The major risks faced by Royal Flying Doctor Service Western Operations in the event of a Tropical Cyclone
The Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) of Australia

Western Operations

Queensland Section

Central Operations

South Eastern Section
RFDS Western Operations

- Derby
- Port Hedland
- Meekatharra
- Kalgoorlie
- Jandakot
Western Australia Cyclone Region
Recent cyclone events that have affected North Western Australia
The Australian & New Zealand Risk Management Standard
The most likely major risks identified were:

- Injury/death to RFDS Western Operations personnel
- Damage to RFDS Western Operations assets
- Reduced operational capability.
Injury/death to RFDS Western Operations personnel and damage to RFDS Western Operations assets
A qualitative risk analysis matrix was used to assess the level of risk associated with reduced operational capability.

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<th>Likelihood</th>
<th>Consequences</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Insignificant</td>
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<td>Almost certain</td>
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<td>Likely</td>
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Reduced operational capability

- This can result in RFDS Western Operations providing a level of service which may be unable to meet the demands of the population in certain areas of the state.

- If no aircraft or crews are available at a particular base then it means that other bases have to be brought in to cover this geographical area.

- This can have a negative impact on operational capability as this would usually mean that crews from other bases would have to travel greater distances to provide a service to the region which has no crews.
CIVIL AVIATION ORDERS
PART 48
SECTION 48.1
Issue 9
Exemption from flight and duty time limitations set out in Civil Aviation Order 48
The maximum flight time in any duty period will be:
Instrument Flight Rules
• with operative 3 axis auto pilot 8 hours
• without operative 3 axis autopilot 6 hours
Visual Flight Rules
• Night 8 hours
• Day 10 hours
Severe Tropical Cyclone George
The operational capability of RFDS Western Operations post Cyclone George
Relocation of aircraft to an alternate location
Relocating aircraft, a new concept?
Who will relocate the aircraft?
Western Australia Colour Alert System for Tropical Cyclones

Blue Alert: A cyclone has formed and may affect the area within 48 hours. Strong winds are not yet a threat but you should take precautions.

Yellow Alert: A cyclone is moving closer and is highly likely to affect the community within 12 hours. High winds are likely to occur in your area and you should take action.

Red Alert: The cyclone is imminent. Destructive winds are likely to occur very soon.
Relocation of aircraft plan.

YELLOW ALERT ISSUED

Contact Operational Supervisory Pilot (OSP)

Determine the maximum number of aircraft that can be relocated to a suitable location

Availability of pilots to relocate aircraft

YES PILOTS AVAILABLE

From affected base

Relocate aircraft to alternate location ASAP

NO PILOTS AVAILABLE

No further action

From alternate bases

Transfer pilot to affected base

Identify best mode of transport to relocate pilot and arrange transfer of pilot to affected base ASAP

RELOCATE AIRCRAFT TO ALTERNATE LOCATION

Commercially

Charter

Company aircraft
Where to relocate the aircraft?

- Port Hedland
- Derby
- Kununurra
The relocation of aircraft also eliminates the problem of having aircraft that could be utilised but were unable to be used due to external elements.
Providing a service to the affected region.
Maintaining optimal operational capability
References


