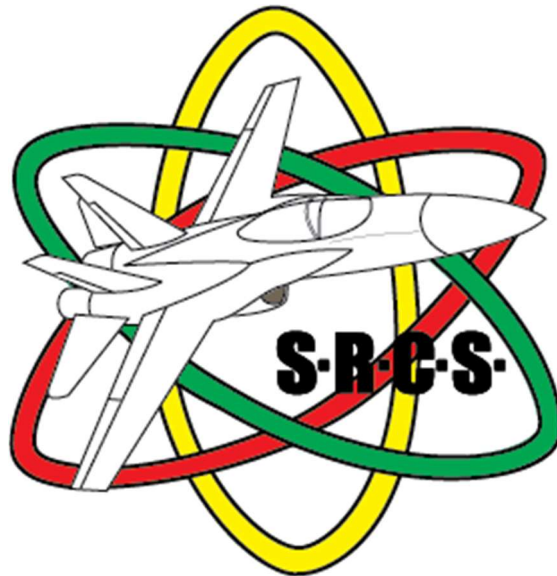


SYDNEY RADIO CONTROL SOCIETY Inc



FLOOD PROTECTION PROCEDURE

SRCS 08

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APPROVED: SRCS Committee

Date: 24/06/2024

1. Background.

1. SRCS operates on flood prone land at Gunderman NSW by the Hawkesbury River.
2. It is not possible to obtain economic flood insurance for the SRCS risk.
3. If a flood occurs and it reaches the SRCS container, we have the potential for serious damage to engine powered devices, electronic equipment, other items that are subject to damage by water and items can float away.
4. Every flood is different so a single standard procedure cannot be applied.
5. Despite this, clear guidance is required to maximize the probability of either avoiding or minimising any loss.
6. Floods happen on a random timescale and there may be a significant interval between them.
7. Although four floods, or potential floods, occurred within 18 months this was after a period of at least 20 years with no actual flood over the land.
8. It is important that all experience gained, even if it seems obvious, is documented so the club knowledge is retained despite personnel changes.

2. Considerations

1. The highest priority must be to ensure the personal safety of club members.
2. The second priority must be to avoid loss or damage to club member's personal property.
3. Anyone assisting with the protection of club propriety must accept that they are acting as a volunteer in their own right, and so have to agree that the Club can accept no responsibility for injury to themselves or loss or damage to their property.
4. Every flood event is different in many ways, including the pre-event Warragamba Dam level, the general water table levels, final Hawkesbury River water level, rate of rise of the water level, the public warning periods that are published, and general weather conditions.
5. Access to and from the field from the south can become impossible due to Wisemans Ferry being closed due to the flood and/or river flow.
6. Roads can also be blocked by fallen trees and land subsidence.
7. The alternate access route from the Gosford direction can also be blocked by flood, trees and land subsidence.
8. The official flood warnings In NSW are issued by the Bureau for Meteorology (BOM). History shows that these are not reliable, particularly in a rapidly changing flood environment.
9. The time taken for the flood front to move down the Hawkesbury River and its associated rivers can vary significantly.
10. From the time when there has been no flood warning for the Wisemans Ferry area to the Ferry being closed has, worst case, been only 12 hours
11. NSW Live Traffic is useless as it does not respond quickly to changes, particularly on minor roads, and at times is just wrong.
12. Whilst some consideration should be given to media reports they are unreliable and tend towards sensationalism.
13. Some SRCS Members access routes to Gunderman may be affected by flooding in the Windsor area.
14. The presence of at least one, and preferable more, 4-wheel drives is nearly mandatory to access the container area by vehicle if conditions are bad.
15. Roy may be able to assist but this cannot be guaranteed. This is either due to not being there, or his own priorities.

16. Any activity to remove or move SRCS property has to allow an absolute minimum 4-hour period and more likely 5 hours. This period covers coordinating and preparing the task prior to departure, travel to The Missions, removal or repositioning of SRCS Property and finally leaving the site and then getting back on 'safe' roads.
17. For safety reasons the total activity listed above must be completed before nightfall.
18. There are items of value that can float and be lost, or cause a hazard, and that cannot be removed in an emergency.
19. For security reasons only a limited number of club members have normal access to the main container.
20. In bad conditions any vehicle driven onto the field could become bogged down. It might not be possible for it to be recovered due to either the conditions or the availability of a suitable towing vehicles. The risk can be reduced by avoiding muddy areas and driving over grass covered ground even if it is long.
21. Insurance companies could take the view that damage or loss resulting from deliberately driving onto a muddy and very wet field, and/or with flooding expected, is excluded from coverage under their policies.

Standard Permanent Pre-Flood set up

Where practical, items that could float away and cannot be stored inside the container are to be permanently restrained by a method that does not unduly restrict their regular use. Items of this type which must be moved to use are to be always restrained when not in use.

A key to the Container will be held in a Combination Lock Secure Key Safe, fixed in a prominent position outside the Container.

The key combination will be known by the President, Vice President and Treasurer.

The contacts for getting the key combination will be listed in a weatherproof sleeve by the Key Safe giving persons' position, name and mobile phone number.

All keys and other similar items required for removal of all recommended items, will be either in the Key Safe, left in place on the item or else located on a shadow board immediately inside the container.

A list of items that are to be considered for removal, in approximate priority order, will be posted inside Container near to the shadow board. This list is as Annex A.

Procedure in event of Possible Flood.

The President and Vice President are principally responsible for making decisions and coordinating actions, however if they are not available then other Committee Members should take action.

The club has a safety-first approach to the removal of club property, and it is to be accepted that on occasions this will result in action being taken when in the end there was no flood which affected the field.

As soon as it becomes apparent that a significant rain event is possible in the Hawkesbury River area, including all the catchments, then a message will be sent by SRCS Social Email advising the

membership. This will ask for volunteers if an evacuation is required, (see liability clause above), who may be able to assist either physically and/or by use of their vehicles.

The BOM flood warning levels at the Hawkesbury River Richmond are the trigger. It is possible that an Advice Warning there could be issued due to only local conditions, and which clearly poses no risk of a significant downstream flood. This shall then just be used for maintaining a watch.

If the flood level there is likely to escalate due to the source and potential volume of water, or the probability of this increases, this will trigger an SRCS evacuation as soon as it can be practically started.

Any Watch and Act Warning at Richmond will always trigger an evacuation for SRCS.

The determination of the resources to be used will be made by the President and Vice President based on members who have volunteered. However, they may need to contact others if more effort is needed. All required will be contacted by telephone, even if then confirmed by email either individually or collectively to all members.

One SRCS Member, who will be present at the field for the evacuation, will be nominated by the President and Vice President to coordinated and control the resources used for the evacuation, including on site liaison with Roy. This is to maximise the effective protection that the clubs property receives in the specific circumstances, and consider the effective returned after the event is over.

Anyone who helps is to be provided with the Combination to access the Key Safe.

Depending on circumstances the SRCS Committee may agree to refund those assisting with their out-of-pocket travel expenses.

Actions at the field

Given the variability of the situation it is impossible to give other than guidance on how the evacuation should proceed.

The priority list should be used for guidance on what to remove and in what order depending on the exact situation and available resources.

Options for removal, to be considered.

The preferred method is removal of major items to The Missions area. This should be with the Roy or Primrose's specific permission and to specifically identified locations. No pressure should be put on either Roy or Primrose for this option to be used. This contact should be done in person or by phone. If not successful initially, attempts to contact them must continue using all available phone numbers until the last possible moment. As a last resort, items may be left there outside on concrete, as long as it does not restrict their access to the property and buildings. Whenever SRCS property is left in that area it must be left in a condition that the items are able to be easily moved to another location and any keys should be left with Roy or with the equipment.

Removal of property to members' homes. In this case all items removed need to be identified to the Committee once secured.

Access to The Missions through the full-size runway area is specifically forbidden, as ground conditions may be difficult and unpredictable.

When there is an approaching flood, if mowers cannot be moved by trailer, then they may be driven by public road no further than to The Missions entrance, ideally with vehicles immediately in front and behind with headlights on and hazard lights flashing. As a minimum it is mandatory that one such vehicle is behind the mower.

For safety and legal reasons, mowers shall only be returned to the field by a trailer.

If vehicle access to the SRCS container is considered inappropriate, then consideration shall be given to access by foot but only if safe to do so and if time is available.

No SRCS property should be left on public land, as it may cause unforeseen problems with Council or other users, as well as security.

If absolutely no other choice, then equipment may be left, as secured as time allows, at the highest point inside the SRCS access gate but clear of the access track. Note that this area may become flooded and can also develop into very soft ground. If items are locked any keys should be removed.

Ideally machinery and other vulnerable items left in the open should be protected from rain but this may not be possible.

Post Flood Action.

As conditions improve an assessment of any damage shall be made and a recovery plan developed.

When the container key is replaced in the Key Safe the combination shall be changed.

Once a year, at around the time of the AGM, or any time this procedure is initiated and after completion, a review of this procedure shall be done. This shall consider any changes necessary due to differing circumstance or, if the procedure has been used, to consider if improvements should be made, based on lessons learned.