

An Idiots Guide to Disaster Management

Paul J. Stevenson OAM

Principle No: 1

- Chaos is terrible!!!

Principle No: 1

- Maximize spontaneous opportunity
- Chaos requires Chaos management
- Chaos theory requires ever vigilant responsiveness to minute-by-minute developments
- Don't forget how to “fly by the seat of your pants”

Principle No: 2

- The planning is for the plan

Principle No: 2

- The planning is for the planning not for the plan

Principle No: 3

- People (unlike ants) require leadership
- The Toowoomba Hail Storm (1976)

Principle No: 3

- Most people can move together in an orderly manner, responsive to a consistent theme

Principle No: 4

- You can trust what you read in the newspapers

Principle No: 4

- The Bali Bombing was an attack against Australia
- 91 Australians died

Principle No: 5

- People can make simple decisions based on complex instructions, easier than they can make complex decisions based on simple instructions

Principle No: 5

- Isolate - Contain - Resolve

Principle No: 6

- Two “wrongs” don’t make a “right”

Principle No: 6

- “Type one” errors occur when we act when action is not warranted
- “Type two” errors occur when we fail to act when action is required
- The decision to act can therefore be made by subtracting the probability of the “Type one” from the probability of the “Type two”

Principle No: 6

- Brian Tenney “Living Works”
 - Climate, plan and resources
- Edgar Shein “Feature of Effective CEO’s”
 - Credibility, ability and expertise

Principle No: 7

- Australian's need their "Fair Go" mentality

Principle No: 7

- Australians surround themselves with many protective facilities
- For example – CentreLink, Medicare, sickness and accident insurances, WorkCover, superannuation
- Indonesians have no safety net

Principle No: 8

- You can always pick the terrorist

Principle No: 9

- Get the people out – they'll just get in the road

Principle No: 9

- Cyclone Tracey
- Cyclone Katrina

Principle No: 10

- You can't make money out of disaster management