

**AUSTRALIAN EMERGENCY  
MANUAL**

**ROAD ACCIDENT RESCUE**

**NATURAL DISASTERS ORGANISATION**

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## AMENDMENT LIST

[illegible]

## FOREWORD

THE PURPOSE OF THIS MANUAL IS TO PROVIDE A REFERENCE FOR ROAD ACCIDENT RESCUE OPERATIONS. IT IS INTENDED FOR USE IN PLANNING, TRAINING AND OPERATIONS BY ALL EMERGENCY PERSONNEL AND ORGANISATIONS. IT IS NOT INTENDED TO PROVIDE POLICY TO STATES AND TERRITORIES ON THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIFFERENT SERVICES TO RESPOND IN RESCUE SITUATIONS.

ROAD ACCIDENT RESCUE (RAR), BY ITS VERY NATURE, IS A HIGH RISK ACTIVITY. THE NATURAL DISASTERS ORGANISATION ACCEPTS NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY ACCIDENT OR INJURY CAUSED BY MISUSE OR MISINTERPRETATION OF INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS MANUAL. MOREOVER, THE READING OF THIS MANUAL ALONE CANNOT BE CONSIDERED ADEQUATE TRAINING FOR A RESCUER. KNOWLEDGE MUST BE LINKED WITH TRAINING, PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE, AND STRICT ADHERENCE TO SAFETY.

THIS MANUAL HAS BEEN DEVELOPED BY A NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE REPRESENTING POLICE, FIRE, STATE AND TERRITORY EMERGENCY SERVICES AND AMBULANCE SERVICES. THE MANUAL IS DESIGNED AS A BASIC REFERENCE COMMON TO ALL STATES AND TERRITORIES. IT MUST BE SUPPORTED BY STATE/TERRITORY DEVELOPED SUPPLEMENTS RELATING TO SPECIALISED ASPECTS OF RAR, SUCH AS EQUIPMENT, OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS. THE WORKING PARTY WAS INITIATED AND SPONSORED BY THE NATURAL DISASTERS ORGANISATION.

THE MANUAL IS ISSUED IN LOOSE LEAF FORM TO FACILITATE AMENDMENT AND INSERTION OF INDIVIDUAL ORGANISATIONAL SUPPLEMENTS.

AS SITUATIONS CHANGE AND IMPROVED TECHNIQUES ARE DEVELOPED, THE ROAD ACCIDENT RESCUE MANUAL WILL BE AMENDED AND UPDATED BY THE NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE.

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## PREFACE



The all-out campaign by police, road traffic authorities and the insurance industry to promote responsible road use has resulted in a significant decline in the number of fatalities since the beginning of this decade. The powerful impact of 'booze buses', red light cameras, safer roads, speed cameras and driver education, is a triumph which can be measured in hundreds of lives.

In human terms, the reduction in the road toll means lives saved and families spared the trauma and grief and loss. There has also been a corresponding drop in serious and disabling injuries and in hospitalisation cases.

There is always room for improvement and the responsibility for road safety is a community one. Road users must be persuaded to exercise caution at all times and not to jeopardise their own safety and that of others, by thoughtless or reckless behaviour. If they are, the road toll will continue to fall.

Australia's emergency services have acquitted themselves professionally and efficiently to deal with road trauma and rescue situations, proving that disaster preparedness underpins response and recovery operations which have continually tested their ability to meet the demands of those in need.

Information exchange is vital in developing this country's counter-disaster efficiency. The Insurance Council of Australia commends the Natural Disasters Organisation for the preparation of this 'Road Accident Rescue' manual and is proud to be part of the process aimed at minimising the distress caused by road accidents. We are delighted to sponsor this publication.

We would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the permanent officers and volunteers who often risk personal injury and even death to help fellow Australians. We are all indebted to their dedication.

Mr Peter E. Daly  
Chief Executive  
Insurance Council of Australia