellence and innovation to help make our communities safer on a national basis.

This year, the 12 national recipients were chosen from 33 State and Territory winners in the pre and post-disaster categories.

While there was a focus on response and recovery aspects associated with the Bali bombings, and with the summer bushfires in eastern Australia, other areas of significance covered education and community projects, research and public awareness, and the business and media sectors.

I also congratulate State and Territory Awards Liaison Officers who worked closely with EMA to promote and coordinate the 2003 Awards.

Looking to the future, EMA is confident that the 2004 Awards will again attract a robust range of quality entries with the potential to have a positive impact on communities across Australia.



David Templeman  
Director General

Volunteer Organisation  
National Winner – Pre-Disaster

## South Australian Ambulance Service

### A Murra Murra Community Response

The South Australian Ambulance Service (SAAS) has a huge territory to look after. Sporadic and comparatively low workload in rural and remote areas makes it unviable to establish career ambulance services in these regions.

So the Service has looked for innovative ways to ensure communities have more adequately trained people to provide a rapid pre-hospital response, with appropriate skills to manage emergency incidents until the professional paramedics arrive. Typical situations where rapid medical assistance is vital include cardiac cases, major trauma such as motor accidents, and problems associated with drug use.

The Murra Murra (means hand-in-hand) Community Responder Course arose following a number of medical emergencies within the Point Pearce community – a group of some 500 Indigenous Narrunga people – on the Yorke Peninsula near Maitland. It was considered that had there been an earlier response actions, patient outcomes would have been improved.

In May 2003 the first eight participants of the Murra Murra program graduated. They are now available to their community 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The feedback and interest this program has generated has confirmed the value of this initiative, and validated the SAAS plan to roll out the program in other remote and isolated communities throughout South Australia.

This culturally specific program aims to increase the capabilities of the community as well as offer personal and professional development opportunities for the local people. In simple terms, it is developing role models, especially for the Indigenous community in the region. The skills gained by participants link into the nationally recognised Certificate IV Community Studies (Ambulance) qualification.



**SA  
Ambulance  
Service**



Photo: courtesy Yorke Peninsula Country Times.

*The first graduates of the Point Pearce Responder Course.*

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Volunteer Organisation  
National Highly Commended – Post-Disaster

## Chapman Residents' Action Group Canberra, ACT

### Neighbours helping each other in crisis

The raging firestorm that descended on Canberra's western suburbs on Saturday 18 January 2003 has left an indelible mark on the lives of a great many people, not the least being the residents of the suburbs most affected.

The Chapman Residents' Action Group (CRAG) was formed amidst the despair and confusion of the very next morning as a response to the needs of a devastated community. It comprises about 100 local residents from Weston Creek along with representatives from outer communities destroyed – Mt Stromlo, Uriarra and the Cotter Reserve.

These volunteers banded together to provide a safety net of support, advice and direct assistance for the hundreds of families in need. CRAG also provided an informal link with the Recovery Centre, the insurance and building industry, health, medical and counselling services, churches, lawyers, architects, service clubs and a range of specialist agencies and government authorities that became involved during the recovery process.

CRAG's motivation has been the simple desire to generate friendship, practical and close consultation with authorities, and to contribute to community healing.

A volunteer Community Fire Safety Scheme initiated by the group has received strong support and has been adopted by the ACT Fire Service. The group plans to have upwards of 2000 volunteers involved across the ACT in two years, trained to protect their homes. It also initiated a project entitled "Our Story" to provide a collection point for stories and photographs for posterity. A special commemorative event is being planned for the first anniversary.



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Private Sector  
National Winner – Pre-Disaster

## St Philip's College Alice Springs, Northern Territory

### Emergency Service Cadet Unit launched

As a result of a St Philip's College pupil witnessing how students of a sister school in Germany gave assistance at an air disaster, the first Emergency Service Cadet Unit in the Northern Territory (NT) has been formed. The students in Europe had been part of such a cadet unit.

This student outreach initiative has the support of the Northern Territory Emergency Service Southern Region Headquarters staff. The primary goal of the Unit is for the students who become involved to gain greater awareness of safety, and to have a better understanding of emergency management.

They will also be able to develop skills to give them the opportunity to serve in the parent emergency service unit when they reach 18 years. Nearly 30 students nominated for the pilot program.

The school believes that participation in the Cadet Unit encourages the development of responsibility, enhances self esteem, provides purpose and imbues a sense of pride amongst its members.

The Unit's members learn outdoor and communication skills, safety principles, rescue techniques, field work, and are able to gain a volunteer ethic and leadership qualities.

They are awarded Statements of Attainment for the skills they learn, in line with competency-based vocational education guidelines. Teachers volunteer as instructors.

The students – who come mainly from the Year 9 level of the College and undertake their training after school – are supervised and monitored by staff of the Northern Territory Emergency Service and the Alice Springs Volunteer Unit.



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Private Sector  
National Winner – Post-Disaster

## NRMA Insurance Canberra, ACT

### Help Expo Aids Bushfire Recovery

In the few short weeks after the Canberra bushfire crisis, NRMA Insurance responded to the need for timely, consistent and quality information on the recovery process by organising a Help Expo supported by the ACT Bushfire Recovery Taskforce and the ACT Government.

The aim was to provide an education forum where customers and the community could access useful resources and ideas as a vital first step in the recovery process.

Helping communities recover and better plan to weather the next storm, fire or flood is a part of NRMA's efforts to minimise the impact of accidents and disasters. This approach is seen by the insurance industry as an innovative part of an overall approach to managing risk in Australia.

In the spirit of wanting to provide more support for the Canberra community, NRMA Insurance moved quickly to develop the community Help Expo – a two-day free community event held early in March 2003 at the National Convention Centre in Canberra. The Expo provided expert advice about rebuilding and recovery processes for all residents. It was launched by ACT Recovery Taskforce representative Robert de Castella – himself a victim of the fires – and the ACT Chief Minister Jon Stanhope.

More than 1900 motor, home, caravan and boat insurance claims were lodged by NRMA Insurance customers as a result of the January 2003 Canberra bushfires.

Assessors worked fast to relieve customers' concerns with the first total-loss home claim being paid within two working days of the firestorm.



Sonia Robinson, Bill Rooney and Meagan Cutcliffe staff the NRMA Help Van in Canberra.

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Research Body  
National Winner – Pre-Disaster

## School of Architecture & Building Deakin University, Victoria

### Wind tunnel helps understand hot embers

Bushfires spread in a number of ways. One is by hot embers lodging against buildings. Now studies into the movement of air around buildings is leading to an understanding of why fires start in some locations yet not in others. Better building design could also reduce the impact of burning embers.

Researchers at the School of Architecture and Building at Deakin University's Geelong Campus are using wind tunnel and fluid mapping tests to assess different building forms that can be subject to flying ember attack.

The research program explores the relationship between urban and bushland interface, with particular reference to air pressure, changes in wind patterns and its velocity, along with the build-up of hot ash against combustible surfaces.

The aim of the research is to devise building design strategies that will assist in protecting life, property and the urban fringe threatened yearly by bushfire.

The innovative element of the work of the research team is to investigate strategies which may assist in retarding the onset of bushfire ember attack around homes and other property.

The team hopes to promote best practice in building and urban design that will help prevent the build-up of hot ash and firebrands adjacent to combustible surfaces.

The research work involves recreating past bushfire ember attack scenarios to explore ways to counter the spread of fire.

The research project is in its infancy but results are already showing that the hazard risks of wind-borne embers starting a fire against a building will vary greatly depending upon the roof type, slope of the ground, and whether the building allows air movement beneath it.



Researchers Sam Honey and Dr John Rollo.

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Local Government  
National Winner – Pre-Disaster

## Blue Mountains City Council Katoomba, NSW

### Christmas Video a best seller

The first-hand often emotional experience of those affected by bushfire has been proven to be one of the most effective means of educating people, standing in stark contrast to the television news-style coverage most often seen at times of fire crisis.

The series of intense bushfires that raged through the Blue Mountains of New South Wales through Christmas/New Year of 2001, destroying several homes and much of the national park, provided the impetus for the production of a video filmed entirely by residents.

These vivid pictures document in real-time, the impact of wildfire and the measures that residents can take to protect their properties.

It clearly shows, in a non-sensational format, the difference a fire will have on a home that has been prepared, and on one that has not.

The Blue Mountains City Council is involved closely with the New South Wales Rural Fire Service and the State Emergency Service, and leads the community in ensuring that a high level of bushfire resilience is provided at the household level.

The Council's coordinating support for the production of this video is another step towards an increased level of awareness and preparedness for the impact of fires on people and property.

Since the 2001 fires over 200 copies of the video have been distributed in three States to fire fighters and educators for use as a community education tool.

As a result of discussion amongst children and parents, captured on the video, the production has already led to a research project into the social and mental impact of fire on families.



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Combination  
National Winner – Pre-Disaster

## ACT Emergency Services Bureau, the Geolnsight Committee and the Technik Group

### Spatial data now available to all

Increased awareness and understanding of the value of spatial data (mapping and global tracking information) in Australia, has led to more effective planning and risk management, better-informed decision making, and ultimately to better protection of the community.

The Geolnsight Project was the result of combining expertise from several agencies with those of the ACT Emergency Services Bureau in an Australian Government funded exercise aimed at increasing use of spatial data across the emergency management industry.

The Geolnsight Steering Committee was made up of representatives from such organisations as the Bureau of Meteorology, Geoscience Australia, the Spatial Information Council, Emergency Management Australia, and the Australian National University.

A project facilitation team called The Technik Group was instrumental in bringing the work of these participants to a wide range of emergency service organisations across Australia, via an ambitious roadshow of seminars and workshops that toured all major cities and regional centres.

Funded by a \$2 million grant from AusIndustry's Technology Diffusion Program, Geolnsight set out to increase the commercial viability of the spatial information industry by raising awareness of its value. This was the first time that such cross-industry linkages were formed, driven by a consortium rather than a peak emergency body.

A full national review of the usage of spatial information by emergency managers identified a number of issues, not the least being a lack of understanding of how such advanced technology can help in planning approaches to emergency situations.

A multimedia do-it-yourself Resources Kit was developed to allow lessons to be passed on beyond the project. And a



national user-group umbrella body has now been developed to continue the liaison work.



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Combination  
National Highly Commended – Pre-Disaster

## City of Gosnells Council, Western Australia Police Service, Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA)

### Disability focus in home safety audits

This is a safety and crime prevention initiative with a special focus – people with disabilities and their carers.

As part of the City of Gosnells Council's SafeCity initiative, special safety and security audits to ascertain risks are carried out in the homes of people with disabilities. The audits are conducted by officers from the Western Australia Police Service, the Fire and Emergency Services Authority and the Council.

An audit takes 30 minutes to complete, during which time each participant receives a comprehensive safety inspection of the internal and the external areas of the home. Door and window locks, security lighting, the marking of valuables, and the protection of the power supply are among the areas of concern. A final appraisal consists of various safety recommendations.

A primary objective in the fire and emergency arena includes a test of existing smoke alarms, an assessment of electrical appliance safety, chimney examination, and discussion on a home evacuation plan. Another important element of the inspections is that carers are in attendance with the participating residents while the inspections take place.

Since its inception more than 260 audits have been conducted and 240 smoke alarms fitted.

The Council's Home Audits program is an integral part of a range of community-based crime prevention, security and safety strategies that the Local Government has implemented.



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Combination  
National Winner – Pre-Disaster

**Towong Shire Council, Victoria;  
Towong Shire Fire & Drought Recovery  
Committee; Victorian Departments of  
Primary Industries, Sustainability and  
Environment, and Human Services;  
Regional Development Victoria;  
Centrelink; Victorian Council of  
Churches; Rural Finance; North East Ag  
Care; and Community volunteers**

### Crisis response a collaborative effort

The development of an effective model for future emergency response delivery that involved a reconnection of different levels of government with the community, was the challenge taken up by the small Towong Shire Council (TSC) in north-eastern Victoria.

The model is to be applied especially in times of drought crisis, but is equally applicable when the region is subject to bushfires, as occurred early in 2003 when 50 per cent of the Shire's area was burned.

The Council's innovative approach required a high level of cooperation and teamwork between a range of Australian, State and Local Government departments and agencies, and private organisations.

Inter-agency connection was complex, yet the means of achieving cooperation was simple – by getting people talking to each other. It became an exercise in true community engagement.

The principal objective of the project was to support the Towong community and re-establish an environment in which people could feel safe to live and work.

The supply of information about the effects of drought on stock, financial implications for families, ways to facilitate access to farms in difficult geographic locations, and how to handle acute emotional stress, have become the major beneficiaries of this response project.

The collaborative effort has enabled the Towong rural community to regain confidence, plan for the future, and feel less vulnerable to crisis situations.



*Towong Mayor Lyn Coulston with farmer Ewan Carkeek, feed stock during the drought.*



Photo: courtesy The Border Morning Mail

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Federal/State Government  
National Winner – Pre-Disaster

**Fire and Emergency Services Authority  
(FESA), Western Australia**

### Being AWARE together

Western Australia is faced with a broad range of emergencies year by year, from cyclones and bushfires to transport and industrial accidents.

By working in partnership with the community, Local Governments can prevent or minimise the potential for devastation, huge cost and heartache, that can be caused by these events.

The AWARE program (All West Australians Reducing Emergencies) has been developed to cope with emergencies through community-centred emergency management.

AWARE is coordinated by the Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia (FESA), using such strategies as customised training, a grant scheme and a scholarship program.

Some outstanding results are being realised with more than 20 applications being received from 29 local authorities to participate in a combination of a training program, a grant and a scholarship.

Eleven projects have been undertaken through the Grant Scheme in country and metropolitan Local Governments; seven scholarships have been awarded with successful applicants from two metropolitan and five country councils; and three training activities as part of the AWARE program were completed by 15 councils in the 2002-03 financial year.

With FESA committed to a focus on prevention and preparedness, and with such a flexible yet specifically designed safer community program going well, there is ample evidence that there will be sufficient demand for the AWARE program to continue.



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Federal/State Government  
National Winner – Post-Disaster

## Australian Broadcasting Corporation Canberra – Radio, TV and Online

### ABC Canberra – a firestorm crisis friend

The ABC in Canberra had, for some time, been developing a longer-term culture of strong teamwork, able to respond to unexpected and dynamic events.

In taking the initiative to provide local accredited bushfire training for its news journalists, production and other staff, little did they know the degree to which their preparedness would be tested in January 2003.

In preparation ABC staff had produced advice segments for broadcast; key emergency contacts had been updated; strong community links were developed; new technologies introduced; and relationships built with emergency service organisations and a range of other related authorities.

ABC Canberra had covered the fires surrounding the ACT from early January on ABC Radio 666, ABC-TV and Online. Staff had tailored their coverage to the needs of the community and the changing circumstances.

On Saturday 18 January, when the ABC's local radio station would normally have been networked from Sydney, Canberra moved to full local coverage. The station broadcast regular interviews with key emergency service groups, urban and rural fire services, police, community and political leaders. They also disseminated information about essential services and told the Canberra and regional communities about what help was available.

ABC staff continued to work through the tense period until 30 January to service their listeners and viewers.

Radio 666 has since been lauded as a model of emergency broadcasting, winning local radio awards and a Distinguished Service Award from Rotary, living up to their motto "ABC Canberra – there when our community needs us most".

The efforts of the ABC's staff in Canberra have, by example led to new ways for broadcasters to operate in a crisis, especially how to respond quickly, flexibly and effectively to the need for emergency broadcasting over an extended period.

Even during the emergency, staff began planning the ABC Bushfire Recovery Concert, a free family day of entertainment staged in Canberra's Commonwealth Park next to Lake Burley Griffin. More than 15,000 people attended and \$15,000 was raised for the ACT Bushfire Recovery Appeal.

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Photo courtesy The Canberra Times

The ABC Canberra crew that worked throughout the crisis.



Federal/State Government  
National Highly Commended – Post-Disaster

## Royal Darwin Hospital Darwin, Northern Territory

### ‘36 Defining Hours’

For emergency response to be successful, a series of interdependent relationships must exist with a focus on the strategic importance of preparedness, communication and leadership.

Responding to the tragedy of the Bali terrorist bombings on 12 October 2002 has served to highlight the complexity of Australia’s health care system.

The Royal Darwin Hospital’s (RDH) efforts have become a template for disaster response.

How staff coped with an unprecedented influx of victims with serious burns, and becoming innovative with procedures, has been acclaimed as immensely valuable to emergency management practitioners.

It is important to recognise that the hospital and a range of emergency services and Defence Force personnel had not only rehearsed, but practiced a variety of emergency ‘responses’.

But this hospital, while serving a huge geographic region, has only a Burns Unit capacity for four patients, Intensive Care accommodation for up to 10, and an Emergency Department with only three resuscitation beds. Despite these limitations, the collective effort of a wide range of staff demonstrated how dedication and professionalism can win over such a challenge.

A national decision made Darwin the ‘first port of call’ for survivors evacuated from Bali by a number of Royal Australian Air Force C130 Hercules transport aircraft.

By the time disaster plans were activated, the hospital was ready, having begun preparations after the early arrival of an injured young man who had made his own way to Darwin after the bombings.

A 60-bed surgical receiving ward was established by transferring many existing patients to Darwin Private Hospital.

Over a 12-hour period more than 60 critically injured victims arrived, all suffering multiple trauma.

While emergency and intensive care teams triaged, assessed and resuscitated, surgeons operated and physicians restored metabolic balance. Other hospital staff – from gardeners to students – became ward clerks, and the operating theatres were in use around the clock.

Within 36 hours, a coordinated evacuation to other specialist burns units in hospitals in Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane had commenced.



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## 2003 AUSTRALIAN SAFER COMMUNITIES AWARDS

### Volunteer Organisation Winner – Pre-Disaster

**SA Ambulance Service**  
Murra Murra Community Responder Course for Point Pearce

### Highly Commended – Post-Disaster

**Chapman Residents' Action Group, Canberra, ACT**  
Community assistance and support coordination

### Private Sector Winner – Pre-Disaster

**St Philip's College, Alice Springs, NT**  
Emergency Service Cadet Unit establishment

### Winner – Post-Disaster

**NRMA Insurance, ACT**  
Help Expo aids Canberra bushfire recovery

### Research Body Winner – Pre-Disaster

**Deakin University, School of Architecture & Building, Geelong, VIC**  
Wind tunnel research into ember attacks

### Local Government Winner – Pre-Disaster

**Blue Mountains City Council, NSW**  
Bushfire awareness training video 'Our Christmas'

### Combination Stream Winner – Pre-Disaster

**ACT Emergency Services Bureau, the Geolinsight Committee and the Technik Group**

The Geolinsight spatial data project

### High Commended – Pre-Disaster

**City of Gosnells Council, Western Australia Police Service, Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA)**  
Home safety/security audits project

### Winner – Post-Disaster

**Towong Shire Council, Victoria, Victorian Department of Primary Industries and other partners, VIC**

Towong cooperative drought response project

### Federal/State Government Winner – Pre-Disaster

**Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA), WA**

The AWARE (All West Australians Reducing Emergencies) partnership program

### Winner – Post-Disaster

**Australian Broadcasting Corporation, Canberra, ACT**

Emergency broadcast response and recovery – January 2003 bushfires.

### High Commended – Post-Disaster

**Royal Darwin Hospital, NT**  
'36 defining hours' – triage and stabilising of injured victims after the Bali bombings.

## STATE AWARD RECIPIENTS

### Australian Capital Territory

**Australian Broadcasting Corporation, Canberra**  
Emergency Broadcast Preparation and Response (two entries: pre & post disaster)

**The Major Charities Sub-Committee**  
Remarkable Alliances – coordination of assistance delivery

**ACT Recovery Centre**  
ACT Recovery Centre – case management model

**ACT Bushfire and Emergency Services**  
Headquarters Volunteer Brigade – competency-based training modules

**Chapman Residents' Action Group**  
Community assistance and support coordination

**ACT Emergency Services Bureau, the Geolinsight Committee and the Technik Group**  
Geolinsight Project – spatial data awareness multi-media resource kit

**NRMA Insurance, ACT**  
Help Expo aids bushfire recovery

### New South Wales

**NSW Fire Brigades**  
Emergency Services radio

**Blue Mountains City Council**  
Bushfire awareness training video 'Our Christmas'

**NSW State Emergency Services**  
Floodsafe program

### Northern Territory

**Northern Territory Emergency Service**  
'Playing It Safe' remote area natural hazard awareness video

**Naiyu Nambiyu Community Government Council, Daly River**  
Daly River flood mitigation strategy

**St Philip's College, Alice Springs**  
Emergency Service Cadet Unit establishment

**Royal Darwin Hospital**  
'36 defining hours' – triage and stabilising of injured victims after the Bali bombings.

### Queensland

**Qld Department of Emergency Services, Counter Disaster & Rescue Service**  
State Disaster Mitigation Planning policy

**SEQ Fire and Biodiversity Consortium/ Griffith University**  
Property Fire Management Planning Kit and Biodiversity Conservation Workshops

**Qld Department of Emergency Services, Qld Fire & Rescue Service**  
SafeCity Education Package – for upper primary school students

### South Australia

**Adelaide City Council**  
Emergency response plan

**SA Department of Human Services**  
CBR Decontamination Unit installation

**SA Ambulance Service**  
Murra Murra Community Responder Course for Point Pearce

**Metropolitan Domiciliary Care**  
Home Safety for the frail aged and those with a disability

**SA Country Fire Service**  
Video presentation: "Bushfires - Surviving The Summer"

**Tom Schwerdt**  
Schwerdt Lifter

### Tasmania

**Somerset Fire Brigade**  
Junior Cadet Program

### Victoria

**Towong Shire Council, Victorian Department of Primary Industries, and other partners**  
Towong Drought Response Project

**Metropolitan Fire Brigade**  
SmokeBuster

**Metropolitan Fire Brigade**  
Juvenile Justice Fire & Hazard Safety Education

**Deakin University, School of Architecture and Building, Geelong**  
Wind-tunnel research into ember attacks

### Western Australia

**Bunbury-Wellington Group of Councils**  
Emergency Risk Management Project

**Shire of Manjimup**  
Emergency Services Display

**City of Gosnells Council, Western Australia Police Service and Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA)**

Home Safety Audits Project

**Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA)**

The AWARE (All West Australians Reducing Emergencies) partnership program



Emergency Management Australia is a division of the Attorney-General's Department.  
Further information on the 2003 Australian Safer Communities Awards and EMA is available on the EMA website  
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