

MISSION MODE SIMULATION - CONNECT COMMUNICATE CONTINUE

30 June 2005

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. In the next 45 minutes, we wish to take you on a multi-agency journey through the ether and through a mass of water. The Mission Mode servers are located in the US and providing they do not go under water, our Internet based system of communication will remain intact. Assisting me today is my colleague Peter Bastable who will guide us through the ether. He is our Virtual Emergency Management Environment Master Controllers and they represent the SES as lead Combat Agency under the NSW State Tsunami Response Plan.

We have taken the liberty of grouping you in teams, so please physically join your team leader, although you could be anywhere in the ether. SES, All higher level agencies such as EMA, Geoscience Australia and the NSW State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC), Police, Fire Brigade, Ambulance and all health agencies such as hospitals, energy utility owners & critical coastal industrial facilities such as ports, refineries and airports. While you are physically in a group, your Situation Room is the MissionMode website and you interact with all other groups through Mission Mode's Emergency Alert and Situation Center. When you use Mission Mode you are not buying their software, rather you are subscribing to their servers. This is an operational outlay and not a capital acquisition.

Today we want to practice your response to a major, multi- jurisdictional event along the NSW coast. Right now, you are being notified that a tsunami has just struck the NSW Coast at Newcastle perhaps just a few minutes ago. Your team leader will be receiving a Mission Mode alert triggered by incessant 000 calls that have been relayed by police to the SES. These alerts are broadcast via e-mail, phones, pagers, or whatever notification system you prefer. You do not have to leave your office for an extended period nor meet in a conference room. You can work from the Qantas Club or a nearby Internet café.

The challenge we always face even with everyone in close proximity is getting the right information to the right people in a timely fashion. This is especially difficult when getting agencies to share information with other agencies. Mission Mode provides our primary communication platform. It quickly notifies multiple agencies of emergencies and it brings them together online to share information, collaborate, and rapidly coordinate responses.

Peter Bastable has now sent an alert to all teams. Upon delivery of an alert, you should now acknowledge receipt via an interactive voice response (IVR) system, replying to a text message, or going online on the Internet anywhere. Message acknowledgement is important as it allows the virtual team to react based on who is aware, or not aware, of the problem. So please log into a secure Situation Center via your computers. The Situation Center application is accessed via the Internet using a standard browser. Remember you can log on from wherever you happen to be at the time.

Essentially there has been a continental shelf landslip just over 30 minutes ago causing a ten metre mass of water to be arriving now. We can expect the water mass to be now traveling north and South reaching Sydney and Taree in about 90 minutes to 2 hours.

Right now it can be anticipated that the Newcastle CBD and surrounding industrial areas will be under water up to the 10 metre mark and that it will take hours to drain Low lying areas of Sydney will be swamped including the forecourt of the Opera House and Darling Harbour. Sydney airport will be under water and water can be expected to sweep up the harbour and reach Parramatta. The death toll could be as high as 35,000.

Please consider your actions and advise other participants of your response. Let's go highly interactive. Communicate your actions to the SES and see what they say. We would expect that the SEOC will advise the public through the media at a high-level and through communities as per the plan for floods utilizing the Bureau of Meteorology. Up to 250,000 people could be vulnerable and many may have had no warning. Police will be taking charge and either pre-position resources or remove critical resources out of the way. Recovery will be lead by the SEMC who may also request the Commonwealth for assistance as this is probably above SOLOVIEV 4, the Tsunami threshold for a single agency response.

Lets work our way through some of MissionMode's features. Firstly, the electronic library. Next the Employee Notification System. Now the geofencing function to alert particular groups. Finally the sub-Situation for any group to coordinate their own sub-group.

Ladies and Gentlemen, while we watch the outcome of the surfboard rider on this wave, the MissionMode Emergency Alert and Situation Center is an effective way of notifying large, dispersed teams of an important event as well as an effective communication medium. Mission Mode is in use in Australia by Qantas, Sydney Airport and six Federal Government Departments.

Our message we leave you with is Connect, Communicate, and Continue.