

Reflecting on emergency plans



How do you know what emergencies are likely?

It is a requirement that a risk assessment is completed to assess the probable types of emergencies in your location and how to manage these. Talking to local emergency management organisations and councils can help you work out the ones most relevant to you.



How do you ensure compliance with rehearsals?

Every 3 months it is a requirement to rehearse one leave (evacuation) and one stay (shelter in place, medical, lockdown) emergency. There should be a system in place to make sure that this is occurring and that you do not miss a rehearsal even by a few days.



How do you know your plan is appropriate?

Your plan should be developed in consultation with others. Based on your context who you consult with could include building strata, fire brigade, SES, local businesses to make sure you are not impacting their emergency plans, local council, where you plan to have your final assembly point etc.



How do you consider the children's needs?

Emergency rehearsals can be quite stressful for children, particularly lockdowns. Thinking about how you approach rehearsals and whether they are supporting children's wellbeing is important. As is considering how much you impact children's learning with constant rehearsals.



When do you complete your rehearsals?

If you only complete rehearsals at times when all children have been dropped off and all key staff are on the floor with out breaks or meals or sleeping children then are you really getting useful and helpful data on how well your emergency procedures work? Do staff have warning to get everything ready?