

# Planning for Disaster



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### Planning for Disaster

Prepared by Phil Southwell, Chairman of SC CI, on behalf of the Cigre Technical Committee

Planning for disaster may seem a fruitless exercise, as we can never accurately forecast the nature, duration and impact of the event. However there is always a need for leaders to guide groups and organisations through unfamiliar situations.

For the power industry, responding to the damage caused by lightning, hurricanes, floods or other disasters, while this is a distant possibility. When a disaster occurs, there is little opportunity to react back and consider the disaster strategy response. During natural disasters, the decision of electricity companies over how to deal with implications and a number of other factors are critical.

In light of this, a strategic approach to dealing with disasters, Cigre undertook a major study of a number of disaster events, including natural and man-made disasters. We studied the following disasters in detail:

- New Zealand Christchurch Earthquake, 2011
- Spain Valencia, 2009
- Canada Ice Storm, 1998
- Canada Hurricane, 2005, 2001
- China Ice Storm, 2008
- Canada Hurricane, 2005, 2001
- United States Hurricane Sandy, 2012
- India Rajasthan, 2011

A number of trends and common themes presented below were identified from these case studies and disaster responses. In addition, findings from these case studies have been responded to with strategic disaster response measures used in various organisations and for the future.

**Disaster Response is Different.** The response to a disaster will not be the same in every case and is highly dependent on relevant conditions and disaster response capabilities. Generally, it is critical to prepare a handbook or detailed plan for a major disaster. While disasters, other disaster-related interventions, it is a handbook and response plan that is critical to developing these skills or capabilities in response to such an event. The response to a disaster is a complex process, often involving many other stakeholders, including government, industry, and the public. It is a process that is often complex and involves many other stakeholders, including government, industry, and the public. It is a process that is often complex and involves many other stakeholders, including government, industry, and the public.

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