SEVERE WEATHER EVENT

Health, Safety and Wellbeing – Discussion Card

During an Emergency Response (ER), the added urgency (perceived and actual) and complexity have the potential to distort risk tolerance and for gaps in risk management practices to develop. We all can demonstrate that the Health, Safety and Wellbeing (HSW) of Communities, Partners and Workers is the priority in our response efforts by holding HSW discussions with individuals and teams they are engaging with. This card provides some discussion prompts for some ER related HSW risks:

Risk	Discussion Prompts

 **Wellbeing**	**"It's OK to be not OK"**
	Ask: Ask yourself and Ask others how they are doing:
	• Are you getting enough rest/sleep/downtime?
	• Are you able to stay connected with colleagues, family and friends?
	• Are you able to think about things other than the emergency response?
	• What are our suppliers offering to workers to support wellbeing?
	  ○ Are workers connected to wellbeing support through response?
	Resilience:
	• Do you feel you have enough resources for your role?
	• What contingency is there if you need a break?
	• What is in place to support wellbeing for our suppliers
	  ○ Surge and contingency resources available?
	  ○ Fatigue management – shift management, limiting of non-response work?
	  ○ Our local workers that are directly affected supported?
	Resources:
	Mental Health and Wellbeing Waka Kotahi, MHFR List Waka Kotahi, Peer Support Wellbeing Check-in Tool

 **Unstable Slopes**	Unstable slopes (slips, washout, rockfall, trees) pose risk to workers, road users and others.
	• Have the risks of undertaking assessments been managed?
	  ○ Are assessments being triaged and where practicable deferred until event stabilises?
	• Have slope risks been assessed for affected areas?
	  ○ Review knowledge of slopes and areas (historical slope failures, maintenance observations)
	  ○ Has the slope been assessed by competent persons?
	• Where required, are exclusion zones adequately demarcated and isolated?
	• Has slope risk information been communicated to TTM controllers?
	• How has safety risk been considered in treatment option selection?

	• Does the assessment consider the impacts of road closure on affected communities? • If spotters are used as control is the role understood?
 **Temporary Traffic Management (TTM)**	Temporary Traffic Management is a critical control in managing risks to road users and roadworkers during an emergency. To be effective, it needs to be planned thoughtfully and implemented adequately. • Have the TTM options been developed to provide the lowest total risk (Total risk = worker risk reduction + road users / dependants risk increase)? • How have resource requirements been assessed and are they sufficient? • Are contingencies in place to provide additional resources? • Have TTM resources been factored in issue response options (i.e. TTM required for road closure usually less resource demanding than with other options). • How is TTM effectiveness being monitored through the emergency? • Have vulnerable road users been considered in emergency TTM? • Is TTM designed to mimimise breach of closure areas and harmful interaction with road users? Is there a response plan for threats to workers? NZGTTM, COPTTM, Keeping healthy and safe while working on the road or roadside
 **Remote / Isolated / Lone Workers (RIL)**	In a severe weather event communications can be disrupted and workers may be required to travel to remote locations on the network to provide assessment and undertake works. Working in these conditions has the potential to disrupt intelligence, coordination and planning and also limit ability to provide support to injured persons in even of an incident. • Is it essential to undertake this work? • Do workers have a plan if they are isolated and contingency if communications are disrupted? • How are our suppliers prepared to manage RIL and contingency to provide intelligence and coordination? • What is the response for missing or non-contactable workers? • How are workers in isolation being checked on for welfare? GPG Remote Working
 **Working/Driving in Severe Weather and Poor Conditions**	Working and driving in severe weather and poor conditions (low light, hot and cold, wet, icy and silty roads, debris etc.) presents many risks. Wherever practicable, working and driving in these conditions should be avoided. • Is the journey or work essential? How has this been determined? Has a lowest total risk assessment been undertaken? • Is a journey plan in place including for emergency preparations and communications? • Are the conditions being monitored for potential to deteriorate? • Are vehicles or work areas provisioned to provide refuge in the conditions? • Have the effects of the conditions been considered in fatigue management? • Has an assessment of the route or work area been undertaken?

	• Has a TARP been established for the area and are workers familiar with the information? • Are sufficient controls in place to mitigate the risk of the conditions (suitable vehicles equipped for conditions, communication equipment, adequate lighting, exclusion/no-go areas isolated etc.)? • Has equipment been assessed for suitability for conditions (i.e. signs secured not to created flying debris / road hazard etc.)? Driving in Bad Weather, Working in Extreme Outdoor Conditions


Pathogens, contaminants, and debris
	Working in flood waters or in areas impacted by flood waters can have risks that may not be immediately obvious. Flood waters can be contaminated with pathogens (from mixing with untreated sewage), hazardous substances and dangerous debris. Even after drying, soils and contaminates surface may pose an exposure risk.
	• Has the potential for contamination and exposure been assessed for the work area?
	  ○ Source and migration route of material and flood water?
	• Are workers informed of the potential risk?
	  ○ Mineral (i.e.silica, asbestos), contaminants (pathogens – bacteria, viruses, hazardous substances – petrol, agri chemicals, industrial waste, landfill leachate etc.)
	• Is appropriate PPE provided to avoid direct contact?
	• Are good hygiene practices being followed and suitably amenities provided?
	• Have the requirement for vaccinations been considered?
	• Have remedial activities considered the effects of releasing or removing debris, soils or floodwater?
	CHASANZ Guide, kia-mataara-be-careful-around-dust-from-floodwater-silt-mud-and-soil, working-with-silt-or-contaminated-soil-after-cyclone-gabrielle,

 **Working Safely Together**	In response and recovery, adequate resources are critical in maintaining HSW risk management. Different organisations with different ways of managing HSW will come together in their efforts to undertake the work required. It is crucial that these organisations come together and consult, coordinate and cooperate on the management of HSW risk and have understanding of roles and responsibilities each other have. • Do we have adequate resources to maintain critical HSW controls? • How are additional resources consulting, coordinating and cooperating? • Are there suppliers that require support to manage HSW? • How is this being monitored? Overlapping duties - quick guide

Discussion Notes

Support Actions

No.	Date	Description	Owner & due date	Status / Update
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				

This risk guide has been prepared to supplement current risk management plans and work instructions related to road works to emphasise some of the unique impacts of severe weather emergency response. This should not be considered a comprehensive risk management guide for the response and recovery works and NEMA, Worksafe and Manatū Hauora Ministry of Health / Te Whatu Ora.