

## Critical Incident – Local Footy Club

A critical incident is an extraordinary situation that has a significant or distressing impact on the football club / league, its members and the wider community. No two incidents are the same, but some examples are:

- Death of a player, club member or someone well-known to the club
- Alleged or actual abuse, assault or vilification directed to or perpetrated by a club member
- Significant property or financial loss at the club e.g. fire, flood

The AFL Critical Incident Response Guide and Checklist helps your club respond quickly and effectively. By following the checklist, your club can prevent further harm and provide immediate support. Dealing with a critical incident is incredibly challenging for organisations with full-time employees. It is even harder for volunteer led football clubs / leagues. Pre-Planning and a readied action plan reduce panic and confusion and helps everyone know their role.

**Recommended actions** (summary only – [see the detailed guide](#) for more details)

Pre - planning	Post event
<p>Taking time now to walk through these simple steps will set your club up to calmly and effectively respond to any critical incidents:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop a response plan and identify members of the response team.</li> <li>2. Key club representatives to review the Critical Incident Response Guide.</li> <li>2. Complete the Emergency Management Contact List - <i>priorities include contacts for your local emergency services, AFL office, Football League, insurer, and mental health support.</i></li> <li>3. Ensure that you have a communication system in place to quickly communicate throughout your network of players, members, families etc. with key updates</li> </ol>	<p>Whilst no two critical incidents will be the same, broad guidance includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prioritise the health, safety and wellbeing of everyone impacted</li> <li>2. Review your key contact list and inform priority contacts - <i>e.g. immediately cancelling matches if required</i></li> <li>3. Reach out to your local AFL office to seek assistance - <i>e.g. media support</i></li> <li>4. Work through the Critical Incident Checklist – <i>with step-by-step actions for the first 24 hours, first week &amp; long term</i></li> <li>5. Engage relevant local support networks – <i>e.g. Local Mental Health services</i></li> <li>6. Stay in touch with those directly and indirectly impacted and create opportunities for connection.</li> </ol>

A range of resources that may be useful are available on the AFL's local football dedicated website:



[Managing Club Incidents](#)



[Incident response page](#)

Other related pages on the Club Help site: [Concussion Management](#) [Conflict Resolution](#)

[Mental Health & Wellbeing](#)

[Risk Management & Insurance](#)

[Safeguarding Children](#)



**Football Netball Club**

**Critical Incident Emergency Management Contact List as at \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_**

Key committee representatives should have this document available for immediate action following a critical incident

Type	Company/Org	Contact person	Email / Website	Phone
<b>For urgent help</b> <a href="#">Urgent Help - Play AFL</a>				
Club President				
Club Secretary				
AFL (local office)				
Bank Manager				
Building — <i>landlord / agent</i>				
Mental Health Services	Head to Health – finding your local mental health help		<a href="http://www.headtohealth.gov.au">www.headtohealth.gov.au</a>	1800 595 212
Council				
Electrician				
Electricity supplier				
Football League				
Gas supply				
Generator(s) or back-up power supply				
Insurance Broker				
Internet Provider				
Lawyer				
Locksmith				
Plumber				
Security system/s				
Telephone provider/s				
Water supply				



Type	Company/Org	About	Email / Website	Phone
Emergency Services and Crisis Support Services	Police / Fire / Ambulance			<b>000</b>
	Local Police Station			
	<a href="#">Lifeline</a>	Provides access to crisis support and suicide prevention services.	lifeline.org.au	13 11 14
	<a href="#">Suicide Call Back Service</a>	Provides immediate telephone counselling and support in a crisis.	suicidecallbackservice.org.au	1300 659 467
	<a href="#">Beyond Blue</a>	Supporting people affected by anxiety, depression and suicide.	beyondblue.org.au	1300 224 636
	<a href="#">13YARN</a>	Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander crisis support line for people feeling overwhelmed or having difficulty coping.	113yarn.org.au	13 92 76
	National Alcohol and Other Drugs Hotline			1800 250 015
	<a href="#">Kids Helpline</a>		kidshelpline.com.au	1800 551 800
	<a href="#">MensLine Australia</a>	Telephone and online support, information and referral service for men with concerns about family and relationships, mental health, anger management, family violence (using and experiencing), substance abuse and wellbeing. The service is available from anywhere in Australia and is staffed by professional counsellors, experienced in men's issues.	mensline.org.au	1300 789 978
	<a href="#">Kids Helpline</a>	Telephone and online counselling service for young people aged 5 to 25.	kidshelpline.com.au	1800 551 800
	<a href="#">ReachOut</a>	Online mental health service for under-25s and their parents.	au.reachout.com	
	<a href="#">Family Drug Support</a>	Help for individuals and families dealing with drug and alcohol use. Also provide support groups, education programs, counselling and bereavement services for families.	fds.org.au	1300 368 186
	<a href="#">1800RESPECT</a>	National domestic, family and sexual violence counselling, information and support service.	1800respect.org.au	1800 737 732
<a href="#">StandBy - Support After Suicide</a>	Australia's leading suicide postvention program dedicated to assisting people and communities bereaved or impacted by suicide, including individuals, families, friends, witnesses, first responders and service providers.	standbysupport.com.au	1300 727 247	